



## Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Thursday, March 28th, 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

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<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- 1:11PM

**In person attendees:** Philip Simi (TCOES), Kelly Sheen, Skylar Fisher, Bethany Llewellyn, Miles Raymond and Denise Wesley (TCRCD), Jill Cox (TCBOS), Carol Fall (TC VFD), David Colbeck (TCNR) Mike Allan and Brian Howel (BLM), Pat Frost (TCCSD)

**On Zoom attendees:** Megan Killeen and Randi Parris (WRTC), Gina Moon, Sophia Sady (WCFSC), Nancy Curren (Mad River Ranger District), Mary Flurey (DR VFD), Kurt McCray (Humboldt Del Norte Unit), Debra Harris, NQUAQMN, Dave DeLange (TPUD), Dale Wilson, Cindie Childress (Nor Rel Muk Winto, Tanya Turst (USFS), Bruce and Marylee (Salyer Residents) Larry Glass (SAFE/NEC), Jerry Cousins (Trinity Collaborative), Ren Winter (Corral Creek Timber), Bella Hedtke (TC Planning)

### 2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

- a. David: I wanted to ask what were the requirements for having a vote at the FSC
- b. Skylar: You can vote if you have attended a meeting within the past 6 months prior to the item. If you would like to vocalize an abstention, you are welcome to as well. We generally only are asking if anyone has a problem with what is being asked, not if they vote to pass it.
- c. Randi: I would like to not that I am going to be leaving early and would like to give my report first.
- d. Phillip Simi: We will make sure you go first.

### 3. Discussions

- a. Drought Resilience Task Force:
  - i. Phillip: We had a kickoff meeting on Monday with the contractor who will be doing the drought plan. We mostly talked about the process and when we will meet. The big players are Environmental Health and the Department of Environmental Resources. So far it has just been discussions of drought. We had dry well reporting

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two years ago during the drought. Stantec was the consulting agency awarded the bid

- ii. Pat: Who is on the drought task force
- iii. Phillip: Kristy from Environmental Health, me, Ed from Community Development, Mike Catone from HHS and Trent.
- iv. Jerry Cousins: Where is the consultant located and how much does it cost?
- v. David: The state will be allocating \$150,000 and Stantec is an international firm. I believe that the closest location is in Sacramento.

b. Vegetation Management Ordinance

- i. Skylar: I have been looking into the vegetation management ordinance and it is a nuisance ordinance. Amelia Fleitz states that vegetation must meet a tonnage requirement to be viewed as a nuisance. That is where the ordinance is at now. A question to be asked is who is reporting these properties. If it is the RCD that will also be getting funds to do the work then it seems not right for them to also be the ones enforcing the ordinance. There is a copy of the ordinance in the meeting attachments.
- ii. David: I am looking at Section 8.68.04 A\_G. Only Section G references a tonnage threshold. It seems like that is just one of the ways it can be defined as a nuisance.
- iii. Pat: Any next steps?
- iv. Jill: I have spoken with the CAO about this and shared that there are concerns. He is aware and I think we should give him a chance to take some action.
- v. Carol: It has been on the books since 2008 so I think it is about time.
- vi. Jill: If he asks for direct advice from the FSC we can do that but for now he will probably be looking at how it ties into our general plan.
- vii. David: Since this would be able to affect a large number of private parcels in the county, it would be helpful to attach this to a specific project.
- viii. Carol: In the past we have given requests to code enforcement and then they come out and deal with it.
- ix. David: I would suggest that code enforcement would still deal with these requests.
- x. Jill: If you have a specific way you would like to see think should happen, that could be put in a letter and sent to the BOS
- xi. Pat: it has not been tested yet on what would happen if a person blew off the code enforcement and the county does not have a system for going to do the work.
- xii. Carol: There were discussions if it was legal for the county to add additional taxes to a property owners name if they did work on their land
- xiii. Larry: Has anyone looked into how this interfaces with state law?
- xiv. Carol: We have with Cal fire 4291 inspections, but that only applies where there is a structure. A lot of this vegetation ordinance would not apply to this. Even when they do issue a citation, they do not enforce it. We are really looking for a way to enforce the ordinances
- xv. Larry: Thank you for your answer. I am wondering if we can implement state law.
- xvi. David: There are ways in which counties are required to enforce state law. This would be in the safety element of the general plan. We would need to create and ordinance for this in order to do anything about it.
- xvii. Phillip: If there is no further discussion on this we will move on.

