



El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

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"Public and Private Partners Working Together to Protect People, Homes, and Natural Resources"

Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022

9:30 am to 11:30 Business Meeting

Diamond Springs / El Dorado Firefighters Association Memorial Hall

3734 China Garden Road, Diamond Springs

1. Meeting Call to Order

9:35 a.m.

2. Roll Call: Sign In

In person: Atencio, Ball, Barentson, Cantelow, Council, Dwyer, Fine, Lory, Pimlott, Pullin, Willis, Zelinsky. Zoom: Connelly, Kruse, Wirt. Carri and Jessica introduced

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Hugh Council

4. Approval of Agenda: 09/21/2022 Board Action Item

Agenda approved with no opposition

5. Consent Agenda: 08/17/2022 Board Meeting Minutes Board Action Item

Alice Cantelow mentioned these changes: #7 Committee Reports, item b newsletter, is geared toward Associate FSC leadership who can decide how to utilize the material with their membership. #9 Community Council Reports, item 3, Paul should be the name there, not Alice.

6. Information Items:

a. Chairman's Report & Communication:

- Proposed Cedar Grove area FSC - Mary Heider is here to introduce herself. Will be on October meeting agenda for formal consideration.

b. Vice Chair Report

- Went to the El Dorado County fair office and the booth sites for 2023 are near fire engine displays. We have until the end of January, 2023 to pay 60% of the booth fee.

c. Secretary Report:

Waiting for information on rental office for insurance on items in office.

d. Treasurers Report: Janet Barentson Board Action Item

- Presented grant list with over \$14m in grant funding.
- No other questions on report.
- Report approved as presented.

e. Partners Reports:

- BLM - Jason Schroeder couldn't make it as he is working on Mosquito Fire.
- CAL FIRE – Megan Scheeline/Erin Duprey/Diana Swart-could not attend due to Mosquito Fire
- EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience
 - Ken stated Juliet Barwis is staffing local assistance center at county office for residents impacted by Mosquito Fire. Juliet has accepted a promotion with County Dept. of Health and Human Services, and she will leave at end of week.
 - Currently finalizing interviews for Chief Admin Officer
 - EDCFSC working with County DOT to identify conflicts and overlap in roadside fuels projects.
 - Hosting coordination meetings to make any needed project adjustments.
 - Hosting Greater Placerville Multi-Project coordination meetings. Working towards common set of goals to integrate project activities and public outreach.
 - Thanked FSC leadership
- EDC Fire Chiefs Association
 - Provided by Ron Phillips

5. EDC FPO Association-Ron Phillips

- County FPO Meeting – the County Fire Prevention Officers Association did not meet in September. Their next scheduled meeting is on October 17th.
- **Codes & Ordinances Update** – The County fire agencies are currently working to update their local fire code ordinances to ensure that they are consistent with the minimum requirements found in the 2022 California Building Standards Code. The new codes go into effect on or around January 1, 2023. Additional details on the proposed changes to the local fire codes to occur in October. The California Board of Forestry is still working to establish updated fire safe regulations found within California Code of Regulations Title 14. No update to this regulation effort has been provided as of the last report in August. These regulatory changes do not impact the Zone 9 (Ember Resistant Zone) regulations currently under development by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- **Wildfire Legislative Update** – AB 179 was signed by the Governor in September 2022. This bill authorizes an additional \$100 million in the current year State budget for wildfire prevention efforts. Included in this bill is an authorization of \$13 million to CAL OES for its Home Hardening Assistance Program. SB 896 (Wildfires: Defensible Space Grant Programs for Local Governments) was signed by the Governor in September. This bill will require local governments, including the County and local fire districts, to report defensible space and home hardening assessments within a Statewide reporting system to be eligible for certain statewide grants.
- **EDC Vegetation Management/Defensible Space Program** – The County Fire Chiefs Association and Fire Prevention Officers Association are working with the County Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience Office staff, CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service and other local government partners to examine potential changes to the County's existing Vegetation Management/Defensible Space ordinance.

6. ENF Updates – Jacobie Waters

- Mosquito Fire - 76,000 acres, 49% contained, solid line around fire rain helped but fuels dry back out even after rain.
- Working on Stevens Authority grant with Pat to add additional funding.
- Washington office burning ban has been lifted.
- Alice C. asked is Forest Service still doing prescribed burn? Jacobie said yes, using all tools in the toolbox, including prescribed fire.
- Pat thanked Jacobie for helping with grants.
- Pat explained grant money agreement under Stevens Authority benefiting Grizzly Flats, Sierra Springs, Gold Ridge Forest & chipping adding Volcanoville & Mosquito for fuel reduction projects.

7. RCD – Maia

- Ready to work on projects.
- Hired new project coordinator from Grizzly Flats, a new G.I. specialist community rep. from Cool, a new field technician focusing on Sierra @ Tahoe.
- Ken stated Maia is coordinating outreach and visiting FSCs.

