



Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 1:00 pm

Zoom Call or in Person
TCRCD Conference Room
30 Horseshoe Lane
Weaverville, CA



Minutes

Teleconferencing available through: +1-669-900-9128, Meeting ID: 828 328 725

No participant IDs are required; press # to access the call. Password is 123456

Videoconferencing is available through:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/828328725?pwd=a05MeVZNMkxoUmNyVGl4K2VjUjcwZz09>

Trinity County Fire Safe Council seeks to improve the cooperation and coordination of all aspects of wildfire management in Trinity County. The Trinity County Fire Safe Council's goal is to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in Trinity County by establishing priorities for reducing risk of catastrophic fire on a landscape-level scale in order to improve forest health, water quality and quantity, and community well-being.

1. **Welcome & Introductions**- 1:11PM Philip Simi (OES), Kelly Sheen, Skyler Fisher, Adriana Rodriguez, Miles Raymond, Shay Callahan, Bethany Llewellyn (TCRCD), Jill Cox, Heidi Carpenter-Harris (BOS), Mitchell Wexler, Bella Hedtke (TC Planning), Gary Carpenter (Post Mountain), Tim Ritchie, Daniel Montgomery (USFS), Qwalen Branson, Megan Killeen, Xander Winter (WRTC), Chris Cole (NRCS), Gina Moon, Geoffrey Churchill (WCFSC), Mary Fleury (DRFSC), Larry Glass (SAFE), David Colbeck (TCNRD), Dan Dogert (NVCSS), John Hutchings (Bureau of Reclamation), Jerry Cousins (Trinity Collaborative), Marie Florentina, Dave Jaramillo, Ren Winter, Kenneth Baldwin, Gina Magdaleno, Ben Kellog, Josan Metz (Public)
2. **Additions or Changes to the Agenda**
3. **Discussions**
4. **Grants**
 - a. **Addition:** Letter of support request from TCRCD for a proposal for a California Forest and Woodlands Resource Management funding opportunity. Work will be for NEPA in certain areas and hazard tree reduction in others. All in the Weaverville Community Forest.
 - i. Question from Ren Winter about future project areas. Ren has noticed dead tops in the project area and was wondering if there was any plan by BLM to prevent mortality, instead of just remove dead timber. Shay and Bethany state that there is basically no management being done in that area at the time.
 - ii. Kenneth Baldwin, has spoken to Heidi and Jennifer, many sapling and pole sized trees. In need of an understory thinning. Area 1 hasn't been a priority, so commented this should be a high priority for TCRCD
 1. Bethany added that this area has come up because it is complementary to an existing FEMA project
 - iii. No opposition to the letter, it passes to be signed in support of this proposal
5. **Fire Safe Council Coordinator Update**

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- a. **Firewise Communities** have all been renewed. Certificates will be shared on our social media soon. There are addressing revisions being made for Weaverville by Firewise USA
- b. There is a **Firewise Fair** planning meeting on Monday at 3PM, if anyone is interested please let me know, the fair will be in Hayfork, and unless we have objections are going to change Firewise Fair date from May 4 (Wildfire Awareness Day) to May 11 to not conflict with a mountain biking summit, career fair, or Spring into Music, it will be at the Hayfork Park
- c. We will have a **site tour** for the Hawkins Bar area for the **Greater Willow Creek CWDG** (Community Wildfire Defense Grant) project on February 6 with HCRCD, Willow Creek FSC/VFD, LTRPBA, and the Hawkins Bar VFD - we are going to start filming site tours to post on our social media to keep people in the loop more on these tours
- d. In February we will be in Lewiston for **Firewise education** lessons
- e. **Hazard Mitigation Plan** is with CAL OES for review, but it is never too late to give me a piece of your mind, until the plan is approved by the BOS, we are taking feedback.
 - i. Jerry asks, how long is the public review period?
 - ii. Skylar responds: 60 days
- f. **CWPP Meetings:** We have community meetings confirmed for ten communities, we are waiting on responses on three more then will start outreach
- g. Going to start creating a **meeting summary sheet** to condense down project updates and other notable meeting updates for each TCFSC meeting to compliment the minutes. I wanted to bring that up ahead of next week when we intend to start posting that on our socials and the first newsletter of the month

6. **Project Updates**

BoR (Gave report first due to time constraint)

- Vegetation Management Dam safety project ongoing, CALFIRE crew removing downed and dead vegetation and look to do some pile burning once the relevant permit is acquired from the Air Quality Management District. Working with TCRCD on CAL Fire Forest Health protection grant to do work in Lewiston. Got a project awarded, but waiting for environmental compliance
 - Debra Harris says that the smoke management plan has been approved for burning

