

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 May 16, 2019

A Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) meeting was held on May 16, 2019 at the Fortuna Fire Hall, 320 S. Fortuna Boulevard, Fortuna. 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:

Barbara Darst, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
Bill Eastwood, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
Dorie Lanni, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services
Ed Laidlaw, Arcata Fire Protection District
Ian Sigman, Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company and Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council
Mike Lake, Fruitland Ridge Fire Department, Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association

Fire Safe Council Members/Appointed Agency Liaisons Absent:

Chris Ramey, CAL FIRE
Jean-Louis Carmona, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council
Kai Ostrow, Briceland Fire Department and Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue
Lon Winburn, Fortuna Fire Department
Manny Mello, George Petersen/Northwest Insurance
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)
Jennifer Renner, CAL FIRE

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

Aaron Merriman, Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department
Alison Talbott, PG&E
Allan Wiegman, California State Parks
Becky Price-Hall, City of Trinidad
Brita Rustad, Consulting Forester
Dