



HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Supported by

Public Works, Natural Resources Planning

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

1106 Second Street, Eureka, CA 95501



Meeting Summary

Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting – February 17, 2022

A [Humboldt County Fire Safe Council \(HCFSC\)](#) meeting was held on February 17, 2022 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, Supervisorial District 1 Appointee, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council/Mattole Restoration Council

Bill Eastwood, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Ed Laidlaw, Supervisorial District 3 Appointee, Arcata Fire Protection District

Jill Demers, Humboldt County RCD

Justin McDonald, Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association

Lenya Quinn-Davidson, UC Cooperative Extension, Humboldt-Del Norte UCCE

Lyn Javier, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Mad River-Van Duzen Fire Safe Council

Mike Miles, Humboldt Redwood Company

Nick Pape, Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association, Shelter Cove Fire Department

Rod Mendes, Tribal Representative, Yurok Tribe/Yurok Fire Department

Ryan Derby, Office of Emergency Services, Humboldt County Sheriff's OES

Fire Safe Council Alternates Attending:

Brita Goldstein, Green Diamond Resource Company

Dale Unea, Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association

Jason Butcher, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Jeff Stackhouse, Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association

Jennifer Renner, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Basho Parks, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council

Yana Valachovic, UC Cooperative Extension, Humboldt-Del Norte UCCE

Non-Voting Agency Liaisons Attending:

Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Public Works Director Designee

Ben Hendricks, Six Rivers National Forest, alternate

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

Amos Pole, Yurok OES & Hoopa VFD

Claire McAdams, CA Forest Landowners Association

Debra Harris, North Coast Air Quality Management District

Emily Stokes, Blue Lake Rancheria Office of Emergency Services

Gail Eastwood, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Heather Burke, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Josh Eichamer, Six Rivers National Forest

Julia Cavalli, Humboldt County Public Works / HCFSC Support

Kate McCay, Bridgeville

Kathy Weber, Crooked Prairie & Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Kerry Reynolds, Trees Foundation & Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Mitchell Danforth, Trees Foundation

Rachel Ostrander, California Fire Safe Council Fellow

Serene White, Hoopa Office of Emergency Services

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Meeting Summary Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting – February 17, 2022

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

HCFSC Chairperson, Lenya Quinn-Davidson called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

This meeting's recording will be [available online](#) until it is replaced by the May meeting recording. [Due to a technical error, a recording of this meeting is only available for Items 1-5 and part of Item 6].

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:** Ryan Derby motioned to approve the November HCFSC meeting minutes. Ali Freedlund seconded the motion. **Vote:** None opposed.

3. Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

- Lyn Javier will be hosting a biochar workshop on her property in Bridgeville alongside biochar expert, Kelpie Wilson on April 23rd; in need of advice and wood! Please contact Lyn (or [Julia](#) for Lyn's contact info) if you have these resources or are interested in attending.

4. Consent Agenda

- **Action: Vote to approve Consent Agenda Items** (See meeting materials)

- **Motion:** Ali Freedlund motioned to approve, and Jason Butcher seconded the motion. **Vote:** None opposed.

5. HCFSC Membership

- New members listed on the agenda were welcomed.
- In addition, Serene White is being nominated by Hoopa as Greg Moon's alternate after returning to her position as OES Coordinator for Hoopa. Staff will take this to the board to make it official.
- Ben Hendricks also announced that David Soldavini has retired, and he intends to become the primary member and will work to identify an alternate.
- Members were also reminded to complete their 700 forms before the April deadline. See Cybelle's email or contact the Clerk of the Board with any questions.

6. County Coordination Team Update

A. Team Development and Work Plan Initiation

- a. Julia provided a refresher on the County Coordinator grant program being piloted by the CA Fire Safe Council. Humboldt has been selected as one of 24 counties to model an approach to countywide collaboration and coordination of wildfire mitigation groups. Humboldt has elected to develop a Team approach that will include Julia, Cybelle, and one or more contracted coordinators. An ad hoc committee was formed at the November meeting to develop an RFP and evaluate the proposals received. The County is at the tail end of this process and is preparing to make a final selection that will be communicated to the HFSC via email very soon.
- b. Julia also provided an overview of the Team's multi-faceted scope of work, including:

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- i. HCFSC Organizational Coordination & Support
 - ii. Local Fire Mitigation Group Coordination & Support
 - iii. Interorganizational Coordination & Collaboration
 - iv. CWPP Implementation & Tracking
 - v. Outreach & Education
- c. Julia and Cybelle provided a few examples of how this funding has already been used, including: planning and facilitating this meeting; developing grant proposals with local partners; outreach to stakeholders about grant opportunities and topics of interest related to wildfire preparedness; outreach to existing Firewise Community groups as well as partial support for coordination with emerging groups; and more.
 - d. One important goal that was highlighted is the intention to reinvigorate the CWPP Work Groups initially developed as part of the CWPP update process (see Item 7 below).

