



Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024, 1:00 pm
Zoom Call or in Person
TCRCD Conference Room
30 Horseshoe Lane
Weaverville, CA



Welcome & Introductions-

In person attendees: Philip Simi (TCOES), Kelly Sheen, Skylar Fisher, Bethany Llewellyn, Miles Raymond, Eric Bruce, Emily Drain, Emily Acer, Shay Callahan, and Crystal Hodges (TCRCD), Gary Carpenter and Jo San Metz (Post Mountain), Chris Prindiville (Weaverville VFD), Carol Fall (TC VFD), Jill Cox (County of Trinity, Board of Supervisors), Jessica Burroughs and Chris Losi (FLOWRA),

On Zoom attendees: Megan Killeen and Randi Paris (WRTC), Debra Harris, NQUAQMD, Larry Glass (SAFE/NEC), Jerry Cousins (Trinity Collaborative) Bella Hedtke (TC Planning), Adam Kunce (USFS, Six Rivers), Dylan Kirkley (TCRCD), Ren Winter (Corral Creek), Gina Moon (WCFSC), Chris Cole (NRCS), Kenneth Baldwin, Kent Collard (HFSC), Francisco Martinez-Cuello (Trinity Journal), David Colbeck (TCNR), Bob Doucette (USFS WCS), Nate Ulrich (USFS ST), Garrett Dunn (BLM), Dena Magdaleno (Tsnungwe)

Additions or Changes to Agenda

None

Discussions

- a. Comment letter to Trinity County Planning Division on Draft Hazards and Safety Element

Extensive discussion took place regarding the Comment letter (draft previously distributed). The draft and final letters are attached hereto; details are in the accompanying transcript.

Wildfire Cameras

J. Cousins gave an update on wildfire cameras. The Horse Mountain camera should be installed this week and then will be online soon. The permitting for the six additional cameras primarily in Southern Trinity area should be signed within the next week or 10 days, so those can move forward, given weather and access to sites. The Forest Service has requested an additional meeting on the Ironside Mountain camera, which is scheduled now for the first week of October with tribal representatives, Forest Service, and the provider.

J. Cousins also announced that 9/27 is a Collaborative field trip to Junction City area, with everybody invited. Meet at 9:30 at the Weaverville Forest Service office. This is to review a shaded fuel break projects Xander Winter is going to be leading it. It is on Hocker Meadow Road, and also another place around Junction City. R. Paris added that the Watershed Center planning team will be working with the Forest Service to get community input. They had already had a community meeting in the spring; slightly different emphasis than the

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Collaborative. Likely, there will be a scoping document this fall, and then they will be working on kind of wrapping up field work in the analysis in 2025 and have a signed decision, hopefully by the end of the year.

- b. **Combining November and December Meeting due to holiday conflicts - Proposed date is December 5, 2024**

Change in Meeting Dates

After discussion, the group unanimously agreed to combine the November and December meetings to December 5.

Grants

S. Fisher reported progress on the RCD's state fire capacity grant for which they were selected; they are close to execution. That will be for the Campbell Ridge Risk Reduction project, which is in large collaboration with the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council.

Fire Safe Council Update

S. Fisher introduced Grizzly Corps Emily Acer, who has joined the RCD and FSC to help with Fire Safe Council programming and efforts.

S. Fisher stated that there has been more communication with the state regarding the county's hazard mitigation plan. She is hoping to hear back from them again soon. The goal is to bring it to the Board of Supervisors for approval and adoption at the first November meeting.

She also said that it has been great working with Cal OES, with whom she has been working to see if it is possible to get in a building resilient infrastructure and communities' proposal. That funding is available only through having an adopted hazard mitigation plan.

BLM Update

G. Dun reported current projects as follows:

- Their contractor could start as soon as October 1st on the first option year for the Weaverville Community Protection Plan, which will be a linear feature focused on the West Weaver Creek Road, which is 154 acres, a hand-cut pile.
- Working with the RCD currently in the Reading Indian Creek area, constructing piles on our Unit B of our Reading Indian Creek Expansion Project.
- Glenison Gap piles, the Little Browns Creek piles, and also the Weaverville Community Protection Plan from the base year of that contract.
- Also looking to implement understory broadcast burn in Reading Indian Creek on Unit 8A, 8B, and Unit 7, probably around mid-October.

