Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting – February 16, 2023

A Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) meeting was held on February 16, 2023 via Zoom. 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 Attending:
**Ali Freedlund**, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council/Mattole Restoration Council
**Allan Wiegman**, California State Parks, North Coast Redwoods District
**Chris Ramey**, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
**Elicia Goldsworthy**, Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association
**Greg Moon**, Hoopa Tribe/Hoopa Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services
**Jill Demers**, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
**Kai Ostrow**, Briceland Fire Department and Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue
**Kathy Weber**, Crooked Prairie & Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
**Lenya Quinn-Davidson**, UC Cooperative Extension, Humboldt-Del Norte UCCE
**Mike Miles**, Humboldt Redwood Company
**Nick Pape**, Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs’ Association, Shelter Cove Fire Department
**Patti Pedigo**, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
**Rod Mendes**, Yurok Tribe/Yurok Fire Department

Fire Safe Council Alternates Attending:
**Brita Goldstein**, Green Diamond Resource Company
**Nancy Bailey**, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council/Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Non-Voting Agency Liaisons Attending:
**Cybelle Immitt**, Humboldt County Public Works Director Designee
**Dan Wooden**, Bureau of Land Management

Members of the County Coordination Team

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:
**Julia Cavalli**, Humboldt County Public Works / Lead County Coordinator
**Tanner Speas**, Humboldt County Public Works / County Coordination Team
**Alex Miyagishima**, Six Rivers National Forest
**Basho Parks**, Lower Trinity River PBA
**Blaze Shannon**, Lower Trinity River PBA
**Bri Tiffany**, BBW & Associates
**Debra Harris**, North Coast Air Quality Management District
**Gail Eastwood**, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
**Larry Wilson**, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
**Lindsey Holm**, BBW & Associates
**Marissa Vossmer**, Bureau of Land Management
**Ross Dollarhide**, CAL FIRE (pending CAL FIRE Alternate)
HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Meeting Summary
Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting – February 16, 2023

1. **Call to Order: Welcome, Zoom Orientation, Roll Call/Introductions, and Agenda Review**

   HCFSC Chairperson, Lenya Quinn-Davidson called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.
   This meeting’s recording will be available online.

   *Per precedent set in previous Zoom meetings, the default for action items is for the Chair to ask for any objections. Where consensus is not attainable, a roll call vote will be held.*

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

   - **Action:** Review and Approve Minutes from the Previous HCFSC Meeting
     - **Motion:** Kai Ostrow motioned to approve the November HCFSC meeting minutes. Lyn Javier seconded the motion.
     - **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** None opposed.

3. **Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence**

   Lenya – Written updates provided by HCFSC members will be included with these meeting minutes. Julia – Thank you to those who took the time to detail their recent accomplishments—all are highly encouraged to give them a read!

   Cybelle Immitt – Appointed members received a reminder about 700 forms due April 3, 2023. New requirement that committee members take Ethics Training. Per new bill AB 2449 (see attached) – all committees of the Board must comply beginning March 1st: the HCFSC will need to meet in-person; remote participation of some individuals will be allowed under certain circumstances. A decision about the planned virtual meeting in August can be made at the next meeting in May (planned for in-person at UCCE).

   Alex Miyagishima – Inflation Reduction Act identified priority landscapes including two in Six Rivers; this will result in a significant amount of funding and increase in pace and scale; looking to scale workforce and collaborative partners; many millions of dollars for WUI-related fuels reduction; more info to come!

   **Events:**
   - Second N-Shong Konk "Good Fire" Education Day to be held 2/18 at the Mateel Community Center, Redway (poster attached)
   - Willow Creek Fire Safe Council to host their first fundraiser of the year on 3/17; their annual Firewise Youth Ecology Fair will be held coincidently with a special wildfire preparedness workshop on 5/20.

