

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL



Appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Supported by
Public Works, Natural Resources Planning
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
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Meeting Summary (Action Minutes) Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting November 21, 2019

A Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) meeting was held on November 21, 2019 at the UC Cooperative Extension Office, 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA. The HCFSC was appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to guide maintenance and implementation of the Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Fire Safe Council Members/Appointed Agency Liaisons Attending:

Bill Eastwood, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
Chris Ramey, CAL FIRE
Dorie Lanni, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services
Ed Laidlaw, Arcata Fire Protection District
Ian Sigman, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council and Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company
Kai Ostrow, Briceland Fire Department and Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue
Lenya Quinn-Davison, UCCE Fire Advisor
Lon Winburn, Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association, Fortuna Fire Protection District

Fire Safe Council Members/Appointed Agency Liaisons Absent:

Barbara Darst, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
Lyn Javier, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council
Manny Mello, George Petersen/Northwest Insurance
Mike Lake, Fruitland Ridge Fire Department, Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association
Rod Mendes, Hoopa Office of Emergency Services, Hoopa Fire Department
Tom Mattson, Humboldt County Public Works (non-voting)
Will Harling, Orleans/Somes Bar FSC, Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County, Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Fire Safe Council Alternates Attending:

Ali Freedlund, Lower Mattole FSC and Mattole Restoration Council
Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Public Works (non-voting Director Designee)
Elliott Brown, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council, Bridgeville Fire Department
Jason Butcher, CAL FIRE
Nancy Bailey, Orleans/Somes Bar FSC, Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Yana Valachovic, UCCE Director & Forest Advisor

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

Allan Wiegman, California State Parks
Curtis Ihle, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (RCD)
Elicia Goldsworthy, Green Diamond Resource Company
Jeana Herbst, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
Julia Cavalli, Humboldt County Public Works / HCFSC Staff
Kathy Weber, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
Larry Goldberg, Citizen
Mitch Hunt, Green Diamond Resource Company
Rachel Capistrano, Bridgeville Fire Department
Ryan Derby, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services
Sacha Marini, Redwood Valley / Chezem Firewise Community
Tim Bailey, Institute for Sustainable Forestry / RCD Watershed Coordinator
TK Williams, Redway Community Services District / Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

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AGENDA ITEM SUMMARIES

1. Call to Order – Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

HCFSC Chairperson, Ian Sigman called the meeting to order at 10:03.
Meeting attendees went through introductions.

2. Approval of the meeting Agenda and Minutes from the previous HCFSC meeting

Kai Ostrow motioned to approve the August HCFSC meeting minutes. Chris Ramey seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council will be hosting an Emergency Preparedness workshop December 4, 2019 at the Mattole Grange.

4. Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Implementation Work Group Updates

The Work Groups are organized around each of the six goal areas of the CWPP and are comprised of HCFSC members.

Work Group Members and Leaders:

- The intention of the work groups is to make meaningful progress on the overall CWPP Action Plan by assigning some responsibility for making and tracking progress on each of the Action Plan's component parts.
- Cybelle summarized her suggestions on work group membership/leadership and will send a follow up email to confirm leaders and solicit additional revisions to work group membership.

Feature Work Group Presentations - Wildfire Preparedness:

Introduction (5):

- The goal of the Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan is to increase community resilience and adaptation to wildfire.
- This is the most community-focused portion of our Action Plan and the portion of the Plan that has seen the most progress since the Plan's certification in January.
- Cybelle listed several accomplishments to date (see PowerPoint slide 3 for details).