North Coast Air Quality Management

D. Harris complimented the Council on the comment letter. Air Quality is in the middle of prescribed burning and smoke management plans. There haven't been any prescribed projects over in Trinity County other than the Bar 717 over in Hayfork.

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She also complimented everybody involved in prescribed fire in Trinity to set the standard of how things work.

NRCS Update

C. Cole reported that NRCS is closing out our fiscal year. He said many of the people under their contracts are doing good work now. They are getting ready to burn their piles once we have a little more moisture. There's a big project going on up in the Long Canyon area, and they've completed around 60 acres of thinning, so it's one of the bigger ones. As they enter a new fiscal year, they are going to be accepting applications for their EQIP program. The deadline will likely be the middle of November.

SAFE

No report.

Trinity Center VFD

C. Fall thanked B. Llewellyn and D. Johnson of the RCD, who managed to squeeze in some extra CAL FIRE money to do fuel reduction on the way to the Trinity Center boat ramp and on road access to the airport, making two kind of evacuation routes safer. They also cleared around the museum just in time for the Trinity Center Lions Club Fly-in.

Natural Resources

D. Colbeck stated that the Rat Tail Project, which is in Six Rivers National Forest, is in the NEPA process at the moment. Colbeck is currently assisting with the response to public comments received for the Forest Health and Fire Resilient Rural Communities Landscape Project, covering about 1,500 acres.

Trinity County OES

P. Simi went to Eureka and the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. There was a tabletop functional exercise on the R.W. and Matthews Dam. They did an earthquake scenario in collaboration with Humboldt County, and their OES. It was a very informative exercise and a great opportunity.

He also reported that they have put together a new governing board for grant disbursement. The first meeting is going to be in October. When requests from departments for equipment and training, this will go through this governing body. That will take pressure off of OES, and gives a good broad view of where funds are going to, making sure everything is fair, and that that we're getting all of our communities involved in it

Most of the zone maps laminated and out to the communities, the post offices. He will be meeting with Red Cross to tour Southern Trinity, Hayfork and Hyampom, and discussing sites for evacuation shelters. They had a meeting on evacuation sirens, as far as just kind of going over and creating the policy for activation and testing frequencies, and looking at sites in the future where we would like to, where the next few sirens would like to be placed.

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Planning

Per B. Hedtke, there is going to be a series of community plan workshops coming up that start next week or the week after, and that's to go over the draft community plans.

TCRCD

B. Llewellyn reported:

- active contract on the Redding Indian Creek
- two active contracts on FS projects and the Lake Forest Plantations and Pettijohn Plantations.
- Our in-house crews have been working also in the Lake Forest Plantations, as well as in Trinity Center and in Coffee Creek.
- Beginning community chipping starting next Monday in Lewiston.
- Beginning planning for the Weaverville Fuel Break, which will be a partner-led NEPA project with Shasta Trinity National Forest. Both of our new staff that are on, Dylan Kirkley and Eric Bruce, will be involved with that.
- Public tour with the Collaborative in the WCS Steering Committee on the calendar for November 1st to discuss a field break project in the Weaverville Community Forest on the Forest Service side.

B. Llewellyn asked about the CAL FIRE wildfire season, which will result in having a longer seasonal staffing for them. The group did not have details.

M. Raymond reported that he is scheduling fire education lessons in Burnt Ranch and Trinity Valley Elementary Schools. He has been doing some home assessments for a wildland fire assessment program throughout the County, and is planning on training with the Zenia-Kettempom VFD, the Southern Trinity VFD, and the Down River VFD. They are all interested in getting trained so that they can complete their assessments on their own. Neighborhood ambassadors, Gary and Janelle are doing outreach to the Hmong community for wildfire preparedness and hosting a pre-chipping fuels reduction community event for the Coffee Creek folks.

K. Sheen mentioned that the Trinity County Collaborative Group is having field tours the next six Fridays. 9/27 is the Junction City Project. October 4th is going to be a rescheduled Big Ranch project tour. October 18, we'll be looking at the Hayfork project and the Pilot project. November 1st is the first pre-scoping tour of the Weaverville Fuel Break.