4. **HCFSC Membership**

   - Members shared appreciations for outgoing member Jennifer Renner. Staff propose to provide certificates digitally versus by mail.
     - **Action:** Authorize Chair to sign certificates of appreciation.
       - **Motion:** Kai Ostrow motioned to sign certs of appreciation. Seconded by Chris Ramey.
       - **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** None opposed.
     - Pending alternate member for CAL FIRE, Ross Dollarhide was welcomed. Official appointment planned for inclusion on February 28th Board of Supervisors agenda.
5. CWPP Update Discussion
   - Cybelle provided a brief history and anatomy of the Humboldt County CWPP and toured meeting participants through the county's CWPP webpage: [www.humboldtgov.org/FirePlanFinal](http://www.humboldtgov.org/FirePlanFinal). The CWPP is typically updated every five years (although this is not mandatory); if we are to stay on this schedule, it is time to begin thinking about and planning funding for the next CWPP update.
   - Julia followed up with an update on some of the tools the County Coordination Team has begun developing with the help of funding from the CA Fire Safe Council County Coordinator grant program. Ideally the next CWPP would take advantage of emerging tools and platforms like these.
     - ArcGIS Online is growing in importance for CWPPs for many counties. Humboldt uses this platform for the existing CWPP WebGIS. However, there remains untapped potential for collaborative project planning and mapping.
     - Airtable is being developed as a tool for tracking progress on the CWPP's six countywide Action Plans. It is a cloud-based relational database that can be sorted, filtered, and easily summarized for internal or public consumption.
   - Presentation of survey results
     - Julia presented a high-level summary of responses to a quick survey on current FSC members' use of the CWPP to date, to highlight some trends and kickstart today's conversation about the update (by no means a comprehensive or necessarily representative survey).
     - Generally, the sixteen respondents find the CWPP valuable, especially as a reference for comprehensive background information and agree that the CWPP would benefit from more emphasis on project development and prioritization.
     - A summary of survey results is attached.
   - Discussion
     - Participants were asked to reflect on the following discussion questions (included in the agenda).
     - How can the CWPP better serve your work and/or community?
     - How can the CWPP be used to bolster collaborative planning and partnerships?
     - How do we want to approach prioritizing projects in the next update?
     - How can we better design county CWPP unit action plans that integrate local CWPPs, Firewise Action Plans, and other relevant plans?
     - The wide ranging discussion included topics related to the value of prioritization (ranking and/or prioritization framework); collaborative mapping, the challenge of technical capacity, the potential to gain efficiency by tying into state/regional efforts like NCRP’s Project Tracker and PODs, CALFIRE Cal Mapper, etc.; an updated and quantitative risk assessment (esp. for areas that have recently burned); enhancing the plan to support/streamline environmental compliance for fuels reduction work; funding to support local engagement and leadership.
     - Some wondered how much a CWPP update process would cost. Nancy has some current info on this for a local CWPP that she can make available. The cost for the countywide CWPP update will be highly dependent on what the group desires the final output to be. Costs associated with collaborative and adaptive maintenance, progress tracking, and implementation will need to be considered as the CWPP update approach is developed.
     - **Action: Form a committee to develop recommendations**
       - There was a suggestion to form a committee to take the feedback from this meeting and begin developing a vision and making a plan for funding the update to be presented at a future HCFSC meeting. This would be an ad hoc committee of the HCFSC that may consist of members and other interested individuals. Members of the County Coordination Team would participate and provide support as needed.
       - CWPP Update Planning Ad Hoc Members: Chris, Jill, Yana, Ben (potential).
Motion to form the CWPP Update Planning Ad Hoc Committee: Ali Freedlund. Seconded by Kai Ostrow.
Discussion: None. Vote: None opposed.

6. HCFSC Organizational Structure
Cybelle provided a brief history of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council. Additional information about the HCFSC is available on the web: www.humboldtgov.org/FireSafeCouncil. The Board Resolution that governs the HCFSC can be found on the Members, Minutes & Agendas page.

As the committee begins to consider an update to the CWPP, it is appropriate to consider the structure of the HCFSC and whether it is the best model to support the update and implementation of the plan. There is significant opportunity right now to build capacity and capture CWPP implementation funds. It is a good time to reflect on whether the HCFSC organizational structure is the best it can be to take advantage of those opportunities in the service of achieving the goals and objectives of the CWPP for Humboldt County communities.

Members discussed some of the pros and cons of being a Board committee. Examples from other counties (e.g., program of an RCD, non-profit organization) were brought up.

North Coast Air Quality Management District representative Deb Harris expressed a desire to see the District added as a non-voting advisory member if the current structure is retained.

Action: Form a committee to develop recommendations
- The idea was floated to form a committee to research other models and develop recommendations to the full HCFSC at a future meeting. This would be an ad hoc committee of the HCFSC that may consist of members and other interested individuals. Members of the County Coordination Team would provide support and participate as needed.
- The following volunteered to join: Nick, Kai, Deb, Jill.
- Motion to form the HCFSC Organizational Structure Ad Hoc Committee: Chris Ramey. Seconded by Ali Freedlund. Discussion: None. Vote: None opposed.

7. Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn
Next meeting will be May 18, 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00, followed by a no-host social gathering at a nearby establishment. In-person (UCCE Office in Eureka, CA), with a virtual option available.

Discussion: In light of new requirements related to compliance with AB 2449, voting members must attend in-person, except under certain circumstances. A quorum of eleven will be required to hold the meeting. A poll will be sent out to determine the time of day to hold future meetings (all being changed to in-person), which could vary depending on the season.

Attachments:
- HCFSC Member Reports – February 2023
- CWPP Update Survey Response Summary
- AB 2449 Memo
- Second N-Shong Konk "Good Fire" Education Day, 2/18 Poster
Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Member Reports
February 2023

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Hoopa Report
Submitted by Greg Moon

We have continued cutting around homes and made defensible space signs to place where we have cut. This helps homeowners participate in the community effort of being an example of what fire safe homes look like. We included some of our volunteers and foundations who contribute.

Humboldt County RCD Report
Submitted by Jill Demers

HCRCRD and partners continued implementation of shaded fuel breaks in Salmon Creek and Redway, advanced environmental compliance for Mattole Forest Health Projects, and continued planning activities to scope forest health, fuels reduction, and rx fire treatments along Mail Ridge in Southern Humboldt and roadside fuels reduction treatments in Salmon Creek and Palo Verde area.

Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council / Mattole Restoration Council Report
Submitted by Ali Freedlund

1) Water Tank Project – Each Mattole watershed community will be receiving 3000-4500 gallon rainwater catchment tanks over the next few years: Whitethorn (4), Whale Gulch (6),
Ettersburg (4), Petrolia (9) and Honeydew (9). This project works with the volunteer fire departments and companies to be implemented. The project was funded through North Coast Resource Partnership as part of California’s Drought Relief Assistance.

2) Mattole Fire Atlas – We are in the process of updating the Mattole (watershed) Fire Atlas for use by first responders, principally in the communities of Whitethorn and Whale Gulch but continuing updates as needed in Ettersburg, Petrolia and Honeydew. We approached this project by hiring GIS analysts and community liaisons that were part of the respective volunteer fire response community. Atlas and Tank meetings were held in Whale Gulch and Ettersburg last fall. We plan to have an atlas/tank/roadside meeting in Whitethorn this spring. This project was partially funded through North Coast Resource Partnership as part of California’s Drought Relief Assistance. Locations of all new tanks, for example, will be incorporated in the Atlas. The atlas idea, however, is catching on for use in other remote areas and we are working to standardize the icons and information so there is compatibility across the world of first response and Incident Command.

3) Redway Project – MRC contracted with Humboldt County RCD to work on the Redway Fuel Break project, a CAL FIRE project. The MRC Fire and Fuels crew has been on it the past 3 weeks and are finishing up possibly this week.

4) Salmon Creek/Petrolia project – CAL FIRE awarded this forest health project to Humboldt County RCD. MRC contracted the crew work which began last fall in Salmon Creek. Last fall a new crew was hired and trained. The crew has been working on fine-tuning the treatments after the landowner of Chapman Ranch had masticated. This is more unusual for our crew as the material is all young and thick regrowth from the Canoe Fire (2003). The Petrolia part of the project should start this summer on Humboldt Redwood Company land and continue from there to private lands once CEQA is met.

5) MRC crew will be working on Briceland-Thorn Road on a roadside fuel reduction project, hopefully this spring. Our challenges have been that we avoid work within 100’ of a stream and do not wish to work in areas that PGE might return to do line clearing. Otherwise, we are in the process with Sanctuary Forest in doing outreach and getting landowner permission.

6) On a completely new subject not related to LMFSC – Damian Roomets was hired by TREES Foundation to take the position previously held by Mitchell Danforth, that of Southern Humboldt/Northern Mendocino Fire Resources Coordinator, so I am sure you all will be hearing from him at some point.

If anyone has any questions, please email me: ali@mattole.org

Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council / Mid Klamath Watershed Council Report
Submitted by Nancy Bailey

Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council and the Mid Klamath Watershed Council have been engaged in a CWPP update process. We’ve been hosting neighborhood and community meetings for gathering critical input from the landowners and residents in the area. Over seventy community members have been engaged through a total of five different meetings. By gathering in small neighborhood-based groups around appropriately scaled maps, participants were able to focus on specifics of fire risks, water systems, and project priorities. These discussions have yielded important material for the updated CWPP.
Planning is underway for springtime Defensible Space projects and larger fuels treatments involving brushing and burning on private land. CAL FIRE is awarding substantial funds through several grants to MKWC and the Karuk Tribe for this important work.

With increased Federal funding coming through the new Infrastructure bill, we are looking forward to doing roadside treatments on public (FS) land near private properties. This will be a first. Some areas have current NEPA but others will have to wait for the (lengthy and expensive) environmental compliance process to be complete.

We have just acquired a new dual-feed 18” Morbark chipper which will enable us to expedite cleanup of vegetative material when burning is not appropriate as well as to upgrade and expand our chipping program to offer more regular chipping services both in Orleans and Happy Camp.

Will Harling is in Portugal burning with our Spanish partners who have been to the Klamath TREX multiple times. The knowledge exchange that happens with these shared prescribed fire experiences in different vegetation types and different fire cultures has been shown to be of great value for everyone involved.

**Public Works / County Coordination Team Report**

**HCFSC County Coordination Team (CCT) Activities**

Local Fire Mitigation Group Coordination & Support
- Identified the California Fire Safe Council (FSC) Capacity Building Grant as an opportunity for newly developing neighborhood fire safe councils to get a boost with the help of funding. After outreach efforts by the CCT, the Ettersburg Fire Safe Council decided to apply with the intention of using this opportunity to conduct a model strategic planning process that would result in a regional vision, and guiding document templates that could be used by other FSC’s in the area. The development of two “shovel ready” fuel reduction projects in the Ettersburg area was also included in the proposal to ensure real life accomplishments are obtained. Through the coordination efforts of the CCT and the Southern Humboldt FSC, the grant application was organized utilizing partnerships between the Ettersburg Fire Safe Council, the Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District and the Mattole Restoration Council, with the latter being the fiscal sponsor. The proposed project design and implementation team includes Kerry Reynolds from the Trees Foundation; Kathy Weber, member of the Humboldt and Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Councils; and Tanner Speas, member of the CCT, Ettersburg Fire Safe Council and Assistant Chief of Telegraph Ridge Fire. With this vision and collaboration, the submitted application was approved, resulting in a $20,000 injection that will enable professional time and energy to focus directly on local FSC capacity building in Humboldt County. This is likely to achieve beneficial outcomes from the hyper local, to the county, and potentially to the regional level.
- Assistance with database development and meeting facilitation for Garberville, Benbow and Redway wildfire mitigation groups.
- Assistance with the completion of a successful Firewise Community recognition application including a community assessment and action plan for the community of Garberville.
- Significant improvements made through the use of Airtable as a platform for tracking the various wildfire mitigation groups in Humboldt County.
Outreach & Education (Tool Development)

- Developed a “Find a Contractor Tool”; a new tool available on the HCFSC website to help connect residents with vegetation management services and encourage contractors to add themselves to outreach lists for future requests for proposals/qualifications.
- Firewise community investment tracking tools:
  - Online questionnaire that easily collects Volunteer Investments.
  - Populates into the tracking spreadsheet.
  - These are being beta-tested by 4 Firewise communities.
  - Once the details are ironed out, it will be offered to all 13 of the Humboldt Firewise communities, along with another maintenance guidance.
- Roadside Fuels Reduction Manual - in development to assist local orgs and for-profit entities successfully plan and execute roadside fuels reduction.
- Prescribed Burn Manual - provided some support to Kai Ostrow, who is spearheading the development of this manual resource.
- Development of public outreach eblast announcing the recognition of Garberville as a Firewise Community including links to fire safety resources.

CWPP Implementation & Tracking

- Established a cloud-based database of the countywide CWPP’s six action plans to facilitate better tracking of accomplishments. Means of sharing and soliciting contributions to the database still in development.

HCFSC Organizational Coordination & Support

- Preparation for the February 2023 FSC meeting, including agenda prep in coordination with the Chair and Vice-Chair; design, distribution and response compilation of a HCFSC member survey; research related to the Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the origins and purpose of the HCFSC, a Committee of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (BOS).
- Cross training of CCT members for continuity of support for the HCFSC.
- Development of public outreach eblast announcing meeting details.
- Coordinated membership management with the Clerk of the Humboldt County BOS.