WRTC

- Xander - Starting seasonal hiring. Beginning to do compliance work and want to get compliance done for Hyampom CWDG this year. Technical info getting sent over to USFS for the Bowerman project. Pursuing the NFWF Watersheds grant
- Qwalen - Prescribed fire world, looking for burn windows this spring. Weaver Basin area on Jackass Ridge. Have RAC Starting Prescribed burn associations. Burnt Ranch, Douglas City, Hayfork, and more!
- Megan - Excited about the Firewise Fair, in support of moving the date

Willow Creek FSC

- Gina - Willow Creek Firewise Certification was renewed! Save the date for May 18 - Firewise Day Fair at the park. Looking forward to work on the Greater Willow Creek CWDG. Looking to increase capacity and hired a new grant coordinator (Sophia Sady. New officers: President is Barbara Darst. Vice President is Jim Cotton. Website is being updated. Working to bring all the information onto the .org website.

Weaverville VFD

- No attendees

USFS Six-Rivers NF

- No attendees

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USFS Shasta-Trinity NF

- Tim Ritchey - Trinity Wildfire Crisis landscape is coming in (received 40% of what was requested). About 26 million split between Shasta T and 6 Rivers. Bowerman Ridge, Community defense and pilot project are the main priority. Prevention Group will be getting funds (clarify) for messaging and new signage
- TR- Continue burning in Denny. Once this is complete, 130 piles to burn on Glennison Gap in Weaverville Community Forest, once those are complete there are no more piles to burn
 - Kelly asked about Weaverville Community Forest Trails and Rec Phase II funding decision - Tim doesn't know but thinks it's soon. Tara said that it may happen in the middle of February (the burn parts of the plan for Browns Phase 1) - timeline (timber harvest 2011, 2016 was the first jackpot burn and now the FS is doing now in the maintenance burn phase). Planning money is included in this allocation

UC Cooperative Extension

- No attendee

Tsungwe

- Dena - met with a tribal monitor with the USFS to clean up hazardous waste by the lookout, next steps to be determined. Both Shasta Trinity and 6 Rivers, look to have a joint MOU with the Tsungwe - the California Tribal Legal Services is helping guide this process. Look to make it so that not just cultural resources are protected but there are more protections for the forest from the tribes. They are looking forward to the development of a cooperative relationship. Is a Neighborhood Ambassador (S. Fork Rd. and in Trinity Village) Has input for the CWDG site tour. Would like to invite the Hawkins Bar VFD for future CWDG meetings. Looking forward to Burnt Ranch developing a PBA
 - Jill comments thanks to the work on the MOU and more cooperative agreements

Trinity PUD

- No attendees

Trinity County RCD

- Bethany Llewellyn- put in a grant ask for the CAL FIRE FH opportunity. Thanked the group for the review. Was for implementation work in Bowerman and Trinity Camps, partnership with SPI, WRTC, USFS, Nor Rel Muk Wintu tribe. 8 fuel technicians doing some cutting and burning through the winter. Seasonal hiring will begin in February for 8 more fuel techs and 4 forestry technicians.
- Adriana - Putting in a grant for WCF area (one the LoS was)
- Kelly Sheen - discussed partnership with WRTC on Watersheds NFWF. Will target area impacted by the River Complex, asked for \$15 million, total \$50million to be awarded to 5 different groups. Submitted preproposal week before for restoration, focusing on fuels reduction, reforestation, roads and water quality. Broken out to an upper trinity and downriver asks
 - Jill asks when we expect a response. Kelly says mid-February, but plans to start planning now with the expectation that we will be asked to submit a full proposal

Trinity County Planning

- Bella- New senior planner has been hired, will keep these meetings staffed, will have a round of community workshops for the community plans.
- Trinitycounty2050.com to learn about the General Plan Update
 - Jill asked where the meetings are. WVRVL, JC, DC, LWSTN

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- Bella: venues are being discussed.
- Bella- comments from agencies due end of this week and staff report, Class K structures/LDRD structures would need to adhere to the Fire Safe Ordinance (going to PC Feb 8), BOS meeting subject to change
 - Jill asked if she received the letter from the Fire Chiefs'. Yes they did
- Chris asked what does PLNG do?
 - Bella asks what PLNG does - processes special development projects on county land

Trinity County OES

- Philip - Homeland Security Grant for fiscal year 24' - looking for project ideas for this grant. 35% is geared towards law enforcement. Domestic extremism, election security, and communication projects have been included. Working with Post Mountain to do a GMRS radio project, a pilot project to do future projects in other outlining communities. It is like a ham radio that will function as backup communication. Will host an educational community event, want to work to better serve the Hmong population. One license would cover an entire family
- Philip - got funds to get a new trailer (smaller) to be easier to use if there is an evacuation need. Current one is so bulky that it becomes difficult to use
- Meeting with CDFW with Leroy to get a second spill trailer for the area for chemical and fuel spills for the Hayfork VFD.