K. Sheen also reported that the North Coast RCD Collaborative has acquired a \$6 million block grant to the RCDs that is going to be administered by TCRCD. It will not likely happen this year. He is hoping the prioritization process is defined soon so that implementation can start next spring.

C. Fall went over the Hobel Dump situation (piles of slash, no progress by County). She is hopeful this grant will assist.

D. Harris encouraged the group to look into air curtain incineration and to keep in touch with her about burning at a solid waste transfer site.

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C. Hodges, GIS technician, reported that she has been working on the evacuation hazards and routes map. It is almost to the stage where she can do the analysis and directions for the evacuation map for the routes for various communities across the County.

Tsnungue

D. Magdalena echoed D. Harris' compliments about the Trinity County Fire Safe Council; she is happy to be part of the Council.

USFS:

N. Ulrich reported:

- Contractors completed work, got to Jim Jam Trailhead, and they moved over to the Big Creek side, Green Mountain Trailhead, those roads up on top there.
- Looking at burning in the WCF, mostly broadcast burning in the next few weeks -- a number of units from Glenison Gap, Garden Gulch, potentially Highway Bend, and East Weaver.
- Work continues in Pettijohn.
- Trinity Camps is signed, and the timber sale was awarded today. That will likely start being implemented this fall or sometime next year. And with that timber sale will come a more fuels work as well.
- In Hyampom, they are still working through the final draft EA. on that, and then it'll be out for final review and signature hopefully soon.

Six Rivers:

Adam Kunce reported that Mad River's been busy over the past year. Biggest accomplishments:

- established a new partnership with Native Health and Native Hands out of the Round Valley Tribe.
- had a planning meeting about the South Fork Mountain joint fuel break project with Shasta, which is going to include about 2,400 acres of fuels units and corridors along South Fork Mountain and spanning about 35-40 miles along the mountaintop.
- submitted a CWRRP partner matchmaking proposal to the national office, proposing 750 acres or so of shaded fuel break and hazard tree abatement along the Ruth Zenia Road, County Road 502.
- Finishing up the burn plan for 70 acres of understory jackpot burning along Mad Ridge fuel break in between the Van Duzen and Mad River communities just south of the district compound.
- Completed about 30 acres of pilot burning in southwestern Trinity County, primarily along Double Gate Ridge and Long Ridge.
- Fuel production crew is pretty much done for the season, having completed 40 of our 41 projects.

WCFSC

Gina Moon relayed how fortunate their Council has been to have volunteers and to bring on a few contractor people for projects over the years. Their jurisdiction goes from Cedar Flat to

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Redwood Valley. They are trying to accrue more in-kind hours amongst their members. They are working more in Salyer, Hawkins Bar, and Burnt Ranch, which Skylar's been responsible for. They are trying to encourage the homeowners to record their efforts in reducing fuels. In October, they are going to be pushing that along with recruiting members. She greatly appreciates the Council's support.

WRTC

R. Paris reported that Bowerman is still in the review process. They are working closely with the Forest Service to bring those to a conclusion.

- They were able to finish some plantation thinning projects in the Pettijohn project area using a contractor with a dangle head masticator.
- Likely in the next couple weeks, they will be wrapping up the fuel break work on Wells Mountain, working in partnership with SPI.
- They have additional plantation treatments above Wildwood that are happening there through that same funding source.
- They continue to work on Trinity Timberlands, part of our new Forest Health grant. That's a big private ownership along Pelletreau Ridge Road, connecting Hyampom to South Fork Mountain.
- M. Killeen updated the group on WRTC Outreach:
 - Chipping, in multiple areas
 - Salmon Meets Harvest Festival; Octoberfest, and a RX fire community tour
 - Burning at Bar 717 Ranch

Miscellaneous Discussion

C. Fall inquired about the release of the PIR for the PUD. Discussion ensued regarding time for comment. S. Fisher will check on availability at the October meeting.

R. Paris mentioned that the Vibrant Planet Land Tender tool is now being called Vibrant Planet. Training is available on October 17. If interested in attending, let her know.

Future Discussion Items

P. Simi reminded the Council that the 2025 County Fire Safe Council Chair nominations are upcoming. S. Fisher said the position should be either the emergency operations manager of the county and then alternating between either a VFD chief, Assistant Chief, or their designee.

Adjournment

3:30

Next Meeting:

October 24, 2024