Humboldt County Public Works Staff Activities:

- Workshop series planning is underway, with some support from the CCT:
  - Four meetings planned for the coming Spring.
    ■ So Hum (Garberville location): Saturday, April 15th
    ■ Shelter Cove: Saturday, (tentative) April 29th
    ■ Willow Creek: Saturday, May 20th
    ■ Lower Mattole: Thursday, May 25th
- Direct defensible space assistance and roadside fuels reduction in the Willow Creek Greater Area:
  - Work planning and outreach in partnership with the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (WCFSC) and their contract coordinator and the Willow Creek Community Services
District (WCCSD). A work location triage process is ongoing with over 60 landowners identified as a priority. Outreach has been conducted through local social media and a county interest form.

- A request for qualifications (RFQ) process is underway to develop a contractor pool to match with the list of priority property owners developed by the local WCFSC coordinator.
- A contract with the Trinity County Resource Conservation District has resulted in roadside fuels reduction and direct defensible space for approximately 12 properties within the Trinity County portion of the target area and work is ongoing. The RCD is collaborating with the Watershed Research and Training Center on where existing work from last year was completed to connect the dots along the roadways and then support more defensible space work.

- Direct defensible space assistance and roadside fuels reduction in So-Hum (including Salmon Creek)
  - Work planning and outreach conducted in partnership with the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) with support from local groups like the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council, Sanctuary Forest, the Greater Palo Verde FSC and Volunteer Fire Department, KMUD, and more.

- Launching a pilot chipper program in So-Hum for implementation Spring 2023; in partnership with the Trees Foundation and the Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District.

- The Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes (FLASH) cost share program is ongoing, although nearing capacity. Focus is pivoting to encouraging current participants to complete their projects.

- Prescribed burn planning and funding support for the contracted Southern Humboldt prescribed burn association liaison with the goal of producing eight burn plans.

- Fire services sustainability efforts
  - Continued work with the Humboldt County Chiefs’ Association, Board of Supervisors’ Fire Services Ad Hoc, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)/Planwest Partners and local fire departments on several fronts, including:
    - Resurrection of the 2021 Annual Report effort and gearing up to kick off the 2022 Annual Report process.
    - Continued planning support for the proposed Garberville Fire Protection District boundary expansion and new sustainable fire services tax measure and county tax exchange agreement.
    - Continued planning support for the proposed formation of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District and associated tax measure and tax exchange agreement.
    - Seeking sustainable fire services solutions for northern Humboldt Bay communities and providers.
    - Arcata Fire Protection District Annexation support.
    - Exploration of annexation as an option for the Kneeland Fire Protection District.
    - General technical support for the Willow Creek Fire Protection District.
    - The development of tools to support fire service recruitment and retention efforts and a fire related district/local government management guide.
North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program:

- Facilitated getting some support from the NCRP for the Good Fire workshop series.
- Outreach to ensure awareness of NCRP Request for Proposals for Technical Assistance for Project Development opportunities as well as a Request for Qualifications intended to grow a consultant pool of qualified technical assistance providers.

Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council Report
Submitted by Kathy Weber

SHFSC is active in the Measure U campaign (Garberville’s fire district annexation/expansion) through letters of support and donated graphic design services. The election is on March 7.

SHFSC is helping in the production of a HCFSC educational event for the public scheduled for April 15. Although many details still need to be worked out, this is expected to be an opportunity for both the SHFSC and the smaller neighborhood fire safe councils/groups and Firewise communities to network, and to showcase their achievements and potential.

SHFSC began designing the very ambitious Mail Ridge fuelbreak project in December 2021. This 54 mile long, mostly ridge top, fuelbreak will incorporate prescribed burning in addition to mechanical and hand treatments. Nearly 100 landowners are involved, along with Humboldt Redwood Company and Humboldt Redwoods State Park. For feasibility and grant funding, the project has been broken down into divisions. The central section, encompassing the township of New Harris on Bell Springs Road, is the area that will most likely to be implemented first. This community's support has been fantastic.

Ettersburg FSC has been awarded a capacity building grant from CFSC, thanks to the work of Tanner Speas, Cybelle and Julia. Not only will this grant help establish the very new EFSC (c.2022); it will create a template for the development and organization of other neighborhood fire safe councils/groups.

