



Trinity County Fire Safe Council Meeting

April 24, 2025, 1:00 pm

Zoom Call or in-Person
TCRCD Conference Room
30 Horseshoe Lane
Weaverville, CA



Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

In-person attendees: Philip Simi (TCOES), Kelly Sheen, Skylar Fisher, Emily Acer, Miles Raymond, Crystal Hodges (TCRCD), Carol Fall (TCVFD), Jill Cox (Trinity County Board of Supervisors), Chris Losi, Jessica Burroughs (Flowra)

Zoom attendees: Jerry Cousins (Trinity Collaborative), Gina Moon (WCFSC), Shay Callahan (TCRCD), Sophia Sady (WRTC), Dena Magdaleno (Tsnungwe), Gisella Nova (SCFSC), Larry Glass (SAFE), Ben Kellogg, Cyndie Childress (NRMW), Mesha Pixton (VOAD), Kenneth Baldwin (Trinity Collaborative), Dan Montgomery (USFS - Shasta-Trinity), Ali Lee (Humboldt Area Foundation/Wild Rivers), Nick Ciapponi (CAL FIRE), Michael Allan (BLM) Adam Kunce (SRF - Mad River), Chris Cole (NRCS), Pat Frost, Arvel Reeves (TCRCD), Timbre Beck (Trinity Journal), Nancy Stevens

2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

No changes or additions.

3. Discussions

a. Vegetation Ordinance

Council members who volunteered to work on this will report at the next meeting.

4. Grants

C. Fall is working on a grant for VFD's via Nutella of up to \$5,000.

5. Fire Safe Council Coordinator Update

S. Fisher reported:

- Much progress was made on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan update. They hope to have an internal draft completed within the next week or two and will start reaching out to some agency partners soon to schedule a stakeholder meeting to go over the first draft of the document.
- Also made progress on the evacuation routes. County-wide evacuation route layouts were finalized. That will be a series of 111 maps showing evacuation routes across the County, plus maps showing hazard risk for five different hazard types to evacuation routes. Road segments were ranked from low to high risk what different road segment risk was.

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- They had a meeting with the County's General Plan team regarding the safety element. There is a Senate bill that requires that counties do a certain level of hazard risk analysis to evacuation routes. Their team feels confident that it can be used to meet the Senate bill requirements.
- There have been two neighborhood ambassador events - in Rush Creek and Salyer.
- The Firewise Fair is May 3rd from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Community chipping has started.
- Events attended included the Junction City Fire Jills bake sale, the Douglas City Fire Bells bake sale, an Easter event at Van Duzen School, and the Plant and Seed Exchange in Weaverville.
- The California Fire Safety Council notified that applications would open for the County Coordinator funding.
- They thanked everyone for the feedback on the federal letter that has been finalized and is working on identifying the best ways to reach out to state and local representatives.

6. Project Updates

BLM

M. Allen reported:

- On Reading and Indian Creek's units, A and B, the hand-cut pile portion for 241 acres was completed. The rest of those units from A and B will involve 121 acres of mastication that the Watershed will be completing.
- Regarding the Weaverville Community Protection Defense, in the Weaverville Community Forest, year two was completed for 154 acres. That's year two of a four-year contract. They have 254 acres completed there, and about 100 plus are scheduled for next year. The fourth year is a maintenance year. They still have some piles left in Little Browns Creek, about 120 acres there. The Reading Indian Creek unit one has about 50.
- Oregon Mountain has the machine piles left over from the timber harvest, about 80 acres. They had some trouble with Air Quality with SMPs getting approved and the weather not cooperating.
- Future projects include a fuel break from the Junction City area, west of the river, and Helena, on the east side of the river. They are also working with the Watershed on the Hayfork parcels (Ewing and surrounding BLM parcels).

CAL FIRE

N. Ciapponi reported they are staffing up two engines at Fawn Lodge, and one at Weaverville in the next few weeks, so they should have four engines staffed. They have been finishing up projects with the RCD, up on Browns Mountain, and in Junction City.

Flowra

J. Burroughs gave an update on their Post Mountain Blue Fire Recovery Project; applications will be taken up until April 30th. April 18th was the to join the first round of grant-funded restoration work.

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Air Quality Management Board

S. Fisher read a report from D. Harris, who is retiring at the end of next week:

“Please express my appreciation to the group for all their help and efforts to work with me and the district during wildfires and prescribed fires. This group is a fine example of how a community can work together to accomplish vital projects and coordinate wildfire response. My replacement is Kacy Tuel, and I have added her to this email. You can reach Kacy at 707-443-3093, extension 110. I am encouraging Kacy to participate in these meetings.

As to updates from Air Quality Land, I offer the following. The district is working with burners to take advantage of burn windows before the burn suspension and the pre-wildfire season contact will be made with Trinity County staff and others to discuss wildfire response and messaging.”

Nor-Rel Muk

No report.

SAFE

L. Glass reported that the Trinity Weed Management Area Cooperative is looking into getting a portable air curtain burner - the trailer type, which is smaller and easier to move around. This would be a way to dispose of the scotch broom and other noxious weeds; he thinks it can also handle slash. Any assistance in obtaining the trailer would be appreciated.

Trinity Center VFD

C. Fall thanked the RCD for burning all the piles behind the Knolls. The residents were complimentary. TCVFD is working with Velocity to upgrade their communication pole at Norwegian, just south of Trinity Center. Their Firewise Fair is May 10th.

