



Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 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

In person attendance: Gary Carpenter & Josan Metz (Post Mountain Resident), Phillip Simi (TCOES) Chuck Colby (LFD), Chris Prindiville (Weaverville Fire), Miles Raymond & Skylar Fisher (TCRCD)

On Zoom attendance: Bethany Llewellyn (TCRCD), Randi Paris, Xander Winter, & Megan Killeen (WRTC), Dale Wilson (Douglas City Resident), Dena Magdaleno (Tsunungwe), Liam Gogan, Jill Cox, & Heidi Carpenter Harris (TCBOS), David Colbeck (TCNRD), Larry Glass (SAFE), Gina Moon & Sophia Sady (WCFSC), Mike Allan (Redding BLM), Aaron Hathway (Cal Fire) Nate Ulrich & Glen Tingley (USFS), Dave DeLange (TPUD)

2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

Early Departure Project Updates

None

3. Discussions

a. None

4. Grants

a. None

5. Fire Safe Council Coordinator Update

a. Skylar: We have completed community meetings. 11 community meetings over the past 2 months in 11 communities. 18 attendees in Douglas City, 12 in Coffee Creek, 8 in Hawkins Bar, 10 in Post Mountain, 17 in Junction City. Thank you to all the partners that came out and shared information and supported.

Thank you to partners who helped in attendee or by sharing information about what was going on. The WRTCS, USFS, Trinity County, and Weaverville Fire all came out. We have identified many new project areas for the 2025 CWPP and will be plugging it into our

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

GIS to rank the projects. We will be sending out invites to our partners to get input to update the CWPP on the implementation and planning level.

We had address sign distribution during these meetings and will be giving them to VFD's to distribute

There will be a Fire Safe Council booth at the Trinity County Fair.

Rush Creek Neighborhood Ambassador (NA) event was on June 1st. This is the second year in a row that NA Charlie Holthaus. This was to remove brush from a common area. Piles were created. The Weaverville VFD came and talked about evacuation preparedness.

Local Area Advisor Workshop happened. Tara Jones with USFS Shasta-Trinity came and talked about what to expect during a cooperators' meeting. Simon Knopf, regional Red Cross Coordinator, spoke to what to expect when an evacuation shelter is activated.

The workshop was led by Philip Simi with TCOES and supported by the TCFSC.

6. Project Updates

a. BLM

a. We are doing a site visit with Chester Brown for site A and B in Reading Indian Creek. We are about 2 weeks away from starting mastication there. The TCRCO portion will be starting in August. That is high bird nesting season so once the bird survey area happens, they may have to hold off on certain areas. There will have to be continuous surveys throughout the project. We had a meeting with USFS Shasta Trinity in Junction City. There is a small portion of BLM land that would connect the fuel break to the river. We will have to do our own NEPA and DNA for the whole parcel to do cutting, piling, and mastication. The WCF has a BLM parcel (the "Triangle") that has been asked to be worked on. It is on our radar. We will be going back to pile burning once it starts to rain again. There are still some piles on Oregon Mountain, in the WCF, some near Little Browns Creek and Reading Indian Creek and in the Lewiston Area.

b. Phillip: When the TCRCO was in Douglas City, there were a lot of people asking about the Poker Bar area regarding the dead and down trees along the road.

c. Mike: Alden, the lead of NEPA, brought it up. There are lot of dead, down, and dying trees in the area. It is tricky to cut trees and pile since it is a lot if fuel to be left. We are trying to come up with a plan to cut trees when we can and leave them but then also to cut them and have machinery take out bowls. We want to get it done and get it done smartly so we are actually removing the fuels and not just cutting it and leaving a jackpot for fire.

b. CAL FIRE

a. Aaron: No Update. I am here to answer any questions anyone has.

c. Caltrans

a. No attendee or report.

d. Hyampom FSC

a. No attendee or report.

e. Lewiston VFD

a. Chuck: Some community members approached about concerns in the neighborhood. At the end of Salmon Drive, there are a lot of dead, down small to large trees. If there is anything anyone can do to help us clean it out it would be greatly appreciated.

b. Chris: Is it private land?

c. Chuck: I don't know

d. Bethany: You should come over to my office and we can figure out who owns it.

e. Skylar: Is it roadside access?

