



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
June 21, 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**
9:29a
2. **Roll Call: Sign In**
Ball, Barentson, Connelly, Council, Dwyer, Fine, Johnston, Lory, Payne, Penn, Pimlott, Pullin, Zelinsky ZOOM: Brown, Gilchrest, Hawk
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Ken Pimlott
4. **Approval of Agenda: 06/21/2023 Board Action Item**
Approved-No Opposition
5. **Consent Agenda: 05/17/2023 Board Meeting Minutes Board Action Item**
Approved-No Opposition
6. **New Business**
 - a. Elections – **Board Action Item – Roll Call Vote** – Hugh Council
20 Ballots sent and 17 returned
New Board of Directors - existing Boards voted for Brown (SMUD), Dwyer (Logtown FSC), Lory (Grizzly Flats FSC), Zelinsky (Placerville FSC), Willis (Lakehills FSC), Gilchrest (Greater Cameron Park FSC), Johnston (Georgetown FSC), Hess (Coloma/Lotus FSC), Campbell (Member at Large), Boal (Rancho del Sol FSC).
The E-Board will remain the same with Pimlott (Chair), Council (Vice Chair), Pullin (Secretary), Penn (Parliamentarian), and Barentson (Treasurer)
The voting results from the Board Members for the Board votes are 15 - Aye and 0 – No
The voting results from the Board Members for the Executive Board are 15 - Aye and 0 - No
7. **Old Business**
 - a. Defensible Space Training Update – Hugh Council
Trained 70 people and 68 people will be doing assessments in the area. Planning future refresher training to reinforce what was taught. Ron Phillips thanked 'Hugh, Alice, Elizabeth

& Steve. Ron Phillips and Hugh Council are working on a standardized assessment form with CAL FIRE. It will include changes to the new defensible space ordinance. Ken thanked the entire crew for all their help in putting the classes together. Compliments were given to Hugh by Heather Campbell for the Wildfire Preparedness Workbook. It is digitized and will be put up on the website. Hugh gave a lot of credit to Johnny Valenzuela in Mosquito for helping to put the workbook together.

8. Information Items:

- a. Chairman's Report & Communication – Ken Pimlott
Announced another round of mini grants to the Associate Councils with the Title III funding. There is up to \$2500 per council to do green waste days that we can do for one year.
- b. Vice Chair Report – Hugh Council
- c. Secretary Report – Karen Pullin
Associate Council renewals have taken place. The following councils are accepted by EDCFSC: Auburn Lake Trails, Aukum-Fairplay, Coloma/Lotus, Cool/Pilot Hill, Camino, Cedar Grove, Diamond Springs, Fort Jim, Gallagher Road Landowners, Georgetown, Gold Hill, Gold Ridge Forest, Greater Cameron Park, Greenstone, Grizzly Flats, Lakehills, Logtown, Mosquito, Oak Hill, Omo Ranch, Patterson Ranch, Placerville, Rancho del Sol, Royal Equestrian Estates, Sandridge, Sierras Springs, Strawberry, Texas Hill, Volcanoville, Wrights Lake/Dark Lake. Approved 30 FSC's for the 2023-2024 year.
- d. Treasurers Report: Janet Barentson **Board Action Item**
Projects page- we've spent down most of Title III 2020-21 funds. We are working into defensible space funds and should be spent in the next month or month and a half then we will work on the 2022-2023 allocation. We are expecting a PG&E check to be coming soon. We have \$11M in funding with a lot of it going towards funding for chipping and defensible space. I still need end of year reports as I only got 6-7. I will send an email to remind you of the end of year report. If you receive a notice from the County for a business license notify Janet and she will work with the County for exemptions given to charities. Treasurer's Report Approved no Opposition.
- e. Partners Reports:
 1. BLM – Jason Schroeder
Ken Pimlott report for Jason - Looking at going on fire restrictions late next week. Gerald Martinez (Motherlode Fire Management Officer) is retiring at the end of June. Jason Schroeder and Lee Hogason will be the contacts for BLM.
 2. CAL FIRE – Megan Scheeline/Jeff Hoag
Doing prescribed burns in Georgetown and Salmon Falls. Defensible space inspections continue with 2500 completed to date. There will be secondary inspections for those that didn't pass. Firewise liaisons Jeff Hoag & Captain Toste will help with Firewise certification. Open burning has been extended, however burn suspension will take place shortly and will be announced on our website and social media.
 3. EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience – Tom Meyers/Sue Hennike
Ken gave updates - Tom Meyers is the official Program Manager and will be in the office next week. County is doing background check for Sr. Defensible Space Inspector. Clarissa is currently the liaison for defensible space. Wildfire strategy- they are processing comments from the workshop in May and will be put into document. No updates on Weber Creek Project which is a pilot program and

includes working on defensible space and home hardening for 525 homes with \$25M grant from FEMA to do the work. CAL FIRE and CAL OES are part of the funding for the project as well. The County Office of Wildfire Preparedness has applied for a BLM grant to help fire districts, the County and EDCFSC for defensible space inspections. If approved, Sept 1st is the funding date and \$10M is the amount for the grant.