The Upper Mattole Fireshed Alliance met officially for the first time on February 13. This is a collaboration of the fire safe councils, fire departments/companies, and fire protection districts in the Whale Gulch, Whitethorn and Ettersburg communities. SHFSC, Sanctuary Forest, Inc. and Mattole Restoration Council are also part of this coalition and it is expected to add others in the near future. The purpose of this alliance is to share knowledge and resources collaboratively, and to think and act as a “Fireshed” in regional approaches to emergency preparedness and fuel hazard reduction.

Trees Foundation has hired a new Fire Resource Coordinator: Damien Roomets, a Briceland VFD member with extensive experience in defensible space, home hardening and prescribed fire. Much appreciation to Mitchell Danforth for filling this position in its first year.

There is a lot of interest in the SoHum community with respect to cultural fire. Trees Foundation, along with Native Health in Native Hands, is hosting another “N-Shong Konk’ Cultural Fire Education Day”. This free-to-the-public event will be held on Saturday February 18, noon-6:30pm at the Mateel Community Center. For more info: foresthealth@treesfoundation.org.

Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
Submitted by Regina Moon

As council members we meet for budget meetings, board meetings, admin deadline filing etc. Council members also donate their time shopping as needed for office equipment and for other fundraising events. We provide a rep for HCFSC, TCFSC and WC Chamber of Commerce & WCCSD.
Recent efforts have focused on continuing to build crew capacity and developing our WCFSC office workspace to accommodate past, existing, active or new grant opportunities and agreements. This space also provides our "Storm Recovery" coordinator Geoffrey, a warm, safe space w/ Wi-Fi. as needed. Social media and website development is ongoing. Council members have assisted coordinator with contacting landowners and community resources to facilitate defensible space work. We recently hung a banner in the community promoting defensible space!

A contract is in the works for the use of the chipper with WCCSD to provide Fuels Reduction in our service area.

Our WCFSC CWPP is outdated "2011" and is eligible for CWDG planning portion of grant. We have Jim Cotton looking into the google doc version for updates.

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**Yurok Fire Report**

Submitted by Rod Mendes

Yurok Fire has been working on completion of environmental documents so we can start work on our Weitchpec Fire Protection Strategy that was funded by Cal Fire. We are also in the beginning stages of developing our Spatial Fire Management Plan, and working on funding for our own specific CWPP. We are also preparing to start the spring TREX in partnership with the Cultural Fire Management Council.
CWPP Update Survey Summary

A total of 16 survey responses were received from members of the HCFSC and County Coordination Team (responses requested from 45 total). While this is not a large enough sample size to draw big conclusions, a few patterns emerged...

- Overall, respondents reported receiving at least some value from their interaction with the CWPP and have referenced it at least a few times. Several reported having referenced it countless times – is our data biased? Maybe…
- The top two responses for why these respondents referenced the CWPP are related to project development. Close behind in third place is seeking general info about a community or the county as a whole.
- Respondents' use of the plan tracked somewhat with the importance they placed on project development. 75% of respondents thought the MOST or SECOND MOST important reason for having a CWPP is to identify priority projects or actions to pursue.
- Communicating a shared vision and countywide plan of action was fairly important to all participants. No one ranked it less than 5th (on a scale from 1-8).
- Relatively little importance was placed on understanding regulations and compliance related to wildfire; and helping prepare Firewise plans and local CWPPs.
- Unsurprisingly, the Countywide Action Plans were the most referenced part of the CWPP, especially the Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan.
- The Southern Humboldt Planning Unit Action Plan stands apart from the other Unit Action Plans in being referenced frequently. So Hum and runners up: Mattole, Avenue of the Giants, and Willow Creek correspond to areas of high levels of engagement in community wildfire preparedness.
- The CWPP was praised for its comprehensiveness and utility as a reference, especially for grant writing.
- Many respondents feel that the CWPP could be improved by enhancing project prioritization.

Were you involved in the development of the last CWPP update?

16 responses

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How many times have you referenced the CWPP since its certification in January 2019?

16 responses

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<td>25%</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
<td>31.25%</td>
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How valuable has the current version of the CWPP been to your work to date?

