



## Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Thursday, April 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

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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

**In person attendees:** Jill Cox ( BOS), Kenneth Baldwin (BBW + Associates), Carol Fall (TCVFD), Miles Raymond (TCRCD), Kelly Sheen (TCRCD), Skylar Fisher (TCFSC)

**On Zoom attendees:** Christian Jordan (UC Cooperative), Bella Hedke (TC Planning), Nate Ulrich (Fuels Planner USFS), Chris Cole (NRCS), Larry Glass (SAFE), Gina Moon (WCFSC), Charlie Holthouse (NA Ambassador), David Colbeck (TC NRD), Dave DeLang (TC PUD), Chris Losi (TC Collaboration), Megan Killeen (WRTC), Randi Paris (WRTC), Ellen McGehee (WRTC), Qwalen Bernstein (WRTC), Bruce and Marilee Taylor (Salyer Firewise Board), Tom March (Cal Trans) Rob Mede (Cal Trans)

### 2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

- a. No additions to the agenda.

### 3. Discussions

- a. Trinity County Vegetation Management Ordinance
  - i. Jill: Admin is working on it as well as NRD and County Council. There are no affirmative action processes to be reported out.
  - ii. David: The VMO does apply to County properties so the County is not off the hook for its properties. We are looking at it from that perspective. The County is not a large landowner but still part of the puzzle.
  - iii. Kelly: We have a yearly renewed encroachment permit for work along county roads. But what will it take for us to do work on just County property? Outside of CEQA and notices of exemption?
  - iv. Carol: Well maybe we will provide an ordinance against the County.
  - v. David: There is not a process yet. It is likely a case by case basis. We just really don't know which County department it should go to. If it is roads, it would go to roads. If it is Hobel, it may go to solid waste. I believe the County should be the lead agency

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and be a part of the process. I have been talking to solid waste to get work done there and get fire lines done. Could the County add projects to the North Trinity Forest Service Protection Project?

- vi. Carol: There is the North County FSPP which only covers USFS Land. The USFS is looking to add projects but only on federal lands.
- vii. Dave: Well maybe we will piggy back off the FS efforts for fuels reduction around there.
- viii. Carol: All of Hobel Dump is surrounded by SPI Land so it wouldn't make sense to use USFS land and the RCD has other funding to work there. I am not sure if it is worth delaying the project to try and include it in the USFS plan.
- ix. Kenneth: I was up there a couple of weeks ago and the fuel break around the mass of dead limbs is totally inadequate from protecting it in a fire and preventing it from going into the stand. We are looking into it as a potential priority project.
- x. Carol: Kelly has funding for it so we need to figure out if the County or the RCD will take the lead on CEQA.
- xi. Kelly: We do not mind taking the lead on CEQA, we just more need to know the process for working on County land.
- xii. Carol: Currently, is the County looking at a mechanism that would allow the RCD to do work at Hobel?
- xiii. David: I currently don't know what solid waste has set up for the RCD doing the work but if there is desire and funding, then I will help make it happen. I was also thinking about our last months discussion about using the Cal Fire exemption to get it done instead of using grant money.
- xiv. Carol: I don't think they are mutually exclusive and we would like to have both probably.
- xv. Bethany: I had noted this last time but it would be ideal to have the timber harvest first.
- xvi. Jill: So does the timber harvest need to happen first? Is that what you are looking for Carol?
- xvii. Carol: No, I am looking for the fuels reduction but there may be the possibility of having a timber harvest done first and return some money back to the County and project.

#### 4. Grants

- a. No grants discussion.

#### 5. Fire Safe Council Coordinator Update

- a. CFSC and CAL FIRE County Coordinator Grant: We have received money for additional outreach, education and support for the FSC
- b. We are starting the public review for the Hazard Mitigation Plan starting May 1<sup>st</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be 10 sites for the plans to be at. Golden age center, Rodrick Senior Center, Trinity Center Library, Weaverville Library, Hayfork Library, Ruth Community Church, TCRCO Office, Zenia, Burnt Ranch and Southern Trinity School.
- c. Education lessons in the South County and Hayfork have been a great success.
- d. Firewise Fair focusing on wildfire resilience, local vendors, goat petting zoo, free tacos from the Hayfork VFD. There will be a map drawing exercise for residents of Hayfork to interact with planning and resources.
- e. We will be starting the community meetings in May and going through June around the county to talk about the hazard mitigation plan, evacuation plan and CWPP.

