



Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 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=a05MeVZNMkxoUmNyVGI4K2VjUjcwZz09>

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 - Start 1:02PM

In person attendees: Michael Allan (BLM), Phillip Simi (OES), Skylar Fisher (TCRCD), Miles Raymond (TCRCD), Rewn Winter (Corral Creek Timber), Carol Fall (TCVFD), David Colbeck (TCNRD), Chuck Colby (LFD), Jill Cox (BOS), Kenneth Baldwin (BBW + Assoc), Pat Frost (TCCSD), Denise Wesley (TCRCD), Daze Wilson (Retired CALFIRE)

On zoom attendees: Bruce Taylor (Salyer Firewise Board), Jake (Resident), Jerry Cousins (TC Collaborative), Qwalen Berntsen (WRTC), Keith Rohrs (USFS Shasta Trinity), Larry Glass (SAFE, Collaborative), Basho Parks (LTRPBA), Megan Killeen (WRTC), Dan Daggert (NVCSS), John Brower (JC Firewise Board), Bethany Llewellyn (TCRCD), Sophia (WCFSC), Mikala, Gina Moon (WCFSC, Salyer Ambassador), Charlie Holthaus (Neighborhood Ambassador) A1 Tree Service and A1 Forestry Group, Mary Flurey (Downriver Fire), Chris Losi (Flowra), Stefano (Prescribed fire company), Debra Harris (NCUAQMD), Robert Columbro (Tehama County RCD), Dena Magdaleno (Tsunungwe), Chad Heaton (Southern Trinity Resident), Heidi Carpenter Harris (BOS)

2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

None

3. Discussions

None

4. Grants

a. Request for Letter of Support: The Trinity County Resource Conservation District requests a letter of support for a proposal for the CAL FIRE Wildfire Resilience Block Grant.

- i. The funding would go towards offering support for non-industrial landowners who were impacted by fires through site prep and reforestation.
- ii. Carol: How old of fires does this work for?
- iii. Larry Glass? How much does this grant get?
- iv. Bethany: I have set up this grant to cover the Helena, Monument and River. It is open to the August but those other fires have limited resources. It is asking for around \$1 million trees.

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- v. Pat: What type of work is this going to be?
 - vi. Bethany: It is not going to be any salvage logging but there will be some hazard tree removal, vegetation management and pile burning. No broadcast burns.
 - vii. Bethany: We will have community meetings and Coffee Creek and find candidates that do not qualify for CFIP or EQIP. It has a 3 acre minimum size.
 - viii. Chris Losi: Was this part of the CAFSC State Fire Capacity Grant?
 - ix. Bethany: This is through Cal FIRE and is only open to groups who can do the CEQA themselves.
 - x. Jill: The letter talks about a "formal type conversion" of peoples property
 - xi. Bethany: This is talking vegetation change.
 - xii. Dan Dogert: Will this involve community outreach for emergency services? We do a lot of outreach for that and would love to help.
 - xiii. Bethany: We will have 2 community meetings
 - xiv. Bethany: We are adding the work "vegetation" before "type conversion"
 - xv. Philip asked if the group had any objections for the FSC supporting the letter of support. As there was no opposition or additional questions or comments on the proposal, the TCFSC moved that the draft letter be signed in support of the proposal.
- b. **Addition:** Pat has an update as CFSC board chair. In recent years, there has been good funding, but the state currently has a deficit, so there is concern future funding may be cut. Belief that funding may be focused more into flood and other disaster resilience. Advocates for everyone to advocate to their representative there be continued funding of the TCFSC and other wildfire resilience initiatives
5. **Fire Safe Council Coordinator Update**
- a. Currently planning Neighborhood Ambassador events for March, April, and May
 - b. Received two LAA applications since the last meeting, which will be moving to the Board of Supervisor soon
 - c. Planning continues on the Firewise Fair for May 11 at the Hayfork Park from 10AM to 3PM.
 - d. Reminder for anyone interested in submitting to the Firewise Art Contest, it's all ages with a theme of showing how communities rebuild after fire, prize is \$50, having your art converted into a magnet, and having your art included in the CWPP
 - e. CWPP community meeting flyers will be finalized and out next week
 - i. Burnt Ranch: Elementary School | May 7 | 6PM
 - ii. Lewiston: Community hall | May 14 | 6PM
 - iii. Hyampom: Community center | May 16 | 6PM
 - iv. Trinity Center: IOOF | May 20 | 6PM
 - v. Mad River: Community hall | May 21 | 6PM
 - vi. Douglas City: VFD | May 28 | 6PM
 - vii. Coffee Creek: VFD | June 4
 - viii. Hawkins Bar: Hawkins Bar VFD | June 8 | 10AM
 - ix. Weaverville: VFD | June 11 | 6PM
 - x. Post Mountain: VFD | June 18 | 6PM
 - xi. Junction City: North Fork Grange | June 25 | 6PM
 - f. Will be sending out partner letters inviting to our programming for this year next week
 - g. Was at Lewiston elementary school this month for weekly Firewise education lessons, took a break this week, but will be back next and the week after for two final lessons, one in partnership with the Lewiston VFD
 - h. Evacuation routes continue to be developed

