



Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Thursday, July 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=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: Skylar Fisher & Kelly Sheen (TCRCD), Jeannette Loriezo and Jon Loriezo (Weaverville Residents), Pat Frost (TCCSD), Carol Fall (TCVFD)

On Zoom attendees: Dena Magdaleno (Tsnungwe and Neighborhood Ambassador), Christian Jordan (UCCE), Larry Glass (SAFE/TCCG), Jerry Cousins (TCCG), Dave DeLange (TPUD), Megan Killeen & Randi Paris (WRTC), David Colbeck (TCNRD), Ali Lee (HAF), Bethany Llewellyn (TCRCD), Chris Cole (NRCS), Bob Doucette (USFS WCS)

2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

Early Departure Project Updates

- a. Jerry Cousins must leave the meeting by 2:30

3. Discussions

4. Grants

- a. Carol: North Coast Resource Partnership Forest Health Implementation grants are due August 4th. They are looking for technical assistance.
- b. Pat: As a CAFSC Board Member, the governor signed a 10 billion dollar climate bond with 1 billion being directed towards fuels reduction and fire management. CAFSC has been discussing if this is a potential source for sustainable funding for FSC Coordinator.
- c. Ali Lee: Hello, I am from the Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers. Due to so many disasters going on right now, most of our funding is going to emergency response needs for first responders.

5. Fire Safe Council Coordinator Update

- a. Skylar: We have finished the TCFSC Art contest. We have 400 magnets made from the art from the winners. The winners all received magnets and we are giving the rest out at outreach events. At the Trinity county fair we tabled with the USFS Wildfire Crisis

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Strategy team. I have been working with someone at Cal Poly Humboldt to get a communications assessment done for the county. This would be an on the ground assessment and looking at towers and repeaters. We are hoping to get the Hazard Mitigation Plan to Cal OES in August. We are updating our evacuation route layer and are running a hazard risk analysis throughout the county. We have compiled the notes from the community meetings and have a lot of in depth notes. We are using for ongoing planning efforts, including the community wildfire protection plan update. We are also going to be sharing this information with other agencies so they can know what was brought up. In September, we will have a Grizzly Fellow dedicated to the TCFSC.

- b. Jerry: I wanted to give props to Skylar for using the evacuation go bags for food distribution at the food bank. I thought it was a great idea.
- c. Carol: Have you had a chance to look further into the evacuation game? A professor turned it into a game where individuals were assigned to different roles.
- d. Skylar: I reached out the professor and let them know that Trinity County is interested. He reached out and gave resources and would like to communicate further.
- e. Kelly: Before we move on, I wanted to ask our new guests what their interest in the FSC was.
- f. John and Jeannette: We are new to the community and want to know what our resources are and how to get connected.
- g. Kelly: Welcome and I hope you get lots of information about what is going on.

6. Project Updates

a. WRTC

- a. Megan: Our fire program is on standby for the Mid Klamath Watershed Council. There are lots of trainings and capacity building activities going on.
- b. Randi: It is the middle of field season so we are navigating restrictions on implementation. We have made lots of progress on the Wells Mountain fuel break, working with SPI. We also have work going on the Mad River Ridge fuel break. Nancy came to work with the WRTC organizing their work for the season and training new people. We have also been working along Pelletreau Ridge Rd. They are doing hand treatments out here. There is a lot if implementation on the 2015 fire area. This will complement work done on private lands. We are also doing work in the Petti John area. We are getting some grants started up, including NFWIF. There should be executed agreements in August and these will help with the Bowerman and Trinity Camp projects. This will also include meadow assessments in the Upper Trinity. We will roll out outreach in Hayfork in the next month or so now that the VTP PSA in Hyampom is moving forward.

b. Willow Creek FSC

- a. No attendee or report.

c. Weaverville VFD

- a. No attendee or report.

d. USFS Six-Rivers NF

- a. Robert Doucette: I would like to defer to the rangers for USFS project updates.

e. USFS Shasta-Trinity NF

- a. No attendee or report.

f. UC Cooperative Extension

- a. Christian: I am settling well. I am working on a document for landowners who are having fuel reduction work done. If anyone is interested on collaborating with this I will put my email in the chat.