Expert Corner:

- Yana Valachovic, Director & Forest Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension (and alternate to Lenya on HCFSC) – Preparing Homes for Wildfire
 - Home Survival in Wildfire-Prone Areas: Design & Maintenance Considerations
 - Yana has worked closely with Steve Quarles of the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) to develop home-hardening recommendations. The IBHS Research Center allows researchers to evaluate residential and commercial construction materials and systems under realistic re-creations of severe weather hazards.
 - Homes are exposed to a variety of flame/heat sources that can expose different vulnerabilities of the home (direct flame, radiant heat, wind-blown embers, etc.)
 - Windblown embers are responsible for the majority of building ignitions.
 - Paradise has the highest number of homes built post-WUI building codes that has been exposed to wildfire – trends showed that it made a difference although the losses were still significant.
 - Paradise Fire showed the importance of first five feet: homes with good defensible space were more severely affected when they had vegetation growing directly against the house.
 - Need to reframe our thinking, starts at the homeowner level
 - "Fire-resistant" plant lists can create a false sense of security. There are too many factors to say any one plant is fire-resistant.
 - There are numerous points of entry around the home that can cause a home to ignite. Some improvements can be costly, while others will cost little more than a trip to the hardware store.
 - See PowerPoint for more details.
- Tim Bailey, Watershed Coordinator, Hum. Co. Resource Conservation District – His new role and how it can help prepare communities and landscapes for wildfire
 - The Watershed Coordinator position is a shared resource for 7 Resource Conservation Districts spanning 13 watersheds.
 - Two-year position focused on:

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- Identifying and facilitating participation in forest health funding opportunities, such as CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health grant program
 - Especially for groups who may otherwise not have the capacity to apply
- Developing watershed improvement plans for 6 of the 13 watersheds covered
- Participating in regional and statewide resource prioritization processes and committees
- Developing accessible tool libraries to assist in forest management
- See PowerPoint

Wildfire Preparedness Community Panel:

- Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (Cybelle standing in for Barbara) – Community Chipping Program
 - Using Firewise Action Plan to tackle roadside fuels reduction using a chipper purchased with RAC funding. Chipper has also been used for CCC and SWAP crew projects in Willow Creek.
 - WCFSC has also used the chipper to assist the Trinity County Fire Safe Council and Redwood Valley/Chezem Fire Firewise Community with Chipper Days.
 - WCFSC participates in the Dreamquest program in which hand tools are purchased for local youth to perform defensible space; WCFSC then comes by to chip the debris (see handout)
 - Successfully obtained a 5-year County Roads Encroachment Permit for fuels reduction work along county roads. Fee waived and includes all county roads in Willow Creek. Available to other FSCs as well.
 - Working with Caltrans on permitting to allow the WCFSC to treat first mile of highway on 96, 299 West and 299 east out of Willow Creek – They have made some progress and will add miles as they achieve their goals.
 - Handed out chipper day form – see attached.
- Sacha Marini, Redwood Valley Chezem Firewise Community – Chezem Neighborhood Planning and Engagement
 - Engaging in reinvigorating the Firewise community in the Chezem neighborhood after it lost momentum several years ago
 - Plan to refresh the Firewise Action Plan after cross-referencing it with the CWPP PU Action Plan
 - Recent training on community-owned fire truck with Blue Lake Fire Department
 - Updated their phone tree and put it to the test.
 - Making sure residences have reflective address signs.
- Kathy Weber, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council / Crooked Prairie Fire Safe Council – Education and Outreach
 - The Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council was started in 2002 and is in the process of rebooting.
 - Education Committee has been busy tabling at community events and gathering feedback on what information community members are most interested in.
 - Recently developed a popular handout "Essential Tools for Homestead Fire Suppression" – see attached.

Action: Identify which Work Group(s) will provide a feature presentation at the next meeting.

- Motion: Lon Winburn motioned for the Fire Protection Work Group and Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group to present on progress on fire district annexations and fall prescribed burns, respectively.
- Dorie seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

5. Communications

The HCFSC Google Group and Google Drive was launched recently. Members were asked to reach out to staff if they encounter any access issues. After some discussion and feedback, it was informally decided that the HCFSC will continue to test out these new platforms between now and the next HCFSC meeting in February before determining whether these tools are useful.

- HCFSC members were asked to confirm their Work Group membership or indicate any desired changes to staff via email.