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- i. Had a site tour on Feb 6 in Hawkins Bar for the Greater Willow Creek CWDG project in Trinity Village and SuzyQ Rd. Had 18 unique attendees. Working on a video showing some of the project are and discuss that portion of the project
 - j. CFSC is opening applications for another round of county coordinator funding this week
 - o Pat Frost: We have already set aside money for the county coordinator budget to ensure that there will be money to support our coordinators.
6. **Project Updates**
- a. BLM
 - Mike Allan: a month since burning piles in Trinity, planning to get into it soon (early spring hopefully) Want to hit Little Browns, Reading-Indian, and in Lewiston
 - Just about 50% of piles between Trinity and Shasta burned
 - WCF Site 1 was started and completed.
 - Little Browns Creek unit four is starting on Monday
 - Reading-Indian Creek expansion is being done. Env review should happen soo. The TCRC will be doing saw work and the WRTC will be doing mastication
 - Money is set aside to complete expansion for Reading-Indian Creek
 - b. CAL FIRE
 - No attendees
 - c. Caltrans
 - No attendees
 - d. Hyampom FSC
 - No attendees
 - e. Lower Trinity PBA
 - January - went to Calpoly Humboldt with WRTC to discuss biomass utilization (co gen power supply and other utilizations)
 - Next two months - up to 15 acres of prescribed burns with SMP and burn plans in place
 - Got \$15k technical assistance grant for watershed development from NCRP
 - Working on a CALFIRE Forest Health grant
 - Got food that will be stored and used in case of emergency
 - Attended CWDG site tour
 - Working in a workforce development group through Eureka Economic Development. The aim is to get contractors onto lists for the CWDG projects that will be starting.
 - Got funding for treatment on CWPP identified properties
 - David asks clarification on the contractor list that LTRPBA is working on
 - o David: Does your contractor list also account for heavy equipment operators?
 - o Basho: Yes it does. We are more concerned about the woodcutters and people left behind by the logging industry. We are trying to get them some work.
 - f. NCUAQMD
 - Debra: There are a lot of people who have been affected by fire and want to increase the pace and scale of burning and fuels reduction. I am looking for a contact for community members who want to be included in projects and get some work done
 - o Skylar: You can have them contact me
 - Debra will be gone after Monday next week so people should get it before then.
 - g. Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu
 - No attendees
 - h. NRCS
 - No attendees

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- i. SAFE
 - Larry: Submitted comments for the Northwest Forest Plan - called for increased use of prescribed fire and roadside shaded fuelbreaks
- j. Southern Trinity FSC
 - No attendees
- k. SPI
 - No attendees
- l. Tehama-Glenn FSC
 - Robert: New to the position and has been here about a month. Would like to attend our meetings and figure out where individuals and communities are at.
 - Ren asked what his experience is.
 - Robert: Was a heli attack firefighter for CAL FIRE, worked for FEMA, Environmental Director and emergency director for 6 different tribes in California and Nevada
- m. Trinity Center VFD
 - Carol: Spoke to ongoing projects with NCRP grants.
 - The Forest Service has some money that will be going towards developing projects. The second part of the FS meeting was about how land tender works
 - Spoke to the Weaverville WCS project. Noted that it sounded similar to the FSC, partner idea sharing. Appreciated the USFS creating a space to talk and provide updates.
- n. Trinity County BOS
 - Jill: Spoke to the WCS meeting. Would like to see safety as a highly rated factor for Land Tender and spoke to the upcoming community meetings for the general plan update. For Lewiston and Junction City the meetings are on March 4th. The dates for these community meetings can be found on Tinity2050
 - Pat asked how the meetings are being promoted
 - Jill: Email, word of mouth, posturing.
- o. Trinity County Collaborative Group
 - Jerry: last Friday's fieldtrip was cancelled. Negotiation and NEPA still happening. Kevin Anderson with digital path will be providing a presentation on the wildfire cameras. Third Friday.
- p. Trinity County Natural Resources
 - David: Asks about being linked into the evacuation routes - would like to link in the Coffee Creek Rd where half the road is gone. Good Neighbor Authority with the FS has a deal about noxious weed disposal. Question about where to put noxious weeds for disposal. Looking for input on locations. Promotes the weed working group - linking to fire risk. Figuring out capacity for supporting WRTC/TCRCD NEPA (like the Bowerman Project). Would like Trinity County to be included in NFWF funding which address down river and north county fire prevention. Attended WCS and believes Land Tender is one of many tools however input from people is just as important) .
 - Carol added about meeting that happened with Denise earlier this week about evacuation routes. 1st map type - routes for general public. 2nd map type is more specific and showing driveways and getting into people's properties. 3rd map type is ingress egress and the quality of the roads.
 - David recommends reaching out the Forest Service for transportation plans, recommends to reach out to Caltrans for information