Zoom recording ends due to technical error

B. Fire Risk Reduction Communities List

- a. Julia provided an updated on the County's intention to apply to be included on the Board of Forestry's new Fire Risk Reduction Communities List of local agencies. A preliminary review of the application seems to indicate the County will not meet enough of the criteria to be included on the list, this round. The primary consequence at this time will be a slight reduction in competitiveness of County applications to the CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grants Program against other local (publicly-funded) agencies that are on the list.
- b. The application process will provide additional incentive to complete the Safety Element of the General Plan and other requirements necessary to meet "best practices for local fire planning" as identified by the Board of Forestry.

7. Updates: Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Implementation/Maintenance and Associated Partner Activities

Work Group Membership

- Review purpose of CWPP Work Groups
 - As was alluded to earlier, the County intends to facilitate the reinvigoration of the CWPP work groups to serve as brain trusts for their corresponding CWPP Action Plan and increase cross-pollination through special presentations at each HCFSC meeting on a rotating basis.
 - The last Work Group list (from 2020) was screen shared and all in attendance who wish to get involved in any one group were encouraged to reach out to Cybelle or Julia before the next meeting. The Coordination Team may also reach out and encourage individuals with specific expertise to get involved. The Work Groups are led by HCFSC members but can include others not on the Council.
 - FYI – Four hard copies of the CWPP are available for new members who might want one. Let Cybelle know if interested. Hard copies of the Planning Unit Action Plans are also available though some have evolved, but many have not. They are also designed so that when updates are made pages can be swapped out.

Implementation Updates

A. [Restoration of Beneficial Fire](#)

- a. Project / Activity updates
 - i. Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association (PBA)
 - I. Jeff reports that there is so much happening around the county, it's hard to keep up with, in no small part due to the great burn window we are experiencing. There is a lot

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of landowner interest. The PBA has coordinated at least 8 burns in the Bridgeville/Dinsmore area—Jeff is primarily involved in ranch burning as the UCCE Rangeland Advisor.

2. Kai is out burning today and has been very busy building the Southern Humboldt Chapter of the PBA. Jeff knows of at least 7 burns. In Petrolia/Honeydew, a recent test burn showed promising fuel effects.
 3. Stansbury Ranch burn is planned for Saturday: 900 acres. Save the Redwoods League is the lead, with support from Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) as part of a Forest Health project.
 4. Deb (NCUAQMD) reports 1,400 acres burned so far in February!
- ii. Lower Trinity River PBA
1. Humboldt Area Foundation recently granted \$35,000 to the Lower Trinity River PBA to help build organizational capacity. They will be moving into the Hansens Logging building in Willow Creek.
 2. The Lower Trinity Valley PBA is working with Deb on Smoke Management Plans (SMPs) for Brannon Mountain and South Fork Road neighborhoods—climbing the learning curve, looking to finalize this week. Several landowners have been burning their own lands with great success locally as well.
- iii. Tribal Prescribed/Cultural Burn Program Updates
1. Rod reports that the Yurok TREX event burned 80 acres. Unexpected fire behavior due to unique weather conditions for this time of year. Yurok Fire is developing a Strategic Fuels Management Plan with the Cultural Fire Management Council (CFMC) and is working on a few hazardous fuels reduction projects. Moved into new facility. Working with CFMC to help them buy their own engine. Moving fast and furiously. Amos Pole, new OES Coordinator and Volunteer Fire Chief for Hoopa has been a great addition and partner.
 2. Lenya reports that the State Insurance Commissioner came out and visited the Yurok TREX event, sparking interest from Commissioners in other western states and an event is being contemplated to host them all at a future prescribed burn.
- iv. CAL FIRE VMP/USFS Burn Programs
1. CAL FIRE: Recently burned ~100 acres, oak woodland understory, though CAL FIRE's main focus has been on supporting private burners with equipment and being on the scene to support.
 2. Six Rivers: ~400 acres piles/understory burned recently. Reengaging forest-wide Environmental Assessment process that would provide programmatic compliance and guidelines for a range of fuels reduction activities, including burning. There will be a more official rollout and the HCFSC will be included in outreach. Ben also participated in the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) PODs workshop in Del Norte and is looking forward to the Humboldt PODs workshop at the Ag Center on March 1st.
- v. Landscape-scale projects (Forest Health, other)
1. The Humboldt RCD is continuing to work with the Yurok Tribe to implement a Forest Health project in Pecwan and is staying very busy with grant writing. Proposals in development include the Elk Ridge/Salmon Creek fuel break and working with the MRC on a proposal for a fuel break in the Mattole.
 2. Reminder that the NCRP has an open solicitation for [Technical Assistance](#), including project development.