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- f. Chuck: There is the main road and houses and it goes straight up behind everyone.
It is a tinderbox
- f. Lower Trinity PBA
 - a. No attendee or report.
- g. NCUAQMD
 - a. No attendee or report.
- h. Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu
 - a. No attendee or report.
- i. NRCS
 - a. No attendee or report.
- j. SAFE
 - a. The collaborative went on a field trip up to Bowerman with USFS Shasta-Trinity to look at the finished mark. The mark was completed by the WRTC by Xander Winter. Everyone seemed satisfied by the end result of which trees were being left and which trees were being taken. I think it is going to be a good project for reducing fuels on the ridge there.
- k. Southern Trinity FSC
 - a. No attendee or report.
- l. SPI
 - a. No attendee or report.
- m. Tehama-Glenn FSC
 - a. No attendee or report.
- n. Trinity Center VFD
 - a. No attendee or report.
- o. Trinity County BOS
 - a. Jill: There are three days left to participate in the online exercise to partake in the housing exercise. If you got to Trinity2050 and go to the bottom, there will be questions about housing needs and housing types. Input is very much needed. There are also upcoming community meeting workshops for July and August.
 - b. Liam: Thank you Skylar and Miles. Your meeting in Douglas City was well attended with some knowledgeable people. We will have a private meeting soon to talk more about it. We will be discussing the safest way to get in an out of Poker Bar in the instance of a large fire. We think we have a safe space to hold out on the corner of Quad P and Rio. We think that drift boats will be the safest mode of evacuation. These discussion all came about from the FSC meeting.
 - c. Phillip: I have been working with Marty at the VFD. We have an emergency siren that can be places at the fire station. We are looking at that area for immediate evacuation. We don't know until we test it if it will get all the way into the Poker Bar Area. We have been talking about putting another siren down there at the fire station.
 - d. Liam: Having an emergency siren at the top of Deerlick or down in Poker Bar may be better. The DC Firehouse is already a major hub. The top of Deerlick will probably reach more people. The mobile home park is also not a one way in one way out area
 - e. Phillip: The first thing I am looking for is reliable power and connection. The sirens are triggered by radio communication.
 - f. Heidi: A big thank you for the tremendous amount of fuels reduction being done in my district. All the way in the high country, the Suzy Q area and Willow Creek Rd. I see nothing but hope, quality of life improvement and maybe our insurance will go down a bit.
- p. Trinity County Collaborative Group

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- a. Larry: I reported on it, talking about the field trip with Tara.
- q. Trinity County Natural Resources
 - a. David: No Update but happy to answer questions
- r. Trinity County OES
 - a. Phillip: I was down in Burnt Ranch with the help of PUD got a siren installed. One was also installed at the Weaverville Fire Department. The Hazard Mitigation plan comment period is almost over. I did a presentation for the BOS to talk about some of the programs. Code Red, Know your Zone. I am putting together a presentation for the emergency sirens and how we are going to get the information out to residents. I hope to get information out to residents through Code Red, The Trinity Journal and Facebook pages.
 - b. JoSan: When we try to look up our zone on our phone, it is so small and when you zoom in, it becomes unreadable.
 - c. Phillip: I was up in Post Mountain and I took a map up there. Using the zone finder tool, I was able to find someone's zone by looking up their address. I will be putting it up on the OES webpage. I will work with you after the meeting to help you find your zone.
 - d. Gary: Well you need internet for that which is spotty in Post Mountain.
 - e. Gina: When will we be receiving new pamphlets for evacuation zones?
 - f. Phillip: Skylar and I have been talking about sending out another flyer when we finish the evacuation routes. The VFD's in the community should have the pamphlets as well. I will bring it up at the chiefs meeting and see if everyone still has pamphlets
 - g. Gary: It would also be nice to have a siren.
- s. Trinity County Planning
 - a. No attendee or report.
- t. Trinity County RCD
 - a. Bethany: Community chipping is complete for Spring with 127 properties. We are working with the USFS on plantation thinning up north. I am working with BLM to get a portion done on the Reading Indian Creek project. We have a timber harvest with BLM on Oregon Mountain and will be doing fuels reduction on the property. This week we kicked off work on SuzyQ rd. which is our first implementation on the Community Wildfire Defense Grant with Humboldt County RCD. We will be starting work in Lewiston along Mountain View Rd and Wilson Rd. Our forestry crew just completed cruiser training and are working on the mark in Bowerman and Trinity Camps. After that they will be working on the Big Ranch Project. They are also working on laying out the McConnell FEMA project.
 - b. Skylar: With the help of Sophia (WCFSC), yesterday we got three agreements for work on SuzyQ and today we got an additional sign up
- u. Trinity PUD
 - a. Dave DeLang: Thank you Skylar for the community meeting. We are busy doing hazard tree abatement throughout the system. We started doing pole clearing. We helped get the sirens in in Burnt Ranch and Weaverville. All of the breakers are on fire setting now. Summertime outages can be lengthy since we have to look at every line before turning it back on.
 - b. Jill: Is what you just described what happened in Weaverville.
 - c. Dave: No, a squirrel got into a substation. It lead to a system wide outage that we were able to get back on.
 - d. Jill: You were quick with it, thank you.