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- b. Carol: We have a couple new forest landowners up here. I see the next Forest Stewardship Workshop in San Luis Obispo. You can take it online but all of the field trips are down there. Are there any coming up here?
- c. Christian: There is one coming to Humboldt starting in September or October. I will get the dates and I will share it with you.
- d. Skylar: Would you mind sending me the information as well.
- g. Tsnungwe
 - a. Dena: We are not having fun over here. The Hill fire started at 40 acres and is now at 7,000. It is 14% contained with much of the area under evacuation. There was a community meeting and lots of the community seemed uninformed and very concerned. I think that a lots of the community has PTSD with all of the recent fires. We are trying to answer questions and it seems like the answers are not reassuring people. The incident mangers are saying they are not doing backfiring but it seems like they are. People in Trinity County are asking what their zones are and don't seem to know how to find out. We have tried to send out maps to people. There isn't enough specific information. The firefighters are fighting hard but the community seems to really be on edge.
 - b. Carol: Do people use apps to see evacuation zone and maps.
 - c. Dena: We don't have service and there are a lot of people who aren't online. Lots of people are missing information. I don't know how we can get people to understand what is going on?
 - d. Jerry: I want to better understand the problem. People don't have access to the information or there isn't accurate information?
 - e. Dena: Last night there was a community meeting about the fire. It seemed like people weren't really listening. The maps are out. There was a community meeting. There is a group of people who can only get information if there is satellite service. They are in South Fork and Friday Ridge. It is important to think about how we better educate them.
 - f. Jerry: It seems like the information is being put out but there are portions of the community who are not accepting it and others who can't access it.
 - g. Larry: Once the FS PR people come out and give information that is not right, the people lost faith. There is a history of these people downplaying the situation and losing credibility. Managers are coming to the meeting and saying they aren't doing backfiring when they have expressed to others they did. It causes concern.
 - h. Dena: I thought there would be ways to ease this concern but what we are doing is not working. Having community people like me, Gina and Basho give information may be the best way.
 - i. Debra: This is an important topic. I have been working on this from an air quality standpoint. The FS has a new protocol and is trying to get better at distributing information. As far as overcoming past trauma and current skepticism, I am looking for suggestions.
 - j. Randi: There have been improvements in delineating evacuation zones but it seems like we are relying on tools that don't get to everyone. Some of the evacuation planning should be how can we reach hard to get people. If part of the information about certain zone was connectivity, would that make the system better? Evacuation information is largely run by the county right? Not the USFS.
 - k. Carol: It is the sheriff's department. If people are signed up for code red, it should go to their land line. It can go to an email, text, voicemail and more.
 - l. Dena: I don't know if people are signed up. From what I heard, people who are in the evacuation warning know they are for the most part but don't really know what

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- to do. I think we should be resending flyers that have evacuation information. It is a lack of communication and lack of being informed. As the ambassador for south fork road, I am kind of at a loss for what to do to help.
- m. Kelly: What does the FSC do to support the county in its evacuation efforts?
 - n. Skylar: The FSC and RCD supports in updating the evacuation status of zones. We are working with OES to also evaluate what resources are available during an evacuation. The big gap that has been found is the communities that don't have reliable service. Have there been any sandwich boards or places for information?
 - o. Dena: The boards are up and there are many places where residents can get information. There are more than usual. The Sherriff's department and OES has been putting up the big red evacuation flyers on Facebook.
 - p. Carol: Up in Trinity Center, the RCD gave us a map with evacuation zones. Maybe the RCD could print out those so they can identify where the evacuation zones are.
 - q. Dena: I think that is a great idea. There are a lot of people who just come for the summer as well as tourists passing through. These don't seem to be the people who are concerned though. It seems to be residents who are. From what I got from this, we have to over communicate due to peoples traumas from the past. It is just a part of living here.
 - r. Robert: Backfiring operations have not been used
 - s. Carol: I think there is a terminology difference between backfiring and back burns. They were back burning off the road to use the road as a fire break.
 - t. Dena: We know this. They are posting pictures of this and letting people know. It did jump and there is some trauma that got brought up because of that.
 - u. Larry: It doesn't matter what the terminology is. People are upset because the FS is lighting fires. The way information is spread in these communities is a chain of people spreading along information in the community and people tend to believe this more than what is being officially released.
 - v. Kelly: If it is a matter of semantics of definitions about what is happening then maybe it is a good idea for definitions to be given to describe what is going on. From my own experience, when fires like this happen in larger communities that are more connected to sources of information, there are still similarities to how people react. Ali Lee made a comment earlier about the importance of repetition of information. There needs to be constant communication to alleviate panic and anxiety. It does not seem like there has been much change year to year from how they actually communicate.
 - w. Jerry: It is really important that we continue to bring respected community members into the fold so that the information is trusted more.
 - x. Kelly: How can we use Local Area Advisors and Neighborhood Ambassadors to communicate with people? We can rely on these people to distribute information.
 - y. Skylar: I will follow up with emergency preparedness and OES to set up workshops to get people to understand evacuations and fire preparedness.
 - z. Robert: I appreciate the discussion and will take back this information back to the FS.
 - aa. Carol: I think that the local FS has gained lots of respect, but it is the incident management teams that come in that destroy and local credibility that the local FS has built up.
 - bb. Kelly: There needs to be a new way of communication between the local incident command team and residents.