B. [Wildfire Preparedness](#)

a. Lower Mattole FSC Update

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- i. Partnerships have massively boosted capacity across the county; for example, between MRC and PBA, and HCRCD.
 - ii. Completed last defensible space project last week as part of the County CWPP Ph II project and another 3-5 acres were treated with Save the Redwoods League in preparation for the Stansbury Ranch burn.
 - iii. Ryan Derby presented on Zonehaven to the Lower Mattole FSC in January. Great turnout and participation. Nexus with NEST and Humboldt Alert – learned that it's another layer to support evacuation planning. Encouraged other groups to invite Ryan to present.
- b. Southern Humboldt FSC Update
- i. Excited that Garberville is finally coalescing around planning and pursuing recognition as a Firewise community. There is a Firewise group meeting bi-monthly. Trees Foundation's new Fire Resources Coordinator, Mitchell has been helping to shepherd that process. Benbow and Salmon Creek are also seeking Firewise recognition with support from the County.
 - ii. Continuing work on planning Mail Ridge fuel break (added to CWPP database today). Coordinating with northern Mendocino (Laytonville) on potential collaboration on Bell Springs Road.
 - iii. RCD assisting SHFSC with an app for Technical Assistance from NCRP for project planning.
 - iv. Setting up a meeting with Ryan Derby – looking forward to identifying means of correcting some issues with the existing Zonehaven maps for Southern Humboldt, particularly road names/locations.
 - v. Various SHFSC members participating in the Southern Humboldt PBA – Kai hosted an understory burn on his land. After a lot of prep work, they were able to complete 20 acres.
 - vi. Southern Humboldt Forest Health Collaborative is just getting started and drawing interest from a variety of agencies.
- c. Van Duzen Watershed FSC Update
- i. Lyn will be hosting a biochar workshop on April 23rd (see Announcements).
 - ii. Working on home hardening and oak woodland restoration on her land. Will be hosting the workshop where all are welcome to view the progress.
 - iii. COVID has been challenging but Lyn is continuing to lead CERT, pursue grant funding, and is looking forward to getting involved in the CWPP Work Groups.
- d. Orleans-Somes Bar FSC Update
- i. In Will and Nancy's absence, Cybelle gave a brief update on MKWC's work on the Phase II project, including planning for fuels reduction along Ishi Pishi Road.
- e. Willow Creek FSC Update
- i. Recent conversations have centered around a Direct Award from CAL FIRE that will be administered by the County with potential coordination by Willow Creek FSC to help address the emergency fuel hazard situation resulting from winter storms.
 - ii. Considering developing a paid coordinator position to help build capacity and acquire more funding.
- f. Hoopa FSC Update
- i. Actively recruiting new members and engaging their core group.
 - ii. Hazardous fuels reduction project planning, looking at updating their CWPP, developing proposals for funding.
 - iii. Will be beginning prescribed burns and pushing out videos/interviews for educational purposes.
 - iv. Fire Department working closely with the FSC; just purchased new equipment that will support FSC projects.
- g. County Project Updates
- i. CWPP Implementation Phase V application to Fire Prevention Program (submitted)