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- v. Tsnungwe
 - a. Dena: We did cultural monitoring for the Digital 299 project. We will soon be involved with the installing of the boxes at Burnt Ranch. We have signed an agreement with the HCRCDC to do cultural resource management but have not been approached by the TCRCD. We have a monitor that is available. When project are started we talk about protocol provide a monitor if needed or what to do during a disruption of cultural resources. Also here on coon creek rd. we have had three chipping operation happening and were really happy to see the limbs go.
- w. UC Cooperative Extension
 - a. No attendee or report.
- x. USFS Shasta-Trinity NF
 - a. Nate: We are doing lots of project planning. We are wrapping up at Bowerman with the WRTC. The Shasta Lake Ranger District has taken on planning two projects in North Trinity County, Trinity Camps and Highway 3. WCF Phase II we are working to get some final signatures on that. We have a project around JC and had a meeting for that. Big Ranch is in the hopper. We just wrapped up the planning stage for Hyampom and are hoping to start working in the fall. Small diameter thinning and masticating in the Pettijohn project and also are working on burn plans for when we can get fire in these areas.
 - b. Jill: Heidi joined the call and would like to be included. There is also a Browns Act violation with her on the call. Liam should leave the call. (Heidi update under BOS)
 - c. Glen: The temperatures are rising and we are bringing on extra resources. We have a 20 person crew in Coffee Creek and another crew in Big Bar. Threats from lightning and heat. With 4th of July weekend we see lots of people out and using the forest.
- y. USFS Six-Rivers NF
 - a. No attendee or report.
- z. Weaverville VFD
 - a. Chris: Our fuels crews have 36 properties scheduled out for fuels reduction and have 7 done. Thanks to Skylar for helping with letters. We have also identified some properties around USFS and BLM. The letters will hopefully help engage people to participate.
 - b. Jill: At that pace, that is about 10 weeks, are you looking for more projects?
 - c. Chris: We are always looking for more projects but we cannot always promise that we will get to them.
- aa. Willow Creek FSC
 - a. Gina: Thank you to partners, WCFSC members, who are holding meetings and the people supporting the Adopt a Highway. We have Big Foot Days coming up on July 13th. We will have an education booth as well as food. Our vision committee is planning for our future. We are trying to stay in the game so we have something for both counties, RCD's and the community. Our CWDG has started in Patterson rd. which is roadside clearance. We also have defensible space work being done. Thank you to all the partners.
 - b. Sophia: Big thanks to the TCRCD. We are in our outreach phase for the Lower Trinity Risk Reduction Project. We are looking forward to hearing back from landowners.
- bb. WRTC
 - a. Randi: We had a planning project meeting for Junction City Wildfire Mitigation Project (JC Project). It was a community meeting for people to hear about what we have seen on the landscape. When the US Forest has their fire and fuels project, prescribed fire can be used but this will be the vegetation management side will be a part of this. 10 members of the community came out. The Bowerman project is

Trinity County Fire Safe Council
and Firewise Communities Program

- close to being able to take the analysis and have an accepted wildfire report for CDWF. We are working on a comprehensive fuel reduction compliance around Hyampom. Xander is the lead forester along with EBW who is representing Trinity Lumber. We will likely be able to sign that around the new year. We have five crews this year. We are on the verge of seasonal restrictions lifting for work on FS Land. We will be starting outreach around Hayfork for work on private parcels for 2022 FH grant and letting people know we are implementing on the project.
- b. Megan: We also have a burn plan workshop happening at a private residence on July 6th and 7th. If you fill out the registration you will be informed on the location of the workshop location.

7. Future Discussion Items

- a. Dena: I went to Hoopa to the clinic and they currently have the national guard coming out once a year to help clear the land. This is provide space for building a housing complex for healthcare providers. How does this work? How would Trinity County go about accessing the National Guard? Can Trinity County gain access to something like that in a time of emergency? Like when we had the big snowstorm, or after the fires were out.
- b. Phillip: When the county declares an emergency, and then the state declares an emergency and then it is declared a federal emergency, at some point would the National Guard be able to be called?
- c. Nate: I am not sure and don't have a lot of inside about the that
- d. Chris: There are private groups that come out and help post emergency. Samaritans Purse and Team Rubicon could help come post emergency.
- e. Phillip: I have talked to team Rubicon to help out in some areas after the earthquake on the coast. I will look into it and send any information.
- f. Dale: I would like to echo Liam's comment about the Douglas City meeting. I have also put forward a project for some ridgetop fuel breaks above the 299. It is an oak habitat and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation would like to help in any way possible to improve the habitat.
- g. Sophia: I wanted to mention and ask for clarity about David. To my understanding there is a framework for adding roads to the state of emergency list. Is there a way for people from the public to add sites to the list to get repaved or get attention?
- h. David: There are 300 disaster sites in the county which are chosen through a disaster declaration. If there are any roads of critical concern, you can notify it to the DOT. I am looking for suggestions to get projects off the ground related to the good neighbor authority.
- i. JoSan: All of the sudden, my grass of 5ft tall. I have never had grass this tall and it is a big fire hazard. With more rain, there is taller grass.
- j. Phillip: Be careful out there with mowing.

End: 2:18

Next Meeting: July 25, 2024