4. Grants

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- a. **Addition:** Letter of support request from TCRCDC for a proposal in partnership with the WCFSC that is for the PG&E Fuels Reduction Grant they put out every year. The TCRCDC will be the fiscal entity and it will focus on WCFSC priority Projects. They will be driving implementation hopefully with local contractors in the Salyer Willow Creek Area. It is a \$100,000 ask and focus on ingress and egress routes such as Seeley McIntosh Rd and Woodey Lane. The grant will take about one year and it is due tomorrow.
  - i. Sophia: The WCFSC and Humboldt RCD has given letters of support and the local contractors are super excited to be working in an area close to home.
  - ii. No opposition to the letter, it passes to be signed in support of this proposal.
  
- b. Letter to Trinity County BOS: Trinity Center CSD and VFD are concerned about Hobel Dump being a fire hazard due to the lack of management as well as the lack of oversight and accessibility to the area. There is also no cell service so people cannot report something if there is a fire. RAC approved spending money to solve it however it is the counties responsibility to do it. RAC suggested that the county apply for the CalFire Forest Fire Prevention Exemption for the county to log it and maybe cover their costs for doing fuels work.
  - i. Carol: I had planned on sending a letter to the BOS to discuss this with them and see what path forward they were interested in.
  - ii. Carol: Kelly from the Trinity County Resource Conservation District has stepped in though and suggested the NCRCD Collaborative potentially has a block grant that could cover the work on the area. I would like to hold off on submitting the letter based on what the TCRCDC could do.
  
- c. Letter of support request from TCRCDC for a State Coastal Conservancy Grant: North Coast Resource Conservation District Collaborative is working to receive a block grant for money from the State Coastal Conservancy Granting Program. This would be \$6 million over 5 years. We are asking for letter of support to send to the Chair of the State Coastal Conservancy Board to fund this project. This would be to do implementation work as well as capacity building regarding forest health and fire management projects. The TCRCDC would likely receive between \$800,000 - \$1mil that it would be able to use as well as have discretion to hand out to other agencies.
  - i. Carol: If the RCD is awarded the funding, the RCD would come up with an agreement with the county to do the work at Hobel Dump.
  - ii. No opposition to the letter, it passes to be signed in support of this proposal.
  - iii. Ren: I was wondering, even if the TCRCDC got the grant, would the county still be interested in doing the Fire Prevention Exemption to get it done.
  - iv. Carol: I think that it would probably be having Fire Prevention exemption timber harvest and the RCD grant both implemented and have them be complimentary in some way.
  - v. Ren: I think that if we can have the timber harvest done and save the grant money for other projects where there are not chances of doing a timber harvest; that should be done.
  - vi. Carol: I agree.
  
- d. FEMA Fire and Prevention Safety Grant Program: The Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program is to support fire prevention programs to purchase resources as well as for recruitment and retention efforts in Volunteer Fire Departments

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- i. Carol: The grants will also fund wildfire education as well as modeling projects that could be put on social media. We are going to use it to try and reach our seasonal residents, purchase props and more.
- ii. Pat: Can we apply for them even if we don't have our Hazard Mitigation plan approved?
- iii. Carol: Yes
- iv. Bethany: It would be beneficial for Chief Warshawer to apply for an education trailer although it needs a lot of fix up
- v. Carol: yes, although you can only apply for one of the categories.
- vi. Phil: I will look into my funding to see what I have to offer to help fix it up.
- vii. Carol: Also Cal Fire just released their assistance for rural firefighters grant. This is for radios, gear, thermal imaging ect. It is a 50/50 match program.