4. EDC Fire Chiefs Association – Tim Cordero
Fire agencies are working on the defensible space inspections. Getting ready for National Night Out to get defensible space education out to the public. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with FSC's and their events to educate the community. Open house for Station 17 will be coming soon.
5. EDC FPO Association – Ron Phillips
Assembly Bill 338 would establish all wildfire mitigation projects over \$100,000 would be classified as public works projects and it would be a prevailing wage for workers on the project and is in the Senate for review. SB 504 – (Dodd) Is a defensible space grant program to local governments who are doing defensible space assessments in high hazard areas. Defensible space inspections are actively happening in 4 communities on the West slope and one area of Lake Valley in the Tahoe Basin. After July 1st the inspections will start. The first areas will be Kelsey and Coloma/Lotus then later this year and next year they will go to Texas Hill and Outingdale The County is working on a defensible space ordinance update and will present it to the Board of Supervisors in early fall. Met with County Fire Chief's regarding subdivision survey program to identify communities with one way in and one way out with 62 identified. County Chiefs asked FPO's to reach out to the communities on how to reduce the fire threat. Several FSC's will assist with this.
6. ENF – Jecobie Waters/Nickie Johnny
We have 8 engines out of 10 other 2 engines will be coming in July. Hotshots are staffed. 5- 6 patrols are staffed and all lookouts are staffed. 3,200 acres of pile units have been burned and we will be burning another 100 acres in Marshall Mine area. Larger scale mastication and/or thinning will be done in the next year. Looking for more contractors to bid so they can work on more acres. Approved for two fuels-based crews. The first crew will be based out of Amador. Next crew will be in Grizzly Flats after station is rebuilt.
7. RCD – Mark Egbert
No report
8. SMUD – Eric Brown
Camino to Loon Lake fuels reduction will be ongoing through end of August. Dying trees from Folsom to Loon Lake contract crews will be out taking care of dead trees. Cable Road, Forebay Road, Poho Ridge, Powerhouse Road around Union Valley and the road up to Loon Lake is their area of work.
9. PG&E – Mike Webb
PG&E has enhanced their power lines that sense fault to ground and will shut down the system. Cannot restore power until they patrol the circuit. They are trying to restore power within 4-6 hours. PG&E has added more devices to segment system in smaller chunks. Working hard to minimize power shut offs. You can sign up for notifications about the outages can access outage map info about downed power lines on the PG&E website. Consider all downed lines energized. Generators can back feed into power lines which make them live when they are down. Underground lines in progress in downtown Cool. We have underground lines in Georgetown,

between Greenwood & Hwy 193, Luneman, Springvale, Pollock Pines. The communities of Camino, Sierra Springs and Pleasant Valley will be worked on in the future. Overhead Power lines are taken down when inground lines are done. Regarding debris being left on property after trees are taken down - wood larger than 4" in diameter is considered private property and contractor cannot take it away. Property owners need to talk with the contractors and tell them to haul wood away.

10. EDSO – Sgt Bare
No report

11. BOR – TBA
No report

9. Program Reports

- a. Grants & Funding– Tamara Johnston
i. Grants Committee

Applied for \$500,000 from California FSC to support our defensible space program. It would start in September, and it is a 16-month grant to ramp up the defensible space program. I am starting to plan for the CAL FIRE grants possible announcement in August and I want to make sure projects are ready before that. I will schedule grants training for people who want to write their own grants. Reach out to Tamara if you want to develop a project. There will be a community wide meeting June 28th at 6pm at the Marshall Grange in Garden Valley.

- b. Chipping –Jessica Isabel

In May we completed 98 jobs and 218 for the year. We spent \$40,000 last month and \$92,000 for the year. Mosquito has 41 jobs completed and 22 in que. Chipping application updated to accept community events. Will establish 3 letter codes for communities for reporting purposes.

- c. Defensible Space – Jessica Isabel

Out of 31 jobs 8 were closed out and completed 39 for the year 19 closed. Accepted 216 applications 109 evaluations completed just assigned 104 for evaluations to be completed and we have spent \$40,000 so far. \$843.12 is the average job cost. There is a 90-day timeframe from start to finish. Looked at bidding opportunity to add more contractors and evaluators so we can shorten the 90-day timeframe. Awarded \$50,000 for PG&E grant.

- d. Hazard Tree Removal – Jessica Isabel

We have 45 applications accepted and no time frame on turnaround because it depends on type of work being done.

- e. Outreach & Education – Hugh Council

Alice wanted to thank FSC's for participating at the fair. Thanked Alice and Lester for helping put the booth together and their participation at the fair as well as preparing for it.

