



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

November 15, 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

9:34 am

2. Roll Call: Sign In

Ball, Barentson, Boal, Brown, Cantelow, Council, Fine, Johnston, Lory, Penn, Pimlott, Pullin, Willis, Zelinsky ZOOM: Hawk, Wynia

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Pimlott

4. Approval of Agenda: 11/15/2023 Board Action Item

Move grants report to grant application item 6b.

Approved as amended.

5. Consent Agenda: 10/18/2023 Board Meeting Minutes Board Action Item

Correct spelling of John Tayaba in Item 12 Public Comments

Approved as amended.

6. New Business

a. Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Tom Meyer (OWPR)

Bidding for selecting consultant closed November 3rd. OWPR is evaluating proposals right now to award a contract. The project will start in early 2024. There will be an initial kick-off meeting to discuss goals and the planning process. We recently added a tab to our website for general CWPP information and we have a copy of the existing western El Dorado CWPP and Tahoe Basin CWPP posted as well. Once a consultant is on board they will create and update the CWPP project.

b. Grant Application Resolution – Tamara Johnston - Board Action Item

EDCFSC is proposing grant applications through the CAL FIRE CCI

grant for the Defensible Space, Chipping and Hazardous Tree Removal programs not to exceed \$3 million in total. Working with CAL FIRE to identify the dollar amounts and determine if they should be individual applications or combined into one. Since the applications are due on January 10, 2024 (prior to next Board meeting), requesting authority for the Chair to sign resolution(s) for the proposed grants not to exceed \$3 million in total. ***The Grant Application Resolution passed with a majority vote as presented to the board of directors. AYES: 16, NOES: 0, ABSTAINS: 0***

Additional Grant Proposals:

- USDA CWDG proposal for \$6,600,000 to fund 5 years of defensible space and hazardous tree removal. It would provide 200 hazardous tree removals and 200 homes for defensible space all for low-income households.
- \$75,000 grant for defensible space which would fund 40 low-income properties. I will hear in January if we get this one.

Grants Committee - currently reviewing two projects: Fire Adapted 50 and East South County planning grant. Fire Adapted 50 project is going through RCD but we will ask for letter of support. I cancelled today's grant prep meeting because we don't have anything in process right now. It will be scheduled later when it will be more useful as we get projects to work on.

7. Old Business

a. Veterans Day Breakfast – Hugh Council/Karen Pullin

It was a very thoughtful and respectful gathering that served over 200 people. We had 25 volunteers from various FSC's as well as support from Diamond Springs Fire Department and the Eldorado National Forest. Gift bags and other items were distributed to veterans in recognition of their service. Three quilts were presented to veterans from Quilts of Valor. Starbucks donated coffee and Café Santoro as well when we ran out of what Starbucks provided. We sent a survey to all the volunteers as well to get an idea if we need to do anything differently. Thanked everyone for all their help. A lot of families were in attendance. Leonard McAdams retired Sgt. Major in the Army spoke about the many ways he helps in our county. He also thanked EDCFSC because this is the first organization in our county to do an event like this. He would like to see it done on an annual basis. He also would like to capture emails/contact information for future events for veterans.

8. Information Items:

a. Chairman's Report & Communication – Ken Pimlott

We are pursuing a part time bookkeeper to assist with invoicing, billing and financial record keeping alleviating the significant increase in workload on the EDFSC Treasurer position.

b. Vice Chair Report – Hugh Council

Continue attending regular meetings. The educational training committee met to set some dates in January & February for abbreviated assessment workshops for insurance agents and realtors. That would last from 9am-4pm. We are looking at potential dates of March 15 & 16 or March 27 & 28 for an assessor's training class.

Contact Alice, Dorothy Fine, Terry Kline, Elizabeth Standeven, Paul Penn, or me with your ideas regarding additional training topics. February 20th or 27th we would like to do a defensible space Field Map training. Total defensible space assessments for October were 24. We need to get the word out to homeowners to do assessments before fire season starts.

c. Secretary Report – Karen Pullin No Report

d. Treasurers Report: Janet Barentson – **Board Action Item**

David Zelinsky noted we had a lot of expenditures we approved before we adopted the budget. I will have a new budget proposal in January for the rest of the year. If you have bank accounts under our EIN, Umpqua sent a letter out with information that doesn't pertain to us as it is for true business accounts not non-profits. Please let me know if you have charges on your accounts that shouldn't be there. Thank you for turning in 2022-2023 profit/loss statements. RCD is working on a revised invoice system for CAL FIRE grants. Title III contract was cancelled by the County due to processing issues. A new contract is being initiated and will be in place later in the spring 2024.

Treasurer's Report approved as presented.

e. Partners Reports:

1. BLM – Jorge Pacheco No Report

2. CAL FIRE – Megan Scheeline/Jeff Hoag

Forest health grants opened Monday and will be administered by CAL FIRE staff from Sacramento. We are available to help with your projects. These are larger projects with a deadline of January 15, 2024. \$170,000,000 is available with \$120,000,000 for forest health and \$50,000,000 for postfire reforestation and fuel reduction.

3. EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience – Tom Meyer

Defensible space ordinance previously scheduled for November 14th has been rescheduled for December 12th for the initial reading for proposed changes to ordinance. The draft version and summary of changes is on OWPR website on defensible space tab. Upcoming County Emphasis Areas for defensible space are January – March Texas Hill and April-May in Outingdale. Public workshop on December 7th from 6-8pm for Texas Hill and March 5th from 6-8 pm for Outingdale to go over the process and answer questions from the public. Firewise communities coordinated by CAL FIRE and Richie Galvin are on our website. We continue to get communities asking about Firewise. Richie is doing outreach to existing Firewise with a due date this Friday for renewals and annual reporting. Developing an RFP to hire an environmental consultant for the Weber Creek Project. Our office has taken on the role of creating a webpage with current information on insurance.

4. EDC Fire Chiefs Association – Tim Cordero

Our association will be meeting here later today.

5. EDC FPO Association – Lucas Shepard
No Report

6. ENF – Jecobie Waters/Nickie Johnny
No Report

7. RCD – Mark Egbert

Secured contracts for additional \$6.5M in the community of Grizzly Flats as well as Omo Ranch, Happy Valley, and Mormon Emigrant Trail all along non-industrial private forest lands for Caldor recovery. We plan to get 100% of ROE's & will be going into areas to get trees out for rebuilding homes. Last year we developed forest management plans for approximately 58 landowners. There is a total of 2800 acres identified for clearing and reforestation. There will be a 3-year monitoring period to make sure landowners have trees that will live. Thanked Ernie and the Grizzly Flats FSC for helping make all this happen.

8. SMUD – Eric Brown

Working on fuels reduction, including ingress and egress routes, since 2019 from Folsom to Loon Lake which is a 58-mile corridor. We have plans for ongoing maintenance. SMUD is doing the work, and it is scheduled for completion by December 31st. This project will be completed a year in advance and came in \$15,000,000 under budget. We will also be working on Forebay Road to get to the transmission corridor. SMUD is in the process of finishing the 2024-2028 hazard mitigation plan. Working on fuel reduction and focused on landscape level and watershed level improvements. There is \$250M worth of work in the next 25 years in the Crystal Basin area. We are also working in Ice House and Union Valley with new trails and campgrounds.

9. PG&E – Mike Webb
No Report

10. EDSO –Lt Morton/Scott Barre

Scott Barre – We hired a consultant, who has experience in our county, for the hazard mitigation plan. There will be a planning meeting next week and the EDCFSC has a seat there. The plan should be done in April 2024. Perimeter is the new web-based application for evacuations in the county. Onboarding will start in two weeks, and we plan to have it up and running before the next fire season. Lt. Morton - Disaster tabletop exercise is scheduled for December 14th with a Disaster Council meeting today at 1pm. We are working on strategies for public messaging information outreach. Our method for getting information to the public is cable, door to door, running sirens, RAVE, cell phones, internet, and landlines.

11. BOR – Elizabeth Dyer

The Bureau of Reclamation has goats grazing this winter in Auburn State Recreation area for managing brush. Wildfire Services Group is burning piles in Auburn Lake Trails.

9. Program Reports

a. Grants & Funding/Grants Committee– Tamara Johnston
No additional report.

b. Chipping –Jessica Isabel

October, we completed 49 jobs costing \$22,150 with \$280,161 spent to date.

c. Defensible Space Services for Seniors, etc– Jessica Isabel

Completed 48 jobs. 78 jobs are in process. The total for October is \$54,323 and \$259,848 has been spent to date.

d. Hazard Tree Removal – Jessica Isabel

We have not spent any money yet. We have processed 50 evaluations, 145 parcels accepted, and 521 trees identified. 17 parcels have been awarded to the first contractor and evaluations will be this month. 31 parcels have been assigned to start work this Friday. The bidding process has been officially opened to accept more contractors and the RFP is on the website. Applications must be submitted by November 28, 2023, and the contractors will be notified by December 1, 2024, if they have been chosen. We will be going dark for all programs for December. We will resume work on January 1, 2024. Current applications for defensible space will have the work completed in 2024 which will be the completion date on our records.

- e. Outreach & Education –Alice Cantelow

Thank you to all the FSC volunteers who helped with the Fall into Gardening event. Foothill Fireflash came out two weeks ago and it is designed for leaders of FSC's. It is also posted on our website. I would like to have banners throughout the county. Elizabeth Standeven & I will work on that if you want to help, please let me know.

- f. Governance and New Council Formation & Orientation – Karen Pullin
No Report

10. Project Reports

- a. USFS SOFAR Project–David Zelinsky
No meetings in December
- b. EDC Resource Advisory Committee Mtg WRAP (Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection Project) – David Zelinsky
There is a meeting on November 20th at 1pm. United Policy Holders puts this on with insurance reps there. Insurance commission & United Policy Holders work closely with each other. Insurance commissioner will be at Placerville FSC March 28, 2024. The El Dorado Forest Forum meeting is tonight, and Mark Egbert will be in attendance.
- c. County Biomass Working Group – David Zelinsky

May not have any meetings until February 2024.

11. Community Council Reports

Alice Cantelow-Oak Hill FSC-It was beneficial to have FSC volunteers at the Veteran's Breakfast because we had people contacting us wanting more EDCFSC workbooks.

Jason Jackson-Fort Jim FSC-Our FSC map is up and running.

Janet Barentson-Aukum/Fairplay FSC- You can send an email to wildfire.ready@edcgov.us for maps to be printed. County GIS wants to provide their support. You can look up how many Firewise people are in communities through OWPR website.

Public Comment –Time limit is 3 minutes per person.

No comments

12. Good of the Order

- a. No Meeting in December
- b. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – January 17, 2024