



Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Thursday, August 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 Time: 1:03

In person attendance: Gary Carpenter and JoSan Metz (Post Mountain), Skyler Fisher (TCRCD), Phillip Simi (TCOES), Kelly Sheen (TCRCD), Chris Prindiville (WVFD), Chris Losi (Flowra), Pat Frost (TC CSD)

On Zoom attendance: Miles Raymond, Gina Moon (WCFS), Larry Glass (SAFE), Jerry Cousins (Collaborative), Chris Cole (NRCS), Tiffany Perez (NRCS), Bethany Llewelyn (TCRCD), Megan Killeen (WRTC), Mike Allan (BLM), David Colbeck (TCNRD), Sophia Sady (WCFSC), Chris Woodman (Shasta T), Robert Doucette (USFS), Dave Delange (TPUD), Astrid Dobo (Post Mountain Chief), Rand Paris (WRTC)

2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

Early Departure Project Updates

3. Discussions

4. Grants

- Skyler: Com Risk Assessment: Submitted proposed with Cal Poly Humboldt, will find out in December

5. Fire Safe Council Coordinator Update

- Skylar's update: Trinity County HMP: In CAL OES review
WFAP: Hayfork VFD now under home assessment contract
Local Area Advisor: 2 New LAAs for Coffee Creek
Trinity County Evac Plan: Hazard analysis based on resident input
Trinity County CWPP: Drafting and input incorporation
Chipping: By next meeting, we will be promoting Fall chipping with TCRCD and WRTC dates
Firewise: Sent out Firewise reporting forms and board reports, please report any time or financial investment for your community

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Grizzly Fellow: Will have Grizzly Fellow starting mid-September solely supporting TCFSC efforts

Social Media: Going to have some posts distributing information about wildfire terms

6. Project Updates

a. BLM

a. Mike: Reading Indian Creek units A and B are going to be worked on by TCRCD. The WRTC will be masticating it in the future. We are gearing up for burning season, laying out our priorities. Top priority is Little Browns Creek, Reading Indian Creek Piles, the WCF and Oregon Mountain. Working with the FS in Junction City as well as portions of the WCF. Also trying to get into the Union Hill Area and other parts of the WCF. I am going on extended leave soon so will be working on closing things up. WCF Year Two will be coming to an end soon.

b. CAL FIRE

a. No attendee or report

c. Caltrans

a. No attendee or report

d. Hyampom FSC

a. No attendee or report

e. Lewiston VFD

a. No attendee or report

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. Chris: We are finalizing contracts as the federal fiscal year is coming to an end. We are working on joint chiefs projects with TCRCD and NRCS and Humboldt. We are losing our conservation planner and have flown the position. We are working on an agreement with the TCRCD to get some more funding for the planner. If you have anyone who might be interested in any of our programs, have them reach out.

j. SAFE

a. No report

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. No attendee or report

p. Trinity County Collaborative Group

a. Jerry: Field Trip with the NRA to the North County. It was for looking at concept projects in three places.

b. Pat: These were landscape treatment off bolder lakes road and the Ballpark where the USFS has done lots of treatments already. It is a place that we want future projects to look like, based off canopy closure and brush. Then we went up on Reiner

