

# MEETING MATERIALS

AUGUST 2020

## 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Reference Document 1: [February 2020 HCFSC Meeting Minutes](#)

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## 4. HCFSC Membership

**4. A. Acknowledge Member At-Large, Mike Lake for his service on the HCFSC:** Mike Lake, Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District Chief, resigned from being an active member of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) for personal reasons. Chief Lake, has been an At-Large member since 2016, nominated by and representing the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association. He participated in and provided support for the most recent update of the CWPP; efforts to plan for sustainable fire and rescue services throughout the county; and the development of several grant-funded projects currently being implemented to advance CWPP goals. A new nomination from the Chiefs' Association to fill the vacancy is being sought.

- **Action: Authorize Chair to digitally sign certificate of appreciation**

**4.B. Discuss HCFSC membership and purpose/mission:** On July 28, 2020, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors expanded the membership of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council, through adoption of Resolution 20-63, to include a representative from County Planning and Building. The Board appointed Senior Planner, John Miller to fill the new position. The Board also appointed Tom O'Gorman to replace long time member Barbara Darst as the At-Large member representing the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council.

Reference Document 2: [Current Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Members](#)

Reference Document 3: [Humboldt County Resolution 20-63](#)

**4.C Nominate Vice-Chairperson:** In February of 2020, Lon Winburn, Fortuna Fire Chief and Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association representative on the HCFSC, was nominated as Vice-Chairperson. No additional nominations have been made since that time. New nominations will be requested and then the HCFSC will vote.

- **Action: Vote to approve a Vice-Chairperson**
    - Current nominee: Lon Winburn, Fortuna Fire
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## 5. Updates: Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Implementation/Maintenance and Associated Partner Activities

The HCFSC is tasked through 2021 to work together and with partners to implement the 2019 CWPP using the identified objectives, metrics, and priority action recommendations to meet each of the following six goal areas:

1. [Wildfire Ignition Prevention](#): Reduce human-caused wildfire ignitions.
2. [Wildfire Preparedness](#): Increase community resilience and adaptation to wildfire.
3. [Disaster Preparedness](#): Increase residents' ability to effectively prepare for and survive wildfire.
4. [Fire Protection](#): Support fire protection for people, property, communities, and natural resources.
5. [Restoration of Beneficial Fire](#): Restore beneficial fire at the landscape scale.
6. [Integrated Planning](#): Maximize integration of planning efforts to improve community and ecosystem resilience to wildfire.

CWP Implementation Work Groups have been formed to provide guidance to develop, implement, and/or monitor actions consistent with the above listed goal areas (See *Table 1 below for current Work Group membership*). It has been difficult to organize Work Group interaction and coordination since the CWPP was updated. General updates will be provided under each goal category and future management of Work Groups will be discussed.

### 5.A. CWPP MAINTENANCE UPDATE AND REMINDERS

The CWPP and associated [WebGIS Database](#) are intended to be “living” wildfire mitigation and preparedness resources that can and should be corrected and refined as more information and project details are developed or mistakes are discovered. As noted on the Implementation tab of the [CWPP webpage](#), the [HCFSC Project Input and Update Process](#) describes how projects are added and by whom. If you are considering developing a project proposal, start by reading this document. Once you are ready, download the [CWPP WebGIS Request Form](#). Local Fire Safe Councils, Firewise Community groups, or those actively working on implementing the CWPP, particularly specific Planning Unit Actions Plans, may get in touch with staff to provide updates and request corrections to their sections of the plan. Minor updates and corrections do not require HCFSC approval. Since the last meeting, the following refinement was made:

#### PLANNING UNIT ACTION PLAN REFINEMENT

- Southern Humboldt: The Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council finalized their objectives and mission statement. The previous mission statement was replaced in the [Southern Humboldt Planning Unit Action Plan](#).