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6. Project Updates

- a. BLM
  - i. Mike: No new updates
- b. CAL FIRE
  - i. No attendee or report.
- c. Caltrans
  - i. Tom March: I am a landscape specialist with Cal Trans working in Northern California. We are working on maintenance of dead tree removal on the 299 from Buckhorn going west. Then they will move north from Weaverville along the 3. From Hayfork to Douglas City hazard tree removal project that needs management approval and cannot add a fuels reduction component to it. This will remove dead standing and fallen dead. That is an emergency project that is a tree removal project. Due to logistics we cannot add defensible space to this. This will focus on dead standing and fallen dead.
  - ii. Kelly: will they be removing them through a grinder or a truck or what will happen to the trees?
  - iii. Tom: They will not be. Anything 4 inch and above will be hauled away.
  - iv. Carol: Thank you for the work. It looks awesome and it feels a lot safer. The wood cutters have been coming and cutting them up and the CCC crews have been cleaning up the limbs.
  - v. Tom: As an emergency action, we don't want to turn this into a maintenance and so we are doing chipping on sight for the maintenance projects the 299 and 3 but from Douglas City to Hayfork it will be removed.
  - vi. Carol: So the trunk of the tree is hauled off and the branches are chipped.
  - vii. Tom: I also wanted to introduce you all to Rob Mede. He is the environmental senior lead.
  - viii. Rob: I am the vegetation manager for Cal Trans District 2. I look forward to working with you all and have been working with Cal Trans for 11 years.
- d. Hyampom FSC
  - i. No attendee or report.
- e. Lewiston VFD
  - i. No attendee or report.
- f. Lower Trinity PBA
  - i. No attendee or report.
- g. NCUAQMD
  - i. No attendee or report.
- h. Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu
  - i. No attendee or report.
- i. NRCS
  - i. Chris: We have been doing our contract obligations where we fund our projects. We have nine new contracts in Trinity County. These will primarily be fuels reduction projects with a lot in the south county. We just finished our planning

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process. We have to do NEPA for almost all projects so that will take a while. If there are folks who reach out to you and they are not in your immediate footprint have them reach out to us if they are not in a hurry.

j. SAFE

- i. Larry: We attended a Region 5 management meeting and got a chance to talk and vent about what we thought was needed. The USFS Supervisor of Modoc was assigned to us. We encouraged them to help Tara to get work done on the ground. The subject of fire was a good portion of the discussion.
- ii. Carol: Pat and I were in the RAC FSC subcommittee meeting and we mentioned that we would like the USFS to attend the FSC meetings.
- iii. Jill: We wanted to know if there was a mechanism for all of the USFS projects and organization projects to be shown on a GIS layer and have it accessible to the public
- iv. Kelly: We do that to a certain extent but it is a bit like herding cats trying to do that but it is something that is definitely trying to be done. It would be a great use for sure.
- v. Jerry: The end result of the meetings were a report that go to the USFS Leadership team. I have asked that the report that they bring together is a public document and is shared with us.
- vi. Kelly: Nick Goulet and I sat in on the meeting and talked about partnership processes and make them more streamline. How to move money between partners. By and large there was a lot of support of the USFS. Both Shasta T and Six Rivers are a lot easier to work with and there is a lot more support from them to get their partners to help out.
- vii. Jerry: We talked about capacity of the USFS and the ability for them to distribute money. Chris mentioned that here are now two full time people working in that department.

k. Southern Trinity FSC

- i. No attendee or report.

l. SPI

- i. No attendee or report.

m. Tehama-Glenn FSC

- i. No attendee or report.

n. Trinity Center VFD

- i. No attendee or report.

o. Trinity County BOS

- i. Nothing to Report

p. Trinity County Collaborative Group

- i. Jerry: We spoke with Kevin Anderson from Digital Path and are waiting to hear from Travis regarding the application for the tower company and the material needed for Horse Mt and Bald Hills. Tara noted that the scoping process is positive and the NEPA should be done by the end of May into June. These are for the six cameras paid for by PG&E
- ii. Carol: Our group pointed out the RAC issue and the delays in the charter and the confirmation of new members. It was another piece of feedback o the review team.