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- cc. Robert: I have been told that there is an incident line that people can call for updates. I understand where people are coming from, when people's homes and businesses are being put at risk. It is good to hear this.
- dd. Kelly: Thank you Dena for bringing this up. Is there anything else you wanted to add before we move on?
- ee. Dena: No, but thank you all for taking the time to talk about this and giving me new ideas for how to deal with this.
- ff. Kelly: The information for the Hill Fire is 530-414-9056
- h. Trinity PUD
 - a. No attendee or report.
- i. Trinity County RCD
 - a. Bethany: Our crews are mostly working in Suzy Q and Trinity Village working on the Community Wildfire Defense Grant. We are also in Lewiston at the Lake Forest Plantations. We are doing some work in Coffee Creek. If there are any people up there who are interested in getting work done, please send them my way. A small timber harvest is done on Oregon Mountain. It is wrapping up and we are looking at installing water bars up there now.
 - b. Carol: Is the Coffee Creek stuff private land?
 - c. Bethany: Yes, sort of the intersection of the highway to the River Complex burn scar. If people are at least nearby, or elderly, I would be happy to connect with them.
 - d. Carol: Do you know if the FS is going to be dealing with the hazard trees on FS land up there?
 - e. Bethany: We don't know.
 - f. Carol: This winter it is going to be a huge problem. It is already an issue this summer.
 - g. Randi: The Upper Trinity NFWIF project likely has some funding for hazard trees in the River Complex. We don't have an executed agreement but there are some resources coming.
 - h. David: Both the FS and DOT have been talking about using the good neighbor authority to address some trees in that area. They are limited with this and are also limited in capacity. I am looking for some assistance to know what the area is and where to focus first.
 - i. Carol: In previous meetings, one of the funding sources for work around Hobel Dump was the NCRCD Collaborative. I was asking about the status of that.
 - j. Kelly: The agreement is in hand and we are starting the initial steps which include hiring a regional forest health coordinator who will be working towards allocating funds for local projects throughout the region. There are only a few RCD's in the region that have a strong lead on getting implementation done. With the limited amount of implementation work available, we will likely see around 800,000 to 1 million dollars to get our deliverables done. Some other updates, David and I met and he will be working with us for partner led NEPA's over the next year and into the future. I am optimistic about how we will be moving forward and our ability to increase the amount of work done on private and public lands.
 - k. Kelly: Randi, do you know if the acquisition of the Trinity Water Headlands occurred?
 - l. Randi: It is occurring but there have been some holdups. It is very close.
 - m. Kelly: Thank you for the confirmation.
 - n. Kelly: I wanted to update this group that Bethany Llewellyn, the Forest Health Program Manager, will be leaving the RCD and is moving to Portland with her partner. We are sad to see her go but she has gotten some great work done while here. We have been flying the position for a couple of weeks now and have had some great candidates. We are also expanding and are looking for a new forestry position. We