5. Fire Safe Council Coordinator Update

- a. Address Sigs: We have ordered and received 200 address and sign posts for the community. These are 4 inch reflective signs. A thank you to Ace Hardwar.
- b. Firewise Fair: The Fair is still on schedule for May 11<sup>th</sup>. We will have 2 guest speakers. One from the WRTC talking about prescribed burns and another from the USFS talking about fire ecology. There will also be the Hyampom Good Times Band playing music.
- c. Neighborhood Ambassador: We have an event scheduled for April as well as a few events scheduled for May.
- d. Firewise Education: Lessons in Lewiston have been completed and the FSC will be in Hayfork and Van Duzen throughout April completing lessons there.
- 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.
- f. Jerry asks, how long is the public review period?
- g. Skylar responds: 60 days
- h. CWPP Meetings: We have 11 community meetings coming up in May through June. These will be for the 2025 CWPP update, hazard mitigation plan update and information about evacuation planning. It will also be a time to talk about past, present and future wildfire resiliency plans. We hope to highlight all the work that agencies have been doing as well as gain valuable input for future projects.
- i. Community Chipping: Starting in May and going through June the TCRC and WRTC will be doing Spring Chipping.
- j. Hazard Mitigation Plan: We have received some comments from CAL OES and then it will go to the County OES. Following this it will go to FEMA.

6. Project Updates

- a. WRTC
  - i. Randi: The WRTC is bringing the crews back and we will likely start Down River with the storm cleanup mid-April depending on weather. We have our final year of the previous Forest Health grant which includes the Wells Mountain Fuel Break on SPI Land Northeast of Hayfork, plantation thinning west of Hayfork and some mastication work as well, ongoing work on the Mad Ridge fuel break, plantation work in the wildwood and Gamel Ridge area. We also got the grant through NFWIF utilizing FS funds to in the upper and lower Trinity to work on some areas and partner with the TCRC, HCRCD, Nor Wel Muk and Tsunungwe.
  - ii. Larry: A lot of us saw the article about the grant you got. Was this only for timberland properties?

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- iii. Randi: We are creating a document to cover all private properties in the greater Hyampom Valley, through Indian Valley and coming out in the west side of Hayfork. We will be sending out mailings to people who are in the project areas.
- iv. Larry: There are people on South fork Mountain who don't get much attention but would be interested.

Willow Creek FSC

- i. Gina - The St. Patrick's Day Dinner was a success and we got some interest in the CWDG Grant. The CWDG will likely consume us here for the next 2 years. Sophia Sady will be using a tablet now to carry out home assessments. This should help us with our firewise recertification this coming year.
- ii. Sophia: We continue planning Chipper Days, our firewise fair on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and during the fair there will be a women's softball tournament. We are figuring up the Humboldt County Storm Recovery Grant. This includes roadside fuel reduction as well as outreach in the Willow Creek Area. We are finishing up 3 grants, on Campbell Ridge with the TCRCD, a PG&E grant and another grant with Coast Central, We are also trying get some fuels reduction on South Fork Rd.
- iii. David: With your projects on PG&E and Cambell Ridge Rd, I believe that Humboldt County and Six Rivers have a good neighbor authority agreement to get work done in this area. I believe Campbell Ridge rd. is one that they are assessing.
- iv. Sophia: We have looked into this and may pursue it.
- v. Gina: Is the good neighbor authority set up for public lands?
- vi. David: Yes usually however it depends on how it is set up. The Trinity County one is set up to be as expansive as possible and include all roads leading to USFS Roads.
- vii. Pat: If it is for public land but a county RD, then the good neighbor authority could be a plan B.
- viii. David: Tara Jones and I are the people to be in contact with about trying to do work in these areas.

Weaverville VFD

- i. No attendee or report.