Trinity Collaborative

J. Cousins reported that the Collaborative’s “white paper” had gone to the Board of Supervisors. He also reported that a field trip had taken place on Jennings Ridge. K. Sheen mentioned that the funding for the financial component to the upcoming stewardship agreement with the BLM may again be a possibility.

TCOES

P. Simi announced that readytrinity.org is moving along well and publicity efforts are ongoing. They are working with Motorola, RAVE, and Genesis to get our zones into their system. CodeRED is still in place for alerts, if needed. He is also closing out some grants.

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TCRCD

Forest Health (S. Callahan) reported:

- The Fuels crews have been working on JC Park and the Trinity Knolls burn.
- The Forestry crew is working on the TMS for the McConnell Project and flagging private properties. They still have no update from FEMA.
- The wildfire prevention and forest health grants through CAL FIRE have been closed out.
- Community chipping is starting
- Hobel dump is in planning, with the environmental compliance being done first.

Roads (A. Reeves) reported that they recently viewed a project highlighted in the CWPP - a large hole just south of Hyampom. C. Tarwater is applying for funding. They have been working on the Wildmad Road, and have cut it open to Cedar Gap. They have also worked on the Bramlett, 28, and 10 roads.

GIS (C. Hodges) reported that they have been working on the evacuation hazards map, and that it is almost done.

K. Sheen reported they are working on an expanded version of the stewardship agreement with the BLM. There may be a slight gap due to funding difficulties.

On the Forest Service side of things, he met with Ben Sundal at the beginning part of this month, and with the increased focus on timber production, the RCD will be pivoting from our Trinity Alps Access partner-led NEPA to the Weaverville Fuel Break Project.

He is also working with the FS regarding the cleanup of the KOA campground which was recently logged. The crews have been doing what they can, but the site includes large piles and hazard trees.

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

D. Montgomery, a Fire Prevention Officer, described a project they have undertaken for fire prevention awareness. It is a keychain with a tire pressure gauge and pamphlet. They are doing a broadcast control burn northwest of Weaverville. It's about 50 acres of broadcast burn. Summer is quickly approaching and they are shifting gears from doing burning to getting into doing suppression. They will attend the Trinity Center Firewise Fair.

Six Rivers National Forest

Adam Kunce shared a map showing two projects on Mad River. The first was the Mad Ridge fuel break. The WRTC was able to get a lot of work done in the Mad River rock area and Devil's Backbone, heading down to Hettenshaw Valley. They have about 250 acres, give or take, of piles that they will be burning in this section, just north or on either side of Devil's Backbone on Mad River Ridge. The other area is from Hettenshaw Valley, south down to almost the Ruth Airport area. This is where WRTC is going to be doing some maintenance and re-entry. They had a lot of road issues just with the extremely wet winter.

The other area that they are going to get WRTC into is what they call the First 48, which is over on the west slope of South Fork Mountain, right above the Ruth community area. This is

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one of their shaded fuel breaks and some commercial treatments, but it's primarily focused on shaded fuel breaks.

They plan on some pile burning as well as the air curtain burner, as that comes getting into the fall and then the winter. The plan is to be able to connect First 48 into the South Fork Mountain shaded fuel break in between Six Rivers and Shasta Trinity.

In November, they would like to move up to what they are calling the D70. This'll be a jackpot understory burn for 70 acres across five units. Just south of Highway 36 up on Mad Ridge, you can see where it overlaps with the Mad Ridge fuel break footprint. They going to go in and try to get the right fuel conditions as the summer winds down and we start to get into that winter weather. They weren't able to get it this spring due to Northern Spotted Owl LOPs.

WCFSC

G. Moon reported:

- They were happy to pull off their March dinner, even in the snow.
- They have done a lot of scotch broom removal out of the Kimtu area.
- They attended a plant and seed exchange in Willow Creek.
- They will be hosting a short film, Fire Lines, and a dinner.
- They had a chipping day.

WRTC

S. Sady reported that the WRTC has also begun chipping. They are doing a demo project up on East Fork off of Wildwood Road with some private landowners up there, to drum up support for getting that fuel reduction.

They did receive a NCRP technical assistance grant for doing survey support down in Ruth. That will tie into that first 48 project that Adam Kunce was outlining.

NRCS

C. Cole reported seven contracts that were funded in the county, all forestry except for one Beaver Dam analog project, for around \$350,000 total. This is the last year of their Joint Chiefs funding. That is a partnership with NRCS and the Forest Service as well as other partners.

Their IRA agreement with the RCD has opened up very recently, good news.

Humboldt Area Foundation/Wild Rivers

Ali Lee announced that she is working with the Hayfork Fire Chief, Leroy Warshawer, to consolidate all the fire response organizations' information. The hope is to see if they could see any patterns and have them break out their equipment lists, the year of their equipment, and their highest needs, and try to find a way to leverage larger pots of funding.

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California Fire Safe Council

P. Frost mentioned there are still close to 47 bills pending related to wildfire and wildfire preparedness. They are still tracking those. None of them have gotten a lot of traction, but there's one that we just became aware of, a Senate bill; they are trying to set up a sit-down with the legislator's staff. It would require Fire Safe Councils to be certified by the state.

7. Future Discussion Items

- Air curtain burner/weed management group
- Vegetation management ordinance

Next Meeting: May 22, 2025