**TABLE 1. CURRENT WORK GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Work Group</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Current Membership*</b> Members in blue to be confirmed
<b>1. Disaster Preparedness</b>	Increase residents' ability to effectively prepare for and survive wildfire	<b>Lead:</b> Ryan Derby <b>Members:</b> Ed Laidlaw, Jen Renner, Lon Winburn, Lyn Javier, Manny Mello, Rod Mendes
<b>2. Fire Protection</b>	Support fire-protection services for people, property, communities, and natural resources	<b>Leads:</b> Justin McDonald and Lon Winburn <b>Members:</b> Ed Laidlaw, Chris Ramey, Ian Sigman, Kai Ostrow, Mike Lake, Cybelle Immitt
<b>3. Integrated Planning</b>	Maximize integration of planning efforts to improve community and ecosystem resilience to wildfire	<b>Lead:</b> Cybelle Immitt and John Miller <b>Members:</b> Alex Miyagishima, Chris Ramey, Deb Harris, Jeff Tunnel, Joe O'Hara, Rod Mendes, John Miller, Ryan Derby, Rosalie Carnam
<b>4. Restoration of Beneficial Fire</b>	Restore beneficial fire at the landscape scale	<b>Lead:</b> Kai Ostrow, Lenya Quinn Davidson <b>Members:</b> Alex Miyagishima, Bill Eastwood, Chris Ramey, Deb Harris, Josh Eichamer, Jeff Tunnel, Lyn Javier, Tim Bailey, Will Harling
<b>5. Wildfire Ignition Prevention</b>	Reduce human-caused wildfire ignitions	<b>Lead:</b> Chris Ramey and/or CAL FIRE Alternates <b>Members:</b> Mike Lake, Ali Freedlund, Ian Sigman, Jason Butcher, Jen Renner
<b>6. Wildfire Preparedness</b>	Increase community resilience and adaptation to wildfire	<b>Lead:</b> Cybelle Immitt and Julia Cavalli <b>Members:</b> Ali Freedlund, Barbara Darst, Bill Eastwood, Jason Butcher (Chris Ramey and Jen Renner), Dave Markin, Deb Harris, Manny Mello, Mitch Hunt, Nancy Bailey
<b>Funding Strategy Committee</b>	Track and recommend funding opportunities to HCFSC	Ali Freedlund, Deb Harris, Nancy Bailey, Cybelle Immitt, Julia Cavalli

\*Please notify staff if you would like to be added to or taken off a Work Group.

**5.B. IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES, CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES**

Although it has been difficult to organize CWPP Work Group coordination and collaboration, much important progress has occurred. Informal updates will be provided under each of the CWPP Goal areas below.

**4. FIRE PROTECTION**

**GOAL 4: SUPPORT FIRE-PROTECTION SERVICES FOR PEOPLE, PROPERTY, COMMUNITIES, AND NATURAL RESOURCES.**

**OBJECTIVE 4: THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT ITS COLLABORATORS IN INCREASING FIRE AGENCIES' CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FIRE-PROTECTION SERVICES FOR ALL PEOPLE, PROPERTY, COMMUNITIES, AND NATURAL RESOURCES.**

**PROGRESS:**

*Cybelle Immitt, John Miller and fire service representatives will provide updates on the following work:*

Measure Z (Public Safety/Essential Services Measure) funds continue to support the capacity building efforts of local fire departments. The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association is administering the

Measure Z funds awarded for FY 2020-21. This funding has supported much needed purchases such as fire engines, fire station kits, and personal protective and communications equipment. In recognition of the growing need to address the gap between local jurisdictional boundaries and where services are being demanded from fire related districts, as well as the lack of revenue to support increasing demand for fire and rescue services, the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association worked with Humboldt County and LAFCo staff to include a planning component in their annual Measure Z project grant allocation. This technical team continues to support forward momentum on planning work, coordination, partner meetings, and analysis of annexation, merger, and revenue options. Assistance typically involves research, analysis, and strategy development; coordination with fire service representatives; solicitation of public input; and regular reporting to the Board of Supervisors and their staff. Recent activity included support for:

- LAFCo to identify legal counsel for continued research into California Health & Safety Code 3811 which exempts/prohibits “commercial forest lands which are timbered lands” from being included in fire protection districts; this work is ongoing.
- The preparation of a joint LAFCo application for multiple FPDs to clean up boundaries in an effort to reduce cost.
- Extending CAL FIRE/County CSA #4 and dispatch contrasts for one more year while alternative contracting options are evaluated.
- Entering into a tax exchange agreement between the County and Rio Dell.