USFS Six-Rivers NF

- ii. Nancy Curran from Mad River: Each districts has completed a programmatic burn plan. We are in the process of burning dozer lies from the august complex. Part of the repair has been piling them so they can be reopened. We are going to do some cleanup on landing piles. For understory burning we are going to be doing about 70 acres. We have completed about 1,900 acres doing hazard tree falling and piling. We are hoping to start an additional 300 acres to get work done along USFS roads. We just got trees and are going to be planting about 25 acres in the Upper Mad Watershed Area. We are working on the Rat Tail Timber sale. Close to 6mil board feet as well has fuels reduction in this area following it. Jamie Wilburn will be covering part of my job as I retire. She has got a lot of experience and you will be in good hands. I am not really going anywhere though.
- iii. Bethany: We are working on removing hazard trees in the south county.

USFS Shasta-Trinity NF

- i. No attendee or report.

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Tsnungwe

- i. No attendee or report.

Trinity PUD

- i. Dave: We have been doing hazard tree abatement trim cycles. We have been cleaning up Upper Covington. We have Con Camp crew's working in Kenny Camp. We are waiting for our Cal Fire prevention grant to do work around Hayfork and Hyampom. We are waiting got the USFS to get some grant money. We are also helping CAL OES to put up sirens.

Trinity County RCD

- i. Denis: I made an updated fire history map for the Trinity Journal. I finished the evacuation route structure map. Eric and I have been working on the cartographic layout for community meetings. We will also be brining maps to community meetings for people to provide feedback. I am working on a story map.  
David: There was a road failure on Odd Fellows rd. and there were a number of houses on a single parcel. Are you able to capture where there are a number of houses on a single parcel on your evacuation map?  
Denise: We are using address points to capture the density of dwellings. If we wanted more fine detail we would need more funding. The parcels would need to be updated as well. The numbers we have should be considered a very rough estimate.  
Dave: We have shape files of every meter and those are a pretty good estimate of dwellings since most people have power if that would help.
- ii. Bethany: We have brought on our full time fuels staff as well as our forestry crews. The fuels crew are burning in Indian Creek, doing snag removal and more. They will be in Indian Creek, the Weaver Basin and the Lake Forest Plantation. We are doing our community chipping May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be partnering with Cal Fire to offer some prechipping in Weaverville and close by. We will be doing some post fire work in Salyer. We will be doing flagging and work in the North County in the late summer through the McConnel Grant.
- iii. Kelly: We expect the Coastal Conservancy's block grant to help cover some of the costs.  
Carol: Would you want to see if the county is interested in doing the logging project? This would raise some money for the county as well as be beneficial for the local economy  
David: This work would be done by general services. It is a larger question of how is county land managed. Trent is the person to be in contact with.  
Pat: Someone should do a code enforcement complaint to the county about the county land.  
Carol: Ren, if you ever are in the area, you should do a walkthrough and see if you think it is worth harvesting.  
Kelly: We have been meeting with the BLM Forester. The mill seems like it is optimistic about buying the lumber for the Oregon Mountain Timber sale. It is estimated that there is about a million board feet of timber on the sale.

Trinity County Planning

- i. Bella: We are working with TCRCD on the hazard mitigation plan and evacuation plan. We have our next phase of community plan meetings. The drafts are up for Trinity Center and Post Mountain.

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Trinity County OES

- i. Philip: I am putting together plans for grants next year. We are working with the Volunteer Fire Departments to get some projects done. Mike Catone, the director of HHS is retiring in May. We did another grant for another trailer. We are also working to set up the wildfire cameras throughout the county. We are also looking to do traffic control training. We have money in the grant to send some people to the training  
Carol: Trinity Center has a traffic control group that trains once a month. I can put you in touch with the group. The groups is the Fire Emergency Assistance Team.

Trinity County Natural Resources

- i. David: Thank you RCD in August Tree removal of hazard trees as well as discussions with WRTC to get work done throughout the county. We are working to get work done by the airplane hangers in Weaverville.. The existing Good Neighbor Authority has about 1.5 million dollars in it and we are about to put another 1,5 million in it. If you have ideas for projects let me know.
- ii. Pat: Does this include and on both 6 rivers and Shasta Trinity?  
David: Yes  
Carol: Will this fund getting the tub grinder running again?  
David: Yes.  
Carol: the tub grinder was supposed to come to Trinity Center and Hobel Dump  
David: The grinder is limited by its awesomeness. It needs some skilled operators to get its work done.  
Carol: I am asking that the work gets done before the start of fire season.