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- anticipate setting up interviewing over the next couple of weeks. Thank you so much Bethany for all of the work you have done relating to fire safety and wildfire mitigation.
- o. Carol: The response at the collaborative when Kelly let us know was “Nooooooo!”. We are all so sad.
 - p. Bethany: That is very sweet. We have a great team here and the work will continue on.
 - j. Trinity County Planning
 - a. Skylar: There will be general plan update workshops as they anticipate the first draft of the general plan to drop in August. These will be August 21st at the Fairgrounds and August 22nd at the Veteran’s Hall from 5:30pm to 7. There will then be community plan workshops on Sept 18th in Post Mountain and Trinity Center, September 19th in Junction City and Hyampom, October 15th in Lewiston and Douglas City, and October 16th in Weaverville and Hayfork. All of those are 5:30 to 7pm. You can email Bella, the county planner for more information. Her contact info is at the Trinity County Planning page.
 - b. Skylar: For Trinity County DOT, they are expected to start work on Trinity Dam Boulevard to repair an area from storm damage and are evaluating Zenia Rd as well.
 - k. Trinity County OES
 - a. No attendee or report.
 - l. Trinity County Natural Resources
 - a. David: No report out really but we are very close with the Good Neighbor Authority amendment that adds \$1.5 million. There is a bigger focus on fuels reduction and fuels management. That can include some hazard tree removal throughout the county.
 - b. Carol: The tub grinder is up in Trinity Center but it is not operating. People are dumping around it all the time and it is now surrounded by piles. What is the plan?
 - c. David: That is a great question. I do not know. I will reach out to solid waste.
 - d. Carol: Thanks, people are taking picture and laughing about it.
 - m. Trinity County Collaborative Group
 - a. Jerry: We had a meeting last week to review a letter from the BOS to Secretary Gosack to make the RAC process easier and to allow RAC members to serve additional terms. We had a good update from Tara that let us know that they are having problems starting projects as they cannot find an archeologist. They are also in a hiring freeze. PG&E is willing to put two cameras at every site. They want them all done this year. The camera at Bald Hill is installed and online. Alert CA is working with the FS to get the permitting done to get the rest installed before it starts to snow.
 - b. Larry: Wasn’t one of the cameras where the Hill fire is now?
 - c. Jerry: The one on Horse Mountain hasn’t been installed yet since it is a private company that owns the pole.
 - d. Larry: We are excited that Tara said that the work on the pilot project will start in August. It took 12 years.
 - e. Carol: The next field trip is August 16th, which is the North Trinity Risk Reduction Project, pre-scoping areas from Highway 3 up to the base of Scott Mountain. I think this will include a camera at Bonanza King, some trails, permanent maintenance around the airport, and whatever else people want to be included in the rest of the project.
 - f. Jerry: There are field trips through September.
 - g. Kelly: I will get the list of field trips and have it sent to members of the FSC.

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- n. Trinity County BOS
 - a. No attendee or report.
- o. Trinity Center VFD
 - a. No attendee or report.
- p. Tehama-Glenn FSC
 - a. No attendee or report.
- q. SPI
 - a. No attendee or report.
- r. Southern Trinity FSC
 - a. No attendee or report.
- s. SAFE
 - a. Larry: No update
- t. NRCS
 - a. Chris: We are finishing up our contract season but the period is open for landowners to take part in NRCS programs. People can call our office and we can schedule a time to come out.
 - b. Kelly: The WCS team as well as their partners got a proposal for joint chiefs. Their intent is get around 9 million dollar's with \$600,000 to go to NRCS for work on private lands.
- u. Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu
 - a. No attendee or report.
- v. NCUAQMD
 - a. Debra: No update
- w. Lower Trinity PBA
 - a. No attendee or report.
- x. Lewiston VFD
 - a. No attendee or report.
- y. Humboldt Area Foundation
 - a. Ali: We just released the Klamath River Fund. People here may be interested.
- z. Hyampom FSC
 - a. No attendee or report.
- aa. Caltrans
 - a. No attendee or report.
- bb. CAL FIRE
 - a. No attendee or report.
- cc. BLM
 - a. No attendee or report.

7. Future Discussion Items

Next Meeting: August 22, 2024

Pat: When is the next Firewise Community Board meeting update?

Skylar: We will be doing a board engagement next month. We are going to use it to share our Firewise reporting form.

Kelly: The next meeting is August 22nd 2024. We look forward to seeing you all there.

End: 2:30PM