Trinity County Collaborative Group

- Jerry - Wildfire Camera update, only 2 in the county now. Had a meeting yesterday, went into thinking there were 6 committed by PG&E (Horse Mountain, Bald Hill, Pickett Peak, Limedyke, Bear Mountain and Knob Peak). Went into the meeting thinking 2 this year and 4 next year. The meeting came out that there are actually 18 that will be happening. Tara with the USFS looks to include camera sites in future projects so it will be included in NEPA
 - Kelly: After the meeting I organized the list of prioritized sites and some white papers and will try and get it out to the ad hoc committee who requested it.
- Jerry adds financial qualifiers: Cameras cost from \$20,000 to \$50,000 with an additional \$1,200 to \$1,500 charger per month. This is based on how many cameras we get.
 - Jill asks if PG&E will cover it. Jerry says they will cover all the cost for the first 20 - 21 cameras.
- Larry adds that the proposed maps will offer large coverage for the county
- Kelly: These are 360 cameras so the ones on the fringes will go into other counties
- Jill: These cameras can also be used for search and rescue or whatever we want once installed.
- Ben Kellog: As a citizen I would be willing to install a camera in the Weaver Bali area covering the 299.

Trinity County BOS

- Jill has no updates
- Heidi nothing to report, but is excited for upcoming Downriver area fuels reduction in the down river communities.
- Philip says that he wants to build Downriver into future communication projects so they don't lose communication.
 - Heidi says communication can't be lost if it doesn't exist. Dena states that there is no cell service. Often times people have to go to Willow Creek to

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call. There are people with health issues that can't call out. Cell service or land service doesn't exist, all there is is wifi. The fiber optic line going in doesn't have the intention of connecting to these communities

- Bella said that she will follow up with Ed about community development plans.

Trinity Center VFD

- No attendees

Tehama-Glenn FSC

- No attendees

SPI

- No attendees

Southern Trinity FSC

- No attendees

SAFE

Larry says that they are tracking env documents for fuels reduction projects. The pilot project may be sold soon.

NRCS

Chris - continuing to plan and help folks on implementation. New, 10 acre projects coming up, some work in Coffee Creek. Working with the WRTC on forestry technical assistant projects - reaching about sediment into creeks and things like that.

Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu

- No attendees

NCUAQMD

Debra Harris - updated the burn barrel exemption program. Can allow multiple uses in specific areas. They reached out to fire departments and determined based off of the feedback. Some areas lost the exemption due to the fire departments not wanting them, some jurisdictions in Trinity have lost this. She is happy to take any feedback. Next month they're gearing up for wildfire season, right now processing smoke management permits. Lots of projects and trying to keep up.

- Kelly asked if its easy to find more information about the burn barrel exemptions. Debra says this is established by zip code. Right now this is put on each burn permit which is sold

Lower Trinity PBA

- No attendees

Hyampom FSC

- No attendees

Caltrans

- No attendees

CAL FIRE

- Dave - closed the grant season for Shasta Trinity. Got a lot of interested grant outreach. Continuing to prep the Big Creek VTP in Hayfork. Cutting and piling and getting ready to burn out there.

BLM

- Mike: Pausing on burn piles due to smoke. Looks to pick up burning when things dry. Browns Creek and Indian Creek. The WCF thinning project (97 acre) has started, press release in most recent WCF newsletter. Reading-Indian Creek expansion project is continuing.

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- Kelly asked about piles along Rush Creek Rd and Old Lewiston rd and if they will be burned. Mike clarified what has happened that they have been working on them and should have all of Lewiston completed soon.

Additional Updates

Kenneth - working with Mark Lancaster and Carol Fall for a vegetation management and fire response plan, Denise prepared a collection of maps to map the projects in this area. One more review and then things will proceed. Question for Gina Moon: did she find and find useful the Downriver Fire Plan.

- Gina said she found it and would eventually like to revise. Kenneth said he'll work with RCD to get her a hard copy
- Looking to get funding for Hell or Highwater project 85% burned up through August Complex. The NRCS funding will be a small percentage, so is looking for additional funding. Asked for future CAL FIRE Forest Health proposal funding.

7. Future Discussion Items

- No items brought up.
- Meeting adjourned: 2:33PM

Next Meeting: February 22, 2024

INCLUDE Trinity County Natural Resources Division in the future project update list