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- Rd that connects to Long Canyon Rd. They are anticipated to do shaded fuel breaks, ingress egress work, and landscape work
- c. Jerry: The new camera on Bald Hill is up and running. Check it out. We had a meeting this morning about a camera up on Ironside. We identified what the next steps are and hopefully there will be progress soon.
 - d. Larry: It was a pleasure to see them reach out and plan with us so early on. So far the idea sounds good.
 - e. Pat: The projects is around 13,000 acres total
 - f. Kelly: It goes from Stuarts Fork to the base of Scott Mountain.
 - g. Jerry: The next fieldtrip should be after they do some marking.
 - h. David: Are you proposing any projects, concepts or suggestions for the Highway 3 corridor in general.
 - i. Jerry: After we see the marked sites we will likely make suggestions.
 - j. David: I only ask since there may be some spots that the county suggests, such as Rush Creek Rd.
 - k. Pat: It is too far north for that area
 - l. David: Right, I was more wondering if the county had suggestions, if the collaborative would be putting together some projects it would like to see happen but it seems to be a bit early for that.
 - m. Jerry: David, you could maybe do that through the Good Neighbor Authority with the USFS down in Rush Creek?
 - q. Trinity County Natural Resources
 - a. David: PG&E reached out to the county to see if the county could help assist in disposing of logs in the Monument footprint. We are looking at landing locations like the Big Bar Transfer Station or the tub grinder. PG&E also discussed using curtain burners.
 - b. Jerry: Who has the curtain burner?
 - c. David: I believe that 6 Rivers has access to one but other than that is under contract with other groups. I have not explored what is available.
 - d. Jerry: Having one really extends the burning year.
 - e. Kelly: I am aware that the Mendocino County CSD was awarded money to purchase an air curtain burner. We had not thought about going that route but it is something worth considering next time a partner goes after funding.
 - f. Pat: With the counties budget shortfall, how do you see it affecting the use of the tub grinder?
 - g. David: I can't say but that is why I was excited about the PG&E project as that separate funding would give the county some extra money to get work done. The tub grinder has been pulled back to Weaverville.
 - h. Miles: I had a landowner reach out trying to encourage a neighbor to remove some vegetation on their land. Are you a person we can send them to for how to use the vegetation management ordinance?
 - i. David: I am not sure how to answer that at the moment. If the request was made through a complaint form. I will respond in an email about how to document a complaint and it will then be decided how to be addressed. The CAO also wants to know this but I don't have a clear answer right now.
 - j. Chris: If you contact Cal Fire Station 60 they have some leeway with helping out with that.
 - k. David: Chris Cole with NRCS would be a great resource for a small contract.
 - r. Trinity County OES

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- a. Phillip: I have started printing and laminating the area zone maps. Working with the post office, these maps will be posted. VFD's will get these as well. I will be bringing them to the chiefs meeting.
- b. I am headed to the coast to meet with Humboldt Bay Municipal Waters District for their annual Emergency Action Plan and a presentation on the county's Emergency Operations Plan. The trailer from CDFW has been approved, signed, and we are looking to get it later this year.
- c. We are still working on the Post Mountain GMRS Radio Program and are redoing the fliers in Hmong. We are working with the Trinity County Amateur Radio Club to lay out repeaters and installation on it. 2 of the 4 emergency alert sirens are up and operational in Burnt Ranch and Weaverville. One more will go up once the deal is finished. We are working on the educational plan for how to teach people what the sirens mean and what to do. We will work with Butte County and their plan to start training Trinity County residents.
- d. Jerry: Will the evacuation zones in post offices be a permanent fixture or are they temporary.
- e. Phillip: They are permanent. I will be going around and distributing the maps at each post office.
- s. Trinity County Planning
 - a. Skylar on behalf of Bella Hedke: The General Plan Update is open for review. It is relevant to this group since they are updating the safety element of it, now referred to as the hazard and safety element. This will be available on their website through October 16th. Community plan workshops in September and October.
 - b. Pat: I think there is a meeting tonight in Weaverville. Another question, should the council weigh in on the Hazard and Safety element?
 - c. Skylar: I would be happy to put something together.
 - d. Tiffany: I think it is a good idea for the FSC to have something to prevent redundancies in comments
 - e. Larry: I agree
 - f. Kelly: May be you can send out that portion to the group and we can collect comments and share it from there.
 - g. Skylar: I will send out an email blast next week with the info. 2 weeks before the meeting people can submit their comments to me and then I will send out a draft of the comments back to everyone to review before the meeting.
- t. Trinity County RCD
 - a. Miles: No updates
 - b. Bethany: Hand work in Reading Indian Creek. Fuel work along Coffee Creek rd. and some work in Trinity Center working with the Trinity Center VFD. We are thinking about opening up the Oregon Mountain Timber Sale for firewood. You could get a firewood permit and next Wednesday it should open. The TCRCD is issuing permits. We also have a public lands day event scheduled Sept. 28th. This will get some early stage fuels reduction done. I have been working on the Joint Chiefs effort which is a continuation of the last 3 phases of joint chiefs funding.
 - c. Kelly: There will be a field tour for the WCF on November 1st. We are beginning to do early analysis to do the "Weaverville Fuel Break" which is a partner led NEPA that the RCD will be taking on. We have offered out the Forest Health position and the person has accepted. We have also done an internal hire for a person on our forestry technician crew who is working toward their RPF to be our internal forester.
 - d. Skylar: We are still accepting landowner's submissions for peoples whose properties were impacted by the 2022 Six Rivers Lightning Complex Fires.