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We asked why the collaborative was not invited to the NRA portion of the review team meetings.

- q. Trinity County Natural Resources Division
  - i. David: not updates but the GNA is moving forward in this budget cycle.
- r. Trinity County OES
  - i. No attendee or report.
  - ii. Carol: The reason Phillip is not here is there is an exercise where a cyber-attack happens to the valley and he has to deal with the scenario of what we do when we are on our own.
- s. Trinity County Planning
  - i. Bella: We have concluded our first round of community plan workshops. We are tentatively planning our second round in June. I am planning on attending the CWPP updates in Junction City and Weaverville.
- t. Trinity County RCD
  - i. Bethany: Our crews are doing work on Weaver Bally and for Carol in Trinity Center. Then we will be in Kenny Camp for a USFS Project for a bit. We are expecting do some more work through our CAL FIRE Forest Health grant. We are preparing for community chipping in May through mid-June. We have our fully staffed fuels crews as well as two forestry crews that are assisting with layout.
  - ii. We are looking to be moving forward with a small timber harvest on BLM land in the WCF
  - iii. Carol: The add in the Trinity Journal looking for contractors. What was that?
  - iv. Bethany: It was a part of WCS phase 2 and is roadside work along highway 3 north along Rush Creek and China Gulch. Some roadside unites to be cut and chipped.
  - v. Jerry: I was doing a walkabout in and saw the work being done. It looks great!
  - vi. Kenneth: Also out on reading creek the work looks great.
  - vii. Kelly: The Coastal Conservancy has approved the block grant. This was 6 million dollars to be administered by the Humboldt County RCD. The TCRCD should get \$800,000 - \$1mil to Trinity County to do implementation work.
  - viii. Bethany: We got an award letter for a CAL FIRE Forest Health grant to do work on USFS land as well as SPI and some private land in the North Lake.
- u. Trinity PUD
  - i. Dave DeLang: Our contract tree crews have been catching up with hazard tree removal. We are still waiting to hear from Cal Fire Grants and the Community Wildfire Defense Grants. We are looking forward to implement those if they get approved.
  - ii. Kenneth: I am writing a vegetation management plan for the Trinity Center CSD. I am going to include a part about the power lines. From Minersville to north of Trinity Center. Do you have a wish list for work you would like to get done?
  - iii. Dave: We only have about a 20ft easement but there is still a lot that we would like to get done.
  - iv. Kenneth: Give me phone call and we can talk about this outside the meeting
- v. Tsnungwe
  - i. No attendee or report.