8. SMUD

No one present

9. PG&E

No one present

10. EDSO

No one present

7. **Committee Reports**

a. Grants & Funding– Pat Dwyer

- Current opportunity for community wildfire defense grant due Oct 7th - if anyone's community is interested contact Pat.
- Working on Stevens Authority to make new agreement with RCD.
- Struggling with BLM grant money.
- Ken talked about Right of Entry agreements. Potentially renaming ROE document going to County Council to reemphasize agreement for landowners-updated document coming soon.

b. Governance Committee – Karen Pullin

- No report

8. Program Reports

- a. Chipping – Pat Dwyer/Jessica Isabel
 - Pat - no report
 - Jessica - lost a contractor so tasking out their work and playing catch up. Currently have 27 open requests, will get done within 3 weeks. All clients have been contacted and are understanding. Other contractors grateful for extra work they are taking on. Ken mentioned problems with chipping application, and we are working on fixing the process to make it user friendly. No changes in program guidelines
- b. Defensible Space – Ernie Lory/Jessica Isabel
 - Received 191 applications - 60% is for green waste
 - Jessica - 13 jobs not completed reassigned to new contractor and playing catch up. Hope to get done within next month. Requests have been cancelled due to poor communication between homeowner and evaluator. If requesting service, maintain communication with evaluators who come out. Thirty closed out because not being able to schedule getting out to evaluate. Ken trying to change process to hire additional evaluators for workload - some success and some failures with evaluators. Take a look at who we are hiring for evaluators. Jessica reached out to folks not happy with evaluators. Growing pains-we are working through.
- c. Outreach & Education –Alice Cantelow
 - Newsletter - Public & FSC. First year - every other month for press release information. Send to Ken and he will forward to get out to FSCs. Ken stated this is public education outreach and want to get website updated with the information.
- d. New Council Formation & Orientation – Karen Pullin
 - Cedar Grove FSC has submitted all paperwork for consideration at October meeting.

9. Community Council Reports

- Pat D. - Logtown FSC annual Hotdog Social fundraiser Oct 8th.
- Acknowledged roadside clearance by CAL Trans on Hwy 49 completed before FSC could submit grant for work. Reinforced need to coordinate efforts.
- Lester-Oakhill FSC coordinate with other FSC to work with BLM
- Michelle Wirt – Omo Ranch completed 20,000 gallon water storage with hydrant - four 5,000 gal tanks Outreach & Education Potluck & Prepare education November 19th at noon. The meeting will educate people on kitchen fires and chimney fires.
- Sandridge – reached out to County Department of Transportation. Brian Mullen from DOT addressed grant money to pave Sandridge which has been delayed by Bucks Bar work. Road work is getting done. Thanked County DOT.
- Michael Connelly- Title 3 funds Auburn Lake Preparedness Guide sent out thanked EDCFSC. Fuel reduction grant will be wrapped up by mid- November.
- David Zelinsky-Placerville FSC- \$10,000 in grants.
- Angel Ball-Strawberry FSC -scheduled a forester to come out and talk about roadside clearance. He will be coming on October 9th at 10am. All are welcome to attend. The county did come out last week and started to do some work. Working on water system to suppress fire. Converting roofs on huts to composite from shake roofs. They have 15 huts and completed 7 as of Saturday.
- Bill Moe – Royal Equestrian Estates - tomorrow 6 pm meeting for defensible space & fire prevention.

10. New Business

- a. Presentation by Ernie Lory – Caldor Fire Lessons Learned
 - Ernie brought Robin, a Grizzly Flats resident. She is working on a gathering center for residents since theirs was destroyed by the Caldor Fire.
 - PowerPoint available to FSCs for education. Ken will work with Ernie to make Powerpoint available to post.
 - Ernie offered support to assist Mosquito Fire victims.

11. Old Business

- No report

12. Project Reports

- a. Wildfire Resilience and Vegetation Management Working Group – Ken Pimlott
 - Reported previously
- b. USFS SOFAR Project– David Zelinsky
 - Biomass meeting tomorrow at 11am.
 - Lester-Amador County Census Group coordinating field trip to Caldor fire- coordinating management & research looking at fuel reduction done in national forests and lessons learned.

- c. EDC Resource Advisory Committee Meeting WRAP (Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection Project) – David Zelinsky
 - Resource Advisory Committee meeting Oct 15th.
 - Grant program coming up in late winter.
 - Coordinate with insurance for the state laws.
- d. County Biomass Working Group
 - No report

13. Public Comment – *Time limit is 3 minutes per person.*

- Mary Heider introduced herself with the newly formed Cedar Grove FSC and reported that the Pollock Pines FSC disbanded. The Cedar Grove FSC will get reconnected with CAL FIRE.

14. Good of the Order

- a. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – October 19, 2022
Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.