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- e. Pat: You should get that information to Heidi Carpenter Harris.
- u. Trinity PUD
 - a. David: The Right of Way Expansion Project document is about to open up for public comment. Contract tree crews have been removing hazard trees along right of ways in the North County and South County. Some of the rigging came out and the tree fell on a wire. Our fire settings operated how we wanted them too. There was another incident with the RCD brushing crew about a week prior. I want to reiterate to the organization with crews doing work that if a tree falls into a wire, do not cut it off or attempt to get it off. People should stay off of it until TPUD arrives. We are done with our pole clearing for the year. We have replaced 240 poles this year as a part of our system hardening. We have trimmed over 4,000 trees and removed about 4,500 trees.
 - b. Pat: Your Silvertop Crew who was working on our property is a really great crew, even though they dropped a tree on our power line.
 - c. Dave: They are professionals and things are going to happen. They followed the protocols and with the 5,000 trees removed, this is a small percentage of failure.
 - d. Pat: If they are cutting are they generally doing lop and scatter?
 - e. Dave: Yes, if we cannot get a chipper within 50-100ft, they will lop and scatter.
 - f. Chris: At 500 Raspberry Ln, there are several tree that would impact the power lines if they fell.
Dave: Yes, I have looked at them and they are next on the list. We are aware and they will be taken care of within a month.
- v. Tsnungwe
 - a. No attendee or report
- w. UC Cooperative Extension
 - a. No attendee or report
- x. USFS Shasta-Trinity NF
 - a. Chris: Contract work for a timber sale on South Trinity Lake. It is in the Petti John Fuel's Project. We are looking at contracts for Bowerman which will encompass Bowman Ridge, the WCF, Lime Dyke and Hyampom areas with the possibility of work starting this fall. Trailhead work continues. Work north of Denny for 72 acres is being worked on. Prescribed fire in the WCF will be done in Lake Forest and Petti John. We are bringing on an AmeriCorps crew to help with the burning this fall.
 - b. Robert: We had a goal of 7,000 acres for this year and we are sitting at about 90% of that right now. With a push at the end of the year we should be good.
 - c. Kelly: I wanted to acknowledge that we have been working with Six River and Shasta-T putting together a Joint Chief's proposal that should go out soon.
- y. USFS Six-Rivers NF
 - a. No attendee or report
- z. Weaverville VFD
 - a. Chris: We have completed 21 of the 40 properties for the summer. We have also spend 30 days on engine assignment helping Cal Fire. Thank you to the TCRCD. They came with the chipper and helped us with one of our projects. Unfortunately we had to leave them to go help Cal Fire.
 - b. Pat: How much money is left in the Title 3 funding?
 - c. Chris: I am not sure but we are sitting good.
- aa. Willow Creek FSC
 - a. Sophia: We have roadside fuels reduction work being done in Willow Creek and Salyer. We are looking forward to doing more in partnership with the TCRCD. We are

