



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-FINAL
May 17, 2023
9:30 am to 11:30**

**Diamond Springs / El Dorado Firefighters Association Memorial Hall
3734 China Garden Road, Diamond Springs**

1. Meeting Call to Order

9:33am

2. Roll Call: Sign In

In person: Ball, Barentson, Cantelow, Connelly, Council, Dwyer, Fine, Gilchrest, Johnston, Lory, Payne, Penn, Pimlott, Pullin, Willis, Zelinsky Zoom: Brown, Hawk, Kruse

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Pimlott

4. Approval of Agenda: 05/17/2023 Board Action Item

Approved no opposition.

5. Consent Agenda: 04/19/2023 Board Meeting Minutes Board Action Item

Item 11 Community Council Reports replace "what they can do for defensible space" with "what they did over the last year for defensible space". Minutes approved as presented with amendments.

6. New Business

a. Elections – Hugh Council

Entire E-board is up for election for another year. The members of the board up for reelection are Brown, Willis, Kruse (not running Bob Hess is running in her place) Gilchrest, Zelinsky, Dwyer, Lory, Johnston, and Campbell. All board members will get a ballot via email prior to the election.

b. Grants Coordinator Contract Board Action Item

Pat Dwyer is officially done in the next couple months. It was recommended to hire Tamara Johnston and the E-Board made the decision to offer her a contract for this

position. Tamara's contract was discussed with the board after she stepped out of the room. The grants committee brought the idea to the board to hire a Grants Coordinator. We have reached a point where we need help with the grants process because of the amount of time it takes to work on the number of grants EDCFSC has at this time. The E-Board will amend the proposed changes and will reflect the Bylaws conflict of interest. Contract is approved with no opposition. Anticipated start date is June 1, 2023.

- c. New Associate Fire Safe Council – Fort Jim **Board Action Item**
Jason Jackson with Fort Jim FSC wants to tie in existing FSC's to get rid of some gaps between Diamond Springs Camino, Texas Hill and Pleasant Valley to make it more seamless. Fort Jim FSC approved with no opposition.

7. Old Business

- a. Defensible Space Training Update – Hugh Council
Finished two classes with a third class scheduled for June 2-3. There are roughly 75 people trained to do defensible space/home hardening evaluations. Will plan to do refresher classes sometime next year for those that completed the class. The evaluators can go outside your FSC boundary to do evaluations.
- b. Proposed Guideline and Criteria for Grant Applications – Paul Penn
5.1 version deleted why, changed perspective from grants 2.0 to actual grants committee, added the abbreviations & pre-rfp phase. Use proposal as a working document as it is final for now. The grants committee should review annually and make changes as appropriate. This is meant to be a living document as guidelines that Tamara will use with FSC's for training and support.

8. Information Items

- a. Chairman's Report & Communication

County is hosting a strategy workshop at EID at 1:30 pm today to get feedback from partners and stakeholders. The County is announcing the Program Manager for Office of Wildfire Preparedness & Resilience. This person should be starting the first week of June. County is interviewing for Senior Defensible Space Inspector, and they also partnered with CAL FIRE for defensible space effort this year. CAL FIRE put together target hazard areas. Information will be provided at OWPR website. Met with the County GIS and water agency for outward facing mapping tool. It's focused on fire prevention and fuels related data layers. Next phases will incorporate more heavy data. Tools will be in one place as grants are proposed.

- b. Vice Chair Report

I will be at the EID meeting later today and I will also be getting things ready for June defensible space training. I will be at meetings for FPO's and Defensible Space Task Force.

- c. Secretary Report

Reminder that councils' renewal forms are due as I only have 20 out of 30 councils right now. Board ballot paperwork is also due.

d. Treasurers Report: Janet Barentson **Board Action Item**
Auditor's opinion, (Vaughn Johnson) was presented. Everything is good, no findings or recommendations found by auditor. It will be posted on the website as soon as I get final copy from auditor. Our last audit was in 2012 so we are covered for the next 5 years. No changes from the previous month to the monthly Treasurer's Report. Treasurer's Report is approved as presented with no opposition. Proposed 2023-2024 budget for EDCFSC was presented. Budget is approved as presented. The accountant is on vacation, so I won't get checks until tomorrow. For those FSCs who have checking accounts under our EIN, I will send an email the first week of June for the process of reporting treasurer activity for accountant. This report will be due July 10th for the reporting period July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

e. Partners Reports:

1. BLM – Jason Schroeder

BLM is gearing up for fire season and the Folsom Lake Veterans group is coming next week. They are California's first veteran crew. Sheep grazing at Magnolia and Cronan Ranch. Burned 10 acres on Pine Hill last month with coordination from CALFIRE. BLM will help with administrative support for defensible space for homeowners. BLM asks that the FSC's approach us directly with a project to work through NEPA process to get clearance to do work. FSC's need to provide us with the project initiation and a map, and we will work with you through the NEPA process. BLM contacts are Jason Schroeder who is primary contact for FSC's, David Helgeson, and Jerry Martinez is the Zone Coordinator for Motherlode and Ukiah. Bureau of Reclamation will have a representative coming to meetings. Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience submitted a \$10 million grant proposal to BLM to support defensible space and firewise community planning with priority given to lands adjacent to BLM.