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- w. UC Cooperative Extension
  - i. Christian: I am the Forestry and Natural Resources Advisor for Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity County. I have been here about a month and do not have much to report but it is nice to meet all of you.
- x. USFS Shasta-Trinity NF
  - i. Nate: Planning efforts are finishing up. Specialist reports for Hyampom and Trinity Center, Big Ranch, Hayfork and South Fork Mountain are being worked on. We are looking to get these done in the next month or month and a half. We are switching over to implementation. The RCD is one of our major implementors and they are getting a lot done.
  - ii. The TRMU has done about 700 acres of piling and burning and the South Fork sitting at about 1000 acres. These are both about double our acres from last year and we plan to continue on this trend.
  - iii. We kind of missed our broadcast burn
- y. USFS Six-Rivers NF
  - i. No attendee or report.
- z. Weaverville VFD
  - i. No attendee or report.
- aa. Willow Creek FSC
  - i. Gina: We had some people attend the Earth Day at the Burnt Ranch School and got some art done for the TCFSC. I want to give a shout-out to Olivia Lopes who is one of our subcontractors who has been doing a lot of work. Sophia Sady has also been doing lots of amazing things. We have applied for a green diamond grant to get a truck for our chipper. We have also applied for a Coast Central grant for storage for the chipper and trailer.
  - ii. Gina: Campbell Ridge Rd is a risky spot with one way in and one way out and we are looking for ways to treat that area. How could we use the Good Neighbor Authority to treat it? It is county road and USFS land around it.
  - iii. Bethany: As far as PG&E goes we have not heard anything back from them
  - iv. Skylar: We have not heard anything back from the state fire capacity grant.
  - v. David: I was emailed about GNA work there and have not responded to it but will.
- bb. WRTC
  - i. Qwalen: Over the past month we have been reaching out to communities across the county to discuss PBA meetings. If anyone who has missed one of the meetings in another area, please send them to the ones in Douglas City or Trinity Center as they are covering much of the same material.
  - ii. Carol: You have Trinity Center and Coffee Creek on the PBA meeting list. We haven't heard anything about it. How are you are getting the word out?
  - iii. Megan: We have been putting these on social media and will be putting them in the paper.
  - iv. Carol: There are a lot of old people up here who are not interested in social media and do not know when these meetings are or where they are happening.
  - v. Megan: The locations have been figured out last minute. The Firewise Fair will be offering resources to sign people up for our programs.
  - vi. Randi: If people are interested in the NW USFS Plan Advisory Group that Nick Goulette is on, it is a USFS group for how to modernize and update the plan. The

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forestry and fuels teams are gearing up for a field season. There is a field trip with USFWS to look at a sample mark for the Collaborative to see and understand the prescription. We will be having a meeting in Junction City for a public meeting in May or June. The USFS has ideas for work that can be done and we are out here ground truthing some of these idea. There is storm cleanup being worked on in targeted neighborhoods downriver. We are also doing some road brushing in Hyampom Valley for roads impacted by the Sims Fire. This work will continue until we have mostly run out of funding. There is some watershed restoration money in that. We will be working until we can get some roads open by the spring of 2025. We will be then working on the Bowerman Project.

- vii. Carol: For Bowerman, when would you expect the decision to be signed?
- viii. Randi: When we can get the concurrence from USFWS. I think that will be in the realm of a couple of months. We will likely get some contracts out there
- ix. Carol: Do you think that there will be implementation work done this year?
- x. Randi: I think the USFS will have some service contracts out there, resources from WCS and the timber sale award will be contracted. Tara will invite people to out based on the CDFWS
- xi. Carol: The next field trips was supposed to be in June but another one can be scheduled.
- xii. Carol: When are they going to do something about the flagging along highway 3?
- xiii. Randi: A lot of the work done along the side of the road are timber sale units and will be freshened up right before it starts. It is timber sales to create a shaded fuel break. There is also some service work along parts of the highway.
- xiv. Larry: We had a meeting about the five year plan instead of going out in field. However there is always interest in going to see a sample mark.
- xv. Carol: I am asking for work to get done along Highway 3 before doing Bowerman Ridge Rd. That is our evacuation route and one of the most commonly used roads.
- xvi. Qwalen: Trying to answer Carols question about outreach. Megan is doing a great job on social media and there will be something in the Trinity Journal about the Firewise Fair. We are inviting everyone lakeside to come to the Trinity Center meeting and will be putting up flyers around the town closer to the date.

## 7. Additional Updates

cc. Flowra:

- i. Chris Losi: Flowra is looking to get involved with fire and fuels projects. We are a for profit and can be nimble and get work done within shorter time frames. Also do to the other side of our businesses we have solid outreach with the communities. We have been named a subcontractor on a grant with the WRTC for outreach and have Hmong Translators on staff to get work done. We would love to be a part of projects in the future and are eager to help where we can.

dd. Charlie Holthouse

- i. I am scheduling our neighborhood ambassador workday for June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be finishing up the county land in between Highway 3 and the private parcels of Rush Creek estates. My wife will be the point of contact for the Lewiston PBA. Big thank you for Cal Trans and RCD for supporting our efforts to do fuels reduction around the neighborhood.

## 8. Future Discussion Items

- i. Update on Vegetation Management Ordinance

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ii. Update on Fire Cameras

End: Adjourned 2:41 pm

Next Meeting: May 23, 2024