Elizabeth Standeven – the fair had a great line up of agencies. Alice wanted to thank all the volunteers. We had great games for kids and parents got information regarding fire safety.

- f. Governance and New Council Formation & Orientation – Karen Pullin

I was a guest speaker at the Cedar Grove FSC meeting. Offered to be a guest speaker

for other councils' meetings.

10. Community Council Reports

Janet Barentson -Aukum Fairplay FSC- Yesterday we had a tour related to defensible space areas of inspections in Outingdale which will be happening next spring. Had a good discussion on how the community can get prepared beforehand. Can possibly use Title III funds for chipping and green waste day in that community in the fall. It's a one way in and one way out community and discussed how we can help them.

Angel Ball-Strawberry FSC – Mountain Enterprises was in the community in early May to cut trees and left them. All trees will be gone by the end of next week. ACRT came back through to mark more trees and we refused the work. PG&E will now remove all the wood. At our community meeting in May we had an excellent relationship with Brooke Laine from the Board of Supervisors. We are pursuing Firewise status. We have 4 defensible space assessments to do this year.

Jeanine Stiles Greenstone FSC - May 24th had a Firewise fair attended very well by the community. The fire simulation table that El Dorado County put up was very educational. Our Firewise USA application was approved for Greenstone.

Ernie Lory Grizzly Flats FSC – Our June 10th Firewise event got rained out.

Sherry Hawk Gold Ridge Forest FSC – USDA & RCS grants will be going to last greenbelt of 108 acres. Steven's Authority funds will go towards 50 acres south of us to put firebreaks in Gold Ridge. We will also be working on roadsides and greenbelts. Our dumpster event will be in September. July 22nd will be our Annual Evacuation Meeting and we will send information out to over 200 new residents.

Bob Hess Coloma Lotus FSC – Got a \$705,000 roadside fuel reduction grant and working on that thanks to the help of Deborah Kruse. Deborah recruited 45 ambassadors. We have also been meeting every couple weeks with RCD. We have 55% of ROE's and working on getting that percentage up. We annexed the western part of Riverwood and Arrow B Estates. Working on Firewise community certification.

Michael Connelly Auburn Lake Trails – Completed 1,104 defensible space evaluations. About 400 chipping projects were done this year. We received a grant from PG&E for a 20-acre shaded fuel break.

Pat Logtown FSC – Last Friday a significant structure fire burned neighbors house down. It did have good defensible space, so fire didn't threaten rest of community. Ken Hossy, who was the chair of EDCFSC in the past, his wife passed away two days ago and his health is deteriorating. Both were participants in Logtown FSC.

Elizabeth Standeven Sandridge FSC - We had a community event on June 11th and raised money for our group. We had a lot of new people come out to get to know each other. We have eight defensible space requests to work on from the event.

Karen Mosquito FSC - Thanked Hugh and crew for Wildfire Preparedness Workbook. Will be having block party days to have smaller events to promote volunteer assessor program and give more education to evacuation and doing green waste days.

Paul Pen Diamond Springs FSC – We had a meeting last Tuesday and Chief Hoag talked about Firewise for Diamond Springs. We also had two representatives from insurance

companies as well.

David Zelinsky Placerville FSC – We received a \$5,000 cannabis grant.

Hugh - We have 60-70 people doing assessments and I would like you to report the number of assessments done in the previous month, so we have numbers to report for grant purposes. The County will let you accompany their assessors' doing evaluations if you want to go with them. Give the Wildfire Preparedness Workbooks out when you do assessments.

11. Project Reports

- a. USFS SOFAR Project–David Zelinsky
Two Zoom meetings tomorrow, one at 11am for biomass and 1pm for landscape vision meeting.
- b. EDC Resource Advisory Committee Mtg WRAP (Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection Project) – David Zelinsky
See David for report on WRAP meetings. United Policy Holders will help with fire insurance information.
- c. County Biomass Working Group – Kris Payne

Board of Supervisor went to Plumas County to see Indian Valley Wood Innovations Plant. They visited the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment which was part of the Dixie fire. They do milling, logging, and rebuilding operations. They are rebuilding their community with new houses from logs being milled. SMUD/Mote Hydrogen is evaluating eight sites for their project and will have the top two in August. Eldorado County is in the top eight for conversion into hydrogen with SMUD. Currently there are assessments to see how effective mobile sites will be in cogeneration (generating electricity). SPI's discussions are ongoing regarding the Camino site.

12. Public Comment – Time limit is 3 minutes per person.

Mike Pinette from Aukum-Fairplay FSC - He attends the Chamber of Commerce Ag meetings, and the Farm Bureau has a newsletter and would like to engage with EDCFSC to publish information in their newsletter. Will give email to EDCFSC so we can put the event in the newsletter.

Kris Payne – Legislators had a site visit with U.S. Forest Service for future Grizzly Flats community center.

13. Good of the Order

11:50am

- a. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – July 19, 2023