2. CAL FIRE – Megan Scheeline/Jeff Hoag

No Report

3. EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience – Sue Hennike

Ken covered in Chairman's Report.

4. EDC Fire Chiefs Association – Ron Phillips

The association has a meeting scheduled for later this month. They will be discussing CAL FIRE's recent subdivision survey results in the county. They shared information with the county chiefs as it relates to the impacts in their community and discussed potential alternatives for the fire agencies to consider in implementing that program here locally.

EDC FPO Association – Ron Phillips

The association is continuing work with the county on the defensible space ordinance update. The update will be brought to the Board of Supervisors in July for a first reading with a potential implementation date with changes to the ordinance for this fall. The County is also working to do defensible space inspections in the Kelsey, Coloma/Lotus, Outingdale and Texas Hill areas of the county this year. A reminder of the El Dorado County Fair June 15-18 joint display sponsored by the Forest Service, CAL FIRE, EDCFSC, RCD, the county and local fire districts.

5. ENF Updates – Jacobie Waters

No report

6. RCD – Steve Grady

We are still working on ongoing projects. Prevention projects with FSC's are in the planning phase.

7. SMUD – Eric Brown

Communications from hydro generation team at Fresh Pond – be mindful of water conditions on the American River. Timber operations are ongoing on USFS land and will continue to support forest reduction and shaded fuel breaks they have been working on since 2020. August or September is a potential completed date. Operations are ongoing in the Pohoe Ridge Area for the Forest Service to sell logs from that project. Start operations back up in Pollock Pines and Camino area on forest service land starting May 29 and will continue until operations are complete.

8. PG&E – Mike Webb

No report

9. EDSO – Sgt Bare

No report

9. Committee Reports

a. Grants & Funding– Pat Dwyer/Jessica Isabel

Actively executing grants, we have. Hazardous Tree Program we are targeting June 1 for accepting applications from residents. The program should be on the website soon with the announcement. Working with paper copies of applications until the website is ready. Defensible space opportunity from California State FSC with an award up to \$500,000 from eight counties for grants with a due date of June 15.

b. Governance Committee – Karen Pullin

Add audit to compliance calendar.

10. Program Reports

a. Chipping – Pat Dwyer/Jessica Isabel

We have 150 applications that are all assigned. Contractors received a lot of jobs and are working on getting them completed. Contractors have two weeks to contact the homeowner and they are doing their best to catch up on the backlog. We have four contractors servicing the county.

b. Defensible Space – Jessica Isabel

This is the first year we are doing a year-round program and are still accepting applications. We are working on transferring defensible space to a digital database like the chipping program. Everything is a manual application process that goes to the defensible space Gmail right now until the digital goes live. Diligently working to process the backlog of applications.

c. Outreach & Education –Alice Cantelow

Home & Garden Show had six different FSC's as volunteers. We still need volunteers at the County Fair for Saturday. Be specific to what is being borrowed from storage closet on sign out sheet. Smoke chasers in Amador County is from 11am-7pm this Saturday. Please give me feedback if anyone goes. Soon there will be a public outreach page on our website with information from various agencies.

d. New Council Formation & Orientation – Karen Pullin

No report

11. Community Council Reports

Denise Romanek - Sandridge FSC-June 11 fundraiser. Information to come.

Karen Pullin-Mosquito FSC-Great turn out for Home & Garden Show.

Paul Gilchrest-Greater Cameron Park FSC-We have Town Hall meeting on May 20 5pm-7:30pm Cameron Park CSD with Senator Gill and Congressman McClintock talking about legislation to prevent wildfire in rural areas. Sheriff Leikauf, EID, OES, Department of Insurance, several fire districts and first responders also attending. A burn simulation to see the value of defensible space will be presented.

Paul Penn-Diamond Springs FSC-April 29 had a fair at Lions Hall. Approximately 200 attended and there were over 18 exhibitors.

Mike Connelly-Auburn Lake Trails-FSC-May 20 Community event with a yard sale and the Commission on Aging.

12. Project Reports

a. USFS SOFAR Project– Tamara Johnston/David Zelinsky

The El Dorado Transportation Commission is hosting an evacuation strategy meeting this evening from 6:30pm-8pm.

b. EDC Resource Advisory Committee Mtg WRAP (Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection Project) – David Zelinsky

May 23 1pm WRAP meeting

c. County Biomass Working Group – Kris Payne

Greg Stanton handles county business with biomass and they have a field trip to Plumas County on June 8 to Indian Valley Wood Innovations Plant that provides heat for the county's HHSA building. County supervisors will be attending with SOFAR representatives. There will be a follow up meeting at SPI Camino biomass.

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

Kurt Cruger resident of Auburn Lake Trails commented on support for County designating a 64 acres area in Cronan Ranch for livestock evacuation.

14. Good of the Order

Adjourned at 11:48

- a. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – June 21, 2023