Trinity County Collaborative Group

- i. Jerry: The USFS has extended its scoping deadline for the digital path until April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. Carol: Didn't Tara say that there was going to be information in the paper about the scoping for the cameras. That is one of the reasons that they extended they scoping period.
- iii. Larry: Tara reported on many of the projects going on. A couple of the projects were near the communities but were at the bottom of the list. I told her to put the projects near communities at the top of the list. It seems like they are really good at developing on paper projects but they don't have many resources for getting the work done.
- iv. 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
- v. Kelly: After the meeting I organized the list of prioritized sites and some white papers and will try an get it out to the ad hoc committee who requested it.
- vi. 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.
- vii. Jill asks if PG&E will cover it. Jerry says they will cover all the cost for the first 20 - 21 cameras.
- viii. Larry adds that the proposed maps will offer large coverage for the county

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- ix. Kelly: These are 360 cameras so the ones on the fringes will go into other counties
- x. Jill: These cameras can also be used for search and rescue or whatever we want once installed.
- xi. Ben Kellog: As a citizen I would be willing to install a camera in the Weaver Bali area covering the 299.

Trinity County BOS

- i. No Update

Trinity Center VFD

- i. No Update

Tehama-Glenn FSC

- i. No attendee or report.

SPI

- i. No attendee or report.

Southern Trinity FSC

- i. No attendee or report.

SAFE

- i. Larry: There is a meeting for the Northwest Forest Plan Advisory Meeting. One of the mandates is to include a discussion about fire in the plan. If you want to speak at that you have to register by April 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with one day held at the Redding Rancheria.

NRCS

- i. No attendee or report.

Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu

- i. Cindy: We have received and gotten the deed for the 78 acres of land back.

NCUAQMD

- i. Debra: The Air District has an outreach radio spot for prescribed burn information of the TCFSC would like to include something on it.

Lewiston VFD

- i. Bethany: We are doing an essay contest regarding fire safety at Lewiston Elementary and the winner will get a ride to the school in a fire truck.

Lower Trinity PBA

- i. No attendee or report.

Hyampom FSC

- i. No attendee or report.

Down River:

- i. Mary: Does Big Bar and Big Flat have a community meeting scheduled?



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- ii. Skylar: It does not but we will be bringing mapping materials to surrounding community meetings that cover these areas.
- iii. Sophia: Could the art contest have wiggle room to turn in art a week late? We will be in Burnt Ranch and can get some art done then.
- iv. Skylar: Of course.

Caltrans

- i. No attendee or report.

CAL FIRE

- i. 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

- i. Mike: Burning in Trinity County in Little Browns Creek. The WCF year 1 has been complete (90 some acres) Douglas City and Junction City campground has had some hazard tree removal work done with chipping in those areas as well. The Reading Indian Creek expansion keeps getting pushed back. Hopefully hey sign of soon on the NEPA. Once the Reading Indian Creek area is done, we are looking for a large area project to do fuels reduction, piling etc. If anyone has any ideas, let me know.
- ii. Bethany: I know Junction City wants some work done in their community
- iii. Mike: Yes, the Helena area has gotten some fire and is pretty cleaned up. We have some other maybe areas we are looking at.
- iv. Jill: Do you think you will have another large project started by the beginning of this fire season?  
Mike: Not that soon. We have an EA that covers a lot of the county. Within 2 years depending on the NEPA we should have something going.
- v. Mary Flurey: I was wondering where the county will be putting the cameras.
- vi. Kelly: It will be Bald Hill and Horse Mountain or Iron Side.

Additional Updates

7. Future Discussion Items

- Carol: Do we want to get an update about the camera locations for the six Forest Service Cameras?

Meeting adjourned: 4:28PM

Next Meeting: April 25, 2024