16 responses

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<th></th>
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<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
<td>31.25%</td>
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What were YOUR reasons for referencing the CWPP? (Select all that apply)

16 responses

- To better understand an aspect... 10 (62.5%)
- To better understand regulation... 8 (50%)
- To identify a priority project or a... 11 (68.8%)
- To leverage grant funds for pro... 13 (81.3%)
- To help prepare a Firewise Acti... 5 (31.3%)
  - To help update a local CWPP 7 (43.8%)
- To understand the shared visio... 9 (56.3%)
- To educate and/or catalyze the... 8 (50%)
- To build collaborative partnersh... 9 (56.3%)
- No particular reason, just explo... 1 (6.3%)
- I have not referenced the CWPP 0 (0%)
Why do YOU think it is important for the county to have a CWPP? (Rank the reasons in order of importance to you)

1. To better understand an aspect of a community or the county as a whole (demographics, risks, assets, history, etc.)
2. To better understand regulations and compliance related to wildfire
3. To identify priority projects or actions to pursue
4. To help prepare Firewise Action Plans
5. To help update local CWPPs
6. To communicate a shared vision for wildfire preparedness and countywide plan of action
7. To build collaborative partnerships
8. To leverage grant funds for proposed projects
What sections of the CWPP have you used the most? (Select all that apply)

16 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 1: Background and Introduction</td>
<td>8 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2: Risk Assessment Strategies</td>
<td>10 (62.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Wildfire Ignition Prevention</td>
<td>-5 (31.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Wildfire Preparedness</td>
<td>-4 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Disaster Preparedness</td>
<td>-8 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Fire Protection County</td>
<td>-8 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 Restoration of Beneficiaries</td>
<td>-7 (43.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6 Integrated Planning Committees</td>
<td>-3 (18.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Redwood Park Planning</td>
<td>-1 (6.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Upper Yurok Reservation</td>
<td>-1 (6.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Mid-Klamath Planning</td>
<td>-1 (6.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Hoopa Unit Planning</td>
<td>-1 (6.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Trinidad Planning Unit</td>
<td>-2 (12.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6 Redwood Creek Planning</td>
<td>-1 (6.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7 Willow Creek Area Planning</td>
<td>-4 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8 Humboldt Bay Area Planning</td>
<td>-3 (18.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9 Kneeland Maple Creek Planning</td>
<td>-1 (6.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.10 Eel Planning Unit Activities</td>
<td>-1 (6.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.11 Mad Van Duzen Planning</td>
<td>-2 (12.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.12 Mattole Lost Coast Planning</td>
<td>-5 (31.3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.13 Southern Humboldt Planning</td>
<td>-5 (31.3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.14 Avenue of the Giants</td>
<td>-4 (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 6: Appendices</td>
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<td>CWPP WebGIS Database</td>
<td>-5 (31.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What does the CWPP Do Well? (Emphasis added)

- Is available so people can reference when applying for grants
- Gathers the County together to focus on necessary steps for wildfire preparedness.
- The Current CWPP is very thorough and comprehensive.
- Provides comprehensive background information and plentiful ideas of how to enhance wildfire preparedness
  - Including EVERTHING, which is helpful for grant writing. The WebGIS database is fantastic for a quick view of projects as well and to orient to new communities, scope potential projects, etc.
- Set priorities for the county
- It's been a helpful reference for grant writing and as an action guide for the HCFSC. I think the unit action plans have potential to help guide the actions of local FSCs and other groups if they are used.
- The section on Values and Assets at Risk has good background information. Clear metrics and specific action items
- It is a living document that will grow and change to meet the challenges of Wildfire Prevention/Public Safety.
- I feel it provides a shared vision for the entire county. It is a great base to build out the local units priorities.
- Comprehensive and inclusive
- Continuity of community knowledge, activities and goals
- Comprehensive plan for reducing the risk of wildfire and maintain healthier forests
- I was impressed with the “trickle-up” nature of the data collection for the CWPP Update process, with decreasing levels of “officialness” (increasing accessibility) of the smaller level neighborhood groups.
- I think it generates collaboration, and a better understanding of the whole community concept. How we are all affected and integrated when it comes to wildfire and brings us to the table.
- Gives a foundation to build off of. Allows for planning and implementation on a county wide level.
What aspect(s) of the CWPP need the most improvement? (Emphasis added)