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- trying to get the Lower T prioritized more for the trail system and fuels work done by the Shasta T.
- b. Gina: The public has been very happy about the work that is being done. It has been all over social media. We are helping Humboldt County update their FSC webpage. This will lead us into our Firewise Certification which is coming up. We are currently recruiting members. We could always do more. When is the deadline for site assessments for the Lightning Complex?
 - c. Skylar: There is not a strict deadline but we are starting our assessments beginning to mid-September
- bb. WRTC
- a. Megan: From a communication standpoint, the Watershed Center is starting a YouTube Channel to highlight the Spanish TREX event that happened last October.
 - b. Randi: We have a lot of work going on in the Pettijohn contract area. We are also working in plantations that overlap the fuels reduction zones along the road. We have our own masticator working and have a contract masticator working. Once that is done, we will move to the fuelbreak maintenance on the Southside of Hayfork. We will be back at some areas with some handwork that was funded by RAC. This will be our first full field season that we get to work. We will likely end the masticator work with 160 acres west of Hayfork. A priority site for us is the Mad River Ridge. We have hand crews out there and will have tree fallers felling trees and having them piled by machines. We are working away at the Bowerman CE but the sale will not go out this year. We heard from Fire Prevention that we did not get their grant and that would have funded work done on the Southside of Hayfork. That was slightly expected. The VTP for Hyampom is moving along very well. Some of the Forest Health work on Pelletreau Ridge Rd. is going well. There was a small timber sale done as well as some hand work done. It should get done by the dates set in the exemption. We also started cone collection today. It is a post fire restoration activity.
 - c. Dave: You heard back from the Fire Prevention grant? We have not heard back.
 - d. Randi: Yes, we heard back on Monday. Did you have a submission?
 - e. Dave: Yes, 1.9 million for shaded fuel breaks.
- cc. Post Mountain
- a. Astrid: Hello, I am the fire chief of the Post Mountain VFD. With the help of FLOWRA, the PM PUD has been awarded a capacity building grant from the North Coast Regional Partnership. This will allow PM to hire a grant writer to acquire more grants. This is necessary for keeping things functioning. We also still have a ton of dead, burnt, standing trees from past fires. People are terrified to walk around on their own properties. Butte FSC puts a lot of effort into getting grants to get dead, standing, burnt trees cut. I hope we can figure out a way to reduce risk in our community.
 - b. Jo San: The County is brushing alongside the road where the dead trees are just outside the community.
 - c. Astrid: Yeah, back in 2020 I got a grant to fell 150 trees along Trinity Pines Drive. If anyone has any ideas for us I would like to hear them.
 - d. Marsan: I bring it up because the trees are being felled into the gullies near the roads and are causing road erosion. If we get a real rainstorm, the erosion may be a problem.
 - e. Pat: I am thinking that maybe Cal Fire has a cost share program under their CFIP? It is an opportunity for private landowners to get work done.
 - f. Chris: It is really difficult to have multiple properties on one CFIP agreement.

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- g. Pat: What about NRCS?
- h. Chris: CFIP has a limitation of 20 acre parcels. We have programs to address road erosion, standing dead and more. There is generally some cost in for participants but can lump people together in a single contract and could have something that would work.
- i. Dave: I hear the complaint about the county road. I ask that people use the online form so that it can be logged. It is on the Trinity County Website under the DOT tab.
- j. Chris: I wanted to add on that FLOWRA is the technical assistance provider. The Post Mountain PUD will choose some priority areas. We had not thought about EQIP so we will definitely be looking into that.
- k. Pat: From the CAFSC we need to remember to keep our eyes on the November election. On the ballot there will be a 10billion dollar bond with 1 billion going towards wildfire mitigation. That could become the new funding for the state. We are looking at a 10 year block grant to continue to fund the county coordinator position.

7. Future Discussion Items

- a. Safety Element of General Plan
- b. How we want to schedule the November/ December meeting

Next Meeting: September 26, 2024

Meeting end: 2:16