### 3. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

**GOAL 3: INCREASE RESIDENTS’ ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY PREPARE FOR AND SURVIVE WILDFIRE DISASTERS.**

**OBJECTIVE 3: THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL WILL ASSIST ITS COLLABORATORS IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO HELP RESIDENTS EFFECTIVELY PREPARE FOR AND SURVIVE WILDFIRE.**

**PROGRESS:**

*Ryan Derby, Emergency Services Manager/EOC Director, Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services will provide an update.*

### 6. INTEGRATED PLANNING

**GOAL 6: MAXIMIZE INTEGRATION OF PLANNING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE TO WILDFIRE.**

**OBJECTIVE 6: THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL AND ITS COLLABORATORS WILL COOPERATE TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE TO WILDFIRE BY COORDINATING PLANNING EFFORTS AMONG LOCAL, STATE, REGIONAL, TRIBAL, AND FEDERAL STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THOSE IDENTIFIED IN THIS CWPP.**

**PROGRESS:**

*John Miller, Senior Planner, Humboldt County Planning and Building and Chris Ramey, Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE Pre-Fire Planning, will provide an update on work associated with the following action items:*

- **PRIORITY ACTION 3.6.5-1 COLLABORATE WITH COUNTY PLANNERS TO REALIZE ADOPTED GENERAL PLAN POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES AND DEVELOP IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS RELATING TO THIS CWPP.**

- **PRIORITY ACTION 3.6.6-1 HCFSC WILL SUPPORT COUNTY PLANNERS TO UPDATE THE COUNTY “SRA FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS” AND OTHER REGULATIONS AS APPROPRIATE TO INCORPORATE CURRENT WILDFIRE-MITIGATION SCIENCE AND BEST PRACTICES.**

*Jen Renner, CAL FIRE, Pre-Fire Planning Battalion Captain will provide an update on the 2020 CAL FIRE Humboldt Del Norte Unit fire plan.*

## **I. WILDFIRE IGNITION PREVENTION**

### **GOAL 1: REDUCE HUMAN-CAUSED WILDFIRE IGNITIONS.**

**OBJECTIVE 1: THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL AND ITS COLLABORATORS WILL SUPPORT EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE RATE OF HUMAN-CAUSED WILDFIRE IGNITIONS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AND OTHER COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS.**

#### **PROGRESS:**

*Jen Renner, CAL FIRE, Pre-Fire Planning Battalion Captain will provide an update on LE-100 inspections and other related prevention activities.*

## **5. RESTORATION OF BENEFICIAL FIRE**

### **GOAL 5: RESTORE BENEFICIAL FIRE AT THE LANDSCAPE SCALE.**

**OBJECTIVE 5: THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL WILL FOSTER WILDFIRE RESILIENCE THROUGH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION OF ECOSYSTEM-RESTORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING HAZARDOUS-FUEL REDUCTION, PRESCRIBED FIRE, AND MANAGED WILDFIRE WHERE APPROPRIATE.**

#### **PROGRESS:**

##### **RESTORATION OF BENEFICIAL FIRE 2018 GRANT PROJECT**

- In February, staff coordinated a special prescribed fire presentation to the HCFSC on recent prescribed burns conducted by agencies and organizations across the county. The presentation was intended to deepen understanding of how fire can and is being used to support wildfire resilience and other objectives. Staff also plan to develop a presentation for the Board of Supervisors to increase their understanding of and support for prescribed fire.
- Southern Humboldt Prescribed Fire Liaison, Kai Ostrow continues to conduct home risk assessments and site visits for landowners interested in using prescribed fire to achieve a variety of objectives on their land. A qualified burn boss is currently developing burn plans for six of these landowners. This effort is intended to encourage interest and understanding within the Southern Humboldt community and generate burn projects that are ready for implementation by the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association.
- Kai is also working to generate interest in and establish a Southern Humboldt Chapter of the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association.
- COVID-19 has delayed some in-person gatherings but the project team is still working to plan and conduct outreach for community workshops, and coursework for volunteer firefighters that will bolster their ability to support prescribed burns.
- This project represents progress on many of the priority actions of the Restoration of Beneficial Fire Action Plan, including:
  - **PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.1-1 COORDINATE A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL EVENTS PROMOTING THE BENEFICIAL USES OF FIRE.**

- **PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.2-1 INVITE PRESENTERS TO FSC MEETINGS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES REGARDING SUCCESSES, FAILURES, AND CHALLENGES OF COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO MANAGE FIRE AT THE LANDSCAPE SCALE.**
- **PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.4-2 BUILD CAPACITY FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE ON PRIVATE LANDS**

*Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of CA Cooperative Extension, Area Fire Advisor, and Kai Ostrow, contract Southern Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association Liaison, will provide updates and plans related to prescribed fire and progress on CWPP implementation goals.*

*Chris Ramey, Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE Pre-Fire Planning will provide an update on CAL FIRE prescribed fire involvement and/or planning for landscape level fuel treatments (larger than community and roadside level work).*