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- Kenneth: recommendation to have a date for roads condition (based off his experience from Bully Choop), Carol added that Denise was going to add gates and symbols to indicate if a road is closed part of the
 - David recommends to ask DOT about road maintenance
 - Chris adds that Flowra is interested
 - Skylar asks about enforcement for the vegetation management ordinance. If we cannot get individuals to respond to overgrowth on their vacant lot, what can we do about it?
 - David: Not a lot we can do
 - Carol brought up how the VFD would complain to the code enforcement person. That person has then come out. They have never forced the person to do something but their influence and power has got people to listen to it.
 - David: It is not easy to know if we should revise the ordinance to give it more teeth but would need direction to focus on that.
 - Pat: What hasn't worked is having the VFD come out and offering to do the work for free. People need enforcement to come and tell them they need to do the work.
 - Heidi talks about the old goats who charges \$2k to do clearance around a property
 - Heidi and Pat discuss the parameters of the veg management ordinance which is targeted at undeveloped properties. Cal FIRE has authority to deal with properties with houses. Heidi points out that there is still work that needs to be done. Concern around Hennessey Rd. and in her community and the fact that there are so many people who cant do the work themselves or cant afford it are left unserved. How can we reach this unserved population.
 - Carol adds 4290 and 4291. Cal Fire will inspect a house but will not come back and see if the work is done. They are also too busy now since the fire season is so long.
 - David would be happy to take back to the CDD a request.
 - Jill: This seems like a problem that many people should be dealing with on their own and if they don't have the resources to do it then we can direct them towards it. We don't want to spend more county dollars
- q. Trinity County OES
- Philip: finishing up the homeland security grant request. Will be reminding departments about the request form. Declared two disasters - late January and early February. The declarations relate to Campbell Ridge Rd and Mad River Rd. Mad River Rd is only eligible for on system funding, part of the Drought Resilience group - Stantec is writing a drought plan.
 - Carol: What does a drought resilience plan work on? We are interested in water storage but for firefighting reasons
- r. Trinity County Planning
- No attendee
- s. Trinity County RCD
- David: Bethany working on hazard tree in August Complex. Pressure from Frazier and Red McArthur. David is working with Bethany to work on hazard trees on county roads on USFS lands in the August Complex footprint. Will use Good Neighbor Authority funds and will be a selective cut.
 - Denise: evac route update. Evacuation routes now reflect the type of road as well as management type. There are lots of gaps in the data. My priority is focusing on communities that have one way in and one way out.

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- Denise: we are also looking for more project on our project viewer site. This can be found on the FSC website.
- Bethany: 2 fuels crew on this winter, have been working on the highway bend, burning with partners (Browns Mountain), finishing marking on Oregon Mnt sale on Democrat Ridge, drove to Kettenpom yesterday for Hazard tree removal in August Complex. Staffing up for the season, will be bringing another eight on in march. Hiring 4 forestry technicians. Grateful for wrtc for s212 and basic 32
- Carol: When will you hear back on Forest Health? Bethany: CAL FIRE said March or April
- t. Trinity PUD
 - No attendee
- u. Tsnungwe
 - Unable to provide update
- v. UC Cooperative Extension
 - No update
- w. USFS Shasta-Trinity NF
 - Unable to provide update
- x. USFS Six-Rivers NF
 - Unable to provide update
- y. Weaverville VFD
 - No attendee
 - Chuck: Lewiston VFD is working on a water tender grant. Working with Miles for secondary egress in Salt Flat. Will be joining on Firewise education for Lewiston elementary. In June/July there should be a new command vehicle for Lewiston
 - Basho: wanted to update on Six Rivers update, alluded to the WCS meeting in Willow Creek. It was mostly about land tender and future projects.
- z. Willow Creek FSC
 - Gina Moon: fundraiser, St. Patricks day. Firewise Fair on May 18 (Olivia is coordinating), team is still getting familiar with emergency alerts and preparedness for CWDG, attended WCS meeting, referred to evacuation confusion during the south fork rd and south fork mountain rd alert last fire season
 - Sophia Sady: excited about partnerships with TCRCD/FSC, want to get in touch with Heidi for areas in Salyer for fuel reduction
- aa. WRTC
 - Discussion: Qwalen: next four months PBA workshops across the county. Starting in Junction City on the ninth and tenth, 101 workshop talking about laws practices and liability, history, benefits and drawbacks. Fire regimes for different fuel types on landscapes. Lewiston workshop on April 4th. Douglas City April 27th. May 18th in Hayfork. June 9th in Coffee Creek. 37 acres burned in Hyampom for the PBA . Continuing to support with TCRCD on pile burns around the county. Have 300 acres in weaver basin prepped and ready for broadcast burning . some land prepped in the Hayfork area. Wrapping up nfwf funding and will apply for more, to support USFS in burning. Providing some training opportunities.
 - Megan: performing Hyampom CWDG outreach, extra saw crew hired this year compared to last year. Soliciting contracts for planting in Mad River.

Bethany adds a point about the meeting she was in with the North Coast Resource Partnership. Covers the Trinity County area and are taking feedback on the website. It is about their ranking tool. Skylar will add more information in the next TCFSC newsletter

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7. **Future Discussion Items**

- a. Ren requests an update on the drought resilience plan
- b. Discussion on what the need is for the vegetation management ordinance and how to address it

Meeting End Time: 3:03PM

Next Meeting: March 28, 2024