• More adaption to local goals and objectives
• The prioritization of projects and a chapter on Large Landscape Projects
• More development on the tracking of accomplishments and funding opportunities to ensure that the action plans are implemented.
• progress tracking, project prioritization or strategic plan for implementation; integrated mapping - into risk analysis and ongoing project mapping
• Not sure, I need to explore more CWPPs to think this through,
• refined priorities of the role private landowners play as a strategic partner
• Risk Assessment needs to be designed better to support prioritization / Prioritization method needs to be modernized / Countywide action plans have more in them than we could ever complete in 5 years - need to figure out a way to be more realistic yet not paint ourselves into a corner with specific things to be done (maybe more goal oriented?). Needs to be adaptive to respond to changing circumstances.
• Not enough caffeine yet this morning to answer this one.
• It is likely time to update local unit goals
• Could be condensed and streamlined
• Guidance for gauging the priority of projects
• The CWPP is fine. Of course it needs to be updated to reflect changes in legislation and other factors.
• The actual Plan is excellent; comprehensive & accessible. I think that some kind of funded support for the collection and prioritization of projects would help a lot. Someone tasked with supporting the process, and also some stipends for key community members (fire chiefs, restorationists, etc.) to support it.
• our specific action unit needs to be updated. I think this is a great product.
• More in-depth planning on the individual planning unit areas. Focus on specific projects for each planning unit which is required for many larger wildfire grant applications.
AB 2449, SHORT SUMMARY

Currently, any Board of Supervisors created Committee, Commission or Board must comply with the same set of Brown Act requirements to which the Board of Supervisors is bound. The County is currently operating meeting under AB 361 which allows for remote participation from voting members of committees, commissions, and boards. The Governor’s declaration of emergency which has allowed for meetings under AB361 is set to expire on February 28, 2023. Remote participation will then be governed by AB2449. Your committee, commission, or board will need to comply with AB 2449 beginning March 1st. In order to assist this transition, we have created the following. Please review the summary below.

Voting members of any committee, commission or board must meet in person in an open meeting. You may allow public comment or participation from remote locations, but the voting members must be in person. There are a few exceptions as spelled out below:

Per AB 2449, when other criteria (i.e. state of emergency) do not apply, there must be just cause or emergency circumstances for the member to participate remotely. There must also be a quorum in person for the meeting to take place. The following must be applied:

Just Cause:
- Can only be used two times per calendar year.
- Member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances related to their need to appear remotely. (No action of legislative body needed.)
- “Just cause” means any of the following:
  (A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. “Child,” “parent,” “grandparent,” “grandchild,” and “sibling” have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.
  (B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.
  (C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (g).
  (D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

Emergency Circumstances:
- “Emergency circumstances” means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.
- Member must provide a general description regarding the need to appear remotely.
  - This description does not need to exceed 20 words, no medical diagnosis, disability, or personal medical info exempt under the law required to be disclosed.
- Member makes request as soon as possible. Member must make a separate request for each meeting they intend to appear remotely.
• The legislative body must take action at the earliest opportunity to approve the request (agendize if possible, vote to approve. If no time to agendize, take action at the beginning of the meeting per GC 54954.2).

A member may participate remotely for just cause or for an emergency (combined) only for three consecutive months, or for 20 percent of regular meetings in a calendar year.

In both circumstances, the member must publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member’s relationship with any such individuals.

Member must participate via AUDIO and VISUAL technology (i.e. camera must be on).

A roll call vote will be required for all items when any member is participating remotely.

Each committee, commission, and board must create a spreadsheet to track the attendance for each meeting so that it can capture absences and remote participation for just cause or due to an emergency. Each committee, commission, and board must ensure that the absences allowed per AB2449 are not exceeded, and that the requirements in AB2449 for remote appearances are met. These spreadsheets will be collected by the Clerk of the Boards office at the end of the calendar year. If you need assistance in creating this, please let me know.

If your meeting location does not allow for a remote connection to accommodate the public, it would be helpful to state such on the posted agenda by stating IN PERSON PARTICIPATION ONLY.

Please let me know if you have concerns or questions.

Tracy Damico
Deputy Clerk of the Board
tdamico@co.humboldt.ca.us
707-476-2390
N-Shong Konk
“Good Fire”
Saturday, Feb 18 • Noon to 6:30pm
Mateel Community Center • Free

Speakers
Kathy McCovey, Essentials of Cultural Fire
Diana Totten, Bringing Cultural Fire back to Southern Humboldt
Brian Dykstra, Ecology of Cultural Fire

Also
Round Valley Feather Dancers
and Unangax People from Alaska’s Aleutian Islands

Snacks and Dinner available by donation

Thank You to Our Contributing Partners

For more info: 530/382-5840 or foresthealth@treesfoundation.org