6. Learning How to Work with the CWPP as a Live Document

Staff presented on a proposed CWPP project input process and solicited feedback from the membership. No motion was requested; the HCFSC will continue to test and refine the process and may consider formally adopting a revised process at the next meeting.

Feedback to consider moving forward:

- There may be circumstances when an official letter is not necessary, but it is encouraged.

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- Provide a list and documentation of proposed changes to the HCFSC in advance of each meeting as a consent agenda item that will only be addressed if a member has questions – otherwise it will be approved without discussion. (It will be important to post the consent items with the agenda in advance of the meeting to allow adequate time for HCFSC member and public review.)
- Consider establishing a Work Group to run proposals by between HCFSC meetings for areas that do not have an active FSC/group.

Action: The following list of CWPP GIS project database changes was motioned for approval and unanimously approved (Kai 1st, Bill 2nd):

- All of Bald Hills Road to be evaluated for sections that need fuels reduction work. Extend the existing project (ORL446) and add possible treatment methods to existing list in project description.
- Murray Rd: Make correction and extension of existing project per the request of Green Diamond.
- Southern Humboldt (multiple areas): Add all requested areas for sudden oak death tree removal
- Redway: Refine existing community fuel break project (GAR075) per the request of SHFSC.

The following list summarizes the requested revisions to Planning Unit Action Plans motioned for approval and unanimously approved (Chris 1st, Lenya 2nd):

- Southern Humboldt Planning Unit: Add several priority roads for evaluation in the Priority Action Catalog. Add additional detail to Sudden Oak Death action item, move to priority list.
- Mattole-Lost Coast Planning Unit: Update language about Mattole Fire Atlas and Sudden Oak Death.

7. Grant Reports and Funding Strategy

Current Grants / Funding

- The CWPP Implementation Phase II Program is funded by CAL FIRE with some additional support from California Fire Safe Council. The program will support several defensible space/chipper day demonstration projects as well as roadside clearing in high fire hazard areas. Roadside clearing will be made possible through collaboration with the Public Works Roads Department.
 - RFP process being initiated for a contractor pool that can be matched to various treatment areas.
 - Ad Hoc needed to review proposals and complete the evaluation. Volunteers include: Lenya, Ian, Ed, Cybelle, and Julia. No objections.

8. HCFSC Membership

- Acknowledge Office of Emergency Services Member, Dorie Lanni for her service on the HCFSC
 - **Action: Kai Ostrow motioned to authorize the Chair to sign a certificate of appreciation.**
 - Chris Ramey seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.
- Discuss HCFSC membership
 - **Action: Confirm membership nominations/changes recommended for Board of Supervisors approval (Replace Dorie Lanni with Ryan Derby as OES member; Replace Serene Hayden with Amos Pole as Hoopa alternate)**
 - Dorie Lanni motioned for approval of Ryan Derby's nomination. Lon seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.
 - Chris motioned for approval of Amos Pole's nomination, Kai second. All voted unanimously in favor.

9. 2020 Meeting Schedule

- **Action: Chris Ramey motioned to approve proposed 2020 meeting schedule provided that the February meeting date be changed to February 27th.**
 - Lenya Quinn-Davidson seconded the motion. All voted unanimously in favor.

10. Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn.

Next meeting proposed for February 27, 2020 at the Six Rivers National Forest Headquarters, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka

Meeting time and location confirmed. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

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TASKS*	
Fire Protection Work Group	Prepare to present on progress of fire district annexations at next meeting.
Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group	Prepare to present on fall prescribed burns at next meeting.
All HCFSC members	Confirm/revise work group membership. Indicate desires to Cybelle via email.
Julia	Revise CWPP GIS database, as requested. Post to web.
	Revise Southern Humboldt and Mattole – Lost Cost Planning Unit Action Plans, as requested. Post to web.
Cybelle	Send a follow up email to confirm work group leaders and solicit additional revisions to work group membership.
	Submit Board Resolution with updated HCFSC membership.

*All tasks are to be completed by February meeting.