*Debra Harris, Burn Program Coordinator for the Northern California Air Quality Management District will provide updates on prescribed fire coordination and smoke management topics.*

*Julia Cavalli, Environmental Analyst, Humboldt County Public Works will provide an update on a sample of applicable North Coast Resource Partnership, Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Demonstration Projects and their applicability for modeling action that could benefit Humboldt County.*

## **2. WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS**

### **GOAL 2: INCREASE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION TO WILDFIRE.**

**OBJECTIVE 2: THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL AND ITS COLLABORATORS WILL FACILITATE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS, RESILIENCE, AND ADAPTATION TO WILDFIRE BY SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING FIRE SAFE COUNCILS, FIREWISE® AND FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES TO REDUCE STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY AND HAZARDOUS FUELS.**

#### **PROGRESS:**

*Cybelle and Julia will provide updates on progress related to the following:*

#### **CWPP IMPLEMENTATION: PHASE II GRANT PROJECT**

- Cybelle and Yana have been working with Graphic Artist, Kathy Weber, to develop graphic designs that represent home styles familiar to residents living within Humboldt County and beyond. These renderings are being incorporated into an educational brochure on home hardening.
  - Progress on: **PRIORITY ACTION 3.2.1-1 CREATE AND DISTRIBUTE A BROCHURE ON HOW TO FIRE-SAFE (OR HARDEN) YOUR HUMBOLDT-COUNTY HOME.**
- Contracts have been executed with two of the successful proposers for Fuels Management, which include “Chipper Day” services, roadside clearance, and defensible space assistance. Planning and discussions around the remaining three contracts are ongoing and will be executed when associated project work planning is complete.
- Planning for fuels treatment with CAL FIRE and community liaisons, including identification of priority roads and residents in need of defensible space assistance is ongoing. Work has begun in Petrolia along Chambers Road.
- Staff are working closely with County Roads Maintenance Superintendent, Steve Finch to plan the County component of roadside clearance. This coordination is establishing a process of aligning the existing priorities of county roadside brushing with priority CWPP recommendations for strategic shaded fuel breaks along county roads. Road segments that have

aligned priority are being identified, evaluated with community partners, and reviewed for treatment appropriateness.

- As part of the planning process, staff continue to update and refine the CWPP GIS database and bring significant changes to the attention of the Fire Safe Council, as necessary.
- The actions above represent progress on the following Priority Actions:
  - **PRIORITY ACTION 3.2.3-1 COLLABORATE TO CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED RESIDENTS WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO DO THIS FOR THEMSELVES.**
  - **PRIORITY ACTION 3.2.5-1 SUPPORT FUNDING AND COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP COUNTY ROAD MAINTENANCE IMPLEMENT FUEL-REDUCTION PROJECTS FOR SAFE INGRESS AND EGRESS, AND TO SERVE AS STRATEGIC FUEL BREAKS.**
  - **PRIORITY ACTION 3.2.6-1 WORK WITH LEADERS IN EACH PLANNING UNIT TO SUPPORT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDED RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL OBSTACLES TO FACILITATE FUEL-HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE.**
  - **PRIORITY ACTION 3.2.7-1 SUPPORT AND CREATE COMMUNITY CHIPPING PROGRAMS TO ASSIST RESIDENTS IN DISPOSING OF THINNED MATERIALS.**

#### CWPP IMPLEMENTATION: PHASE III, FLASH GRANT PROJECT

- The County of Humboldt was awarded funding from CAL FIRE on behalf of the HCFSC to support the Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes (FLASH) Program.
- Staff have begun to prepare program materials, collect interest forms, prepare a request for contractor proposals, and plan contractor orientation and public outreach.
- The program is expected to kick off in fall 2020.

*Cybelle Immitt, Natural Resources Planning Manager, Humboldt County Public Works, will provide an update on the execution of a Good Neighbor Agreement with Six Rivers National Forest to support joint planning and implementation of projects; primarily roadside fuels reduction work.*

*Jake Taulbee, Project Coordinator for the Humboldt Resource Conservation District will provide an update on the development of a Garberville Fuels reduction project under an agreement with CAL FIRE.*

*Jason Butcher, CAL FIRE SRA VMP Forester, will provide an update on CAL FIRE roadside fuels reduction work and other collaborative work to prepare communities to survive wildfire.*

*Round-robin of local Fire Safe Councils, Firewise Community groups, and/or other organizations involved in activities consistent with the goals of the CWPP.*