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1. Collaborative application with Shelter Cove RID and Trees Foundation as implementation partners and coordinating with the So-Hum FSC and emerging Firewise Community groups in Benbow and Salmon Creek. The proposal includes chipping and defensible space assistance.
- ii. Direct funding application
 1. Coordinating scope and budget development with the WCFSC, Trinity RCD – County Roads (both Trinity and Humboldt); Supervisor Madrone has been involved and helpful.
 2. Looking to leverage this opportunity to build capacity of WCFSC.
- iii. CWPP Implementation Phase II
 1. Project extended and will be rescoping soon.
 2. Firewise efforts in Salmon Creek and Benbow hitting the ground running with help of new Firewise Coordinator, Tanner.
 3. Bald Hills Road roadside clearance as well as chipping in Willow Creek and Kneeland (and defensible space in Kneeland) completed since last meeting.
 4. MKWC and MRC – Finished chipper days and defensible space and are working on last bit of roadside fuels reduction.
- iv. CWPP Implementation Phase III (FLASH rebate program)
 1. Multiple funding sources feeding into the program; working on adding scope and budget to some of the existing FLASH Tech contracts.
 2. Working with FLASH Techs and past data to determine the need to update the reimbursements rates.
- v. CWPP Implementation Phase IV
 1. In the process of executing contracts with HRCD, MRC, WCCSD, and CCC
 2. Working with Six Rivers NF on the details of federally funded work under the Good Neighbor agreement (next steps pending road segment confirmation).
 3. RFP going out soon for roadside work in Shelter Cove (working closely with County Roads and the RID).
 4. Working on kicking off the associated work – there is some coordination needed with partners who committed in-kind support to help ID work sites and then contractors will be off and running.
- vi. Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) Update
 1. HRC sent several foresters to a PBA burn where they learned a lot that can be applied to potential HRC burns in the future. They are developing a Forest Health project with MRC around Petrolia and are looking forward to that new partnership and hopefully getting funded. HRC is also developing a fuels reduction project along the HWY 101 corridor (Shively/Redcrest area) – may not be ready for this Forest Health round. Connor Kennedy is leading this and may be reaching out to FSC members.
- vii. Green Diamond Update
 1. Green Diamond is working with McKinleyville CSD to allocate land for the McKinleyville Community Forest; they are planning to apply to the Fire Prevention grants program for a fuel break in the community forest (conceptual phase). An informational/town hall meeting will be held on the topic of the Community Forest on February 26th. They are also considering a Forest Health application for Williams Ridge and are looking forward to collaboration with local groups.
- viii. Humboldt RCD Update
 1. Humboldt RCD has been working with CAL FIRE on environmental compliance and will be breaking ground on the Redway fuel break soon. The RCD has also been invited to apply for a direct award from CAL FIRE and is in the process of scoping. They are also

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supporting the SHFSC with an app for technical assistance from the NCRP for help with Mail Ridge. Furiously writing grants and there are more opportunities on the horizon!

C. [Integrated Planning](#)

- a. Fire Safe Regulation update
 - i. Yana provided an update on the Board of Forestry's Fire Safe Regulations which relate to planning, zoning, development (including water, signage, and road specs) and affect anyone subdividing parcels, building a new home, or rebuilding post wildfire. Not a lot of progress has been made since the BOF's last draft. John Miller has been doing a lot of work to understand it. Unclear how it will be applied. Will constrain new development if it continues down the path it's going down currently. May end up in litigation. Yana will keep us updated.
- b. Streamside Management Area ordinance updates
 - i. There was some confusion about the application of this county ordinance to fuels reduction. There was some indication that the Planning Director intended to issue clarification but there has been no word yet. John Miller may know more.
- c. Countywide CWPP update planning
 - i. The County has been including planning funds in recent proposals; thank you to other local groups who have been doing the same to help queue up future implementation projects.
 - ii. Will need to apply for additional funds for a full update of the 2019 countywide CWPP which has a five-year planning horizon.
 - iii. It's time to start thinking about and securing funding for a more comprehensive update and how to align with other local CWPPs.

D. [Wildfire Ignition Prevention](#)

- a. Last meeting there were major concerns around PG&E's approach to vegetation management throughout the county. Cybelle communicated these concerns to Supervisors Madrone and Bushnell (members of Fire Services ad hoc committee) and learned that they have met with PG&E. Supervisor Madrone would be receptive to sponsoring a motion if asked. If this is pursued, it will be important to refine what the ask is. It was shared that the Board members are aware of the issues and are working different angles to resolve. Nancy Bailey in Orleans has been very proactive in organizing meetings with PG&E and hers is a good model to follow.
 - i. Ali thinks more communication is warranted around appropriate stream buffers between PG&E reps marking areas and contractors who implement the treatments.
 1. Cybelle did not speak with Supervisor Bohn and he would be good to reach out to regarding Mattole.
 2. Claire seconded the feeling that communications is lacking and out of area contractors unfamiliar with the landscape make matters worse.
 - ii. Cybelle will refresh PG&E contacts for any FSC members wanting to get in touch directly.
- b. CAL FIRE Defensible Space Inspectors (DSIs) are working the northern Humboldt area and one DSI is working in the Southern Humboldt area – Garberville, majority of Benbow and Shelter Cove complete. Jen also noted that anyone who requests a defensible space inspection will be a priority – [contact her](#) for DSI contact info.

E. [Fire Protection](#)

- a. Fire Services Committee Report
 - i. The committee's mission is to ensure every community is within the boundaries of a local fire service district, which is currently not the case. Their focus is currently on Garberville Fire Protection District—working on a large annexation proposal and shooting for 2023, pending a local vote. Salmon Creek meanwhile is working toward district formation. There will be a community meeting this Saturday (2/19) to discuss district formation, boundaries, etc. This will also be an opportunity to present on Salmon Creek Firewise efforts since many of the same individuals are involved in both efforts.

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- ii. Continuing to work with chiefs on other annexations, mergers, and other reorganizations as conditions align to make these changes possible.
- iii. Fire Chiefs are coordinating on Measure Z applications. Emphasis is on equipment: Southern Humboldt particularly interested in wildland equipment; also strategic caches of supplies throughout the county for easy access for any responding agency.
- iv. The Fire Chiefs' Association Annual Report 2021 effort preparing to launch.

F. [Disaster Preparedness](#)

- a. OES Report on disaster recovery in Willow Creek (provided by Ryan Derby)
 - i. On Dec. 26 a large winter storm resulted in substantial impacts to the eastern part of county, especially Willow Creek. OES response to emergency began Dec. 27 and has since evolved into long-term response, primarily debris and vegetation removal. Involvement of local FDs, Red Cross, PG&E, and others. Several million dollars' worth of electrical infrastructure was taken down by the storm as well as thousands of trees. [Shared photos from Bigfoot Subdivision showing alarming damage.]
 - ii. Red Cross opened a temporary shelter at Trinity Valley School and provided resources to families.
 - iii. OES is focused on continuing to aggregate damage reports (as follow up to the initial damage assessment submitted for state reimbursement – county and landowners) and disseminating public information. OES worked with Public Works and CAL FIRE to set up a curtain burner from Jan. 15 – Feb. 14 for public green waste disposal; there remains a significant need for future fuels reduction.
 - iv. OES is transitioning from emergency response to mitigation and protection. Part of the mitigation effort has included working with Public Works, Willow Creek FSC, Trinity County, and CAL FIRE to scope a Direct Award from CAL FIRE.
 - v. Moving forward, OES' emphasis will be on training (CERT, shelter training, Zonehaven) to build preparedness and resiliency within the community.
 - vi. Zonehaven – previous meetings discussed project timeline and launch (early December). Two platforms: Zonehaven Evac (public safety) and Zonehaven Aware (publicly accessible).
 - vii. Zonehaven Evac allows OES to create evacuation pre-plans for up to 99 zones, including info on jurisdictional responsibilities, traffic control, and potential routes. Boundaries are set for at least the 2022 season. Working on populating Zonehaven with additional details that can be drawn from to generate pre-plans.
 - viii. Meeting with local groups to present and answer questions. Met with the Lower Mattole FSC and will be going to Southern Humboldt in March to get local perspective on evacuation routes.
 - ix. Evac Pre Plans – reports on population size, # structures, responsible agencies. Working on populating critical evac facilities, potential traffic control points and roadblocks, routes, arrival points, and other special considerations. Goal is to give a lay of land for responding agencies, including those that may be coming out of the area. This is macro-level planning that will complement the micro-level planning accomplished by individuals and communities.
 - x. Zonehaven Aware – live now. Allows users to see where active evacuation warnings have been issued in real time. Good reason to know your zone. OES is looking forward to working with locals to refine zone descriptions, so they are recognizable to those living there.
 - xi. Ryan will be reaching out to individuals in this group to make this tool the best it can be and emphasized that these maps belong to all county residents, not just to OES.

8. **Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn**

- Next meeting will be May 19, 2022.
- Meeting location (zoom or in person) TBD depending on COVID precaution guidance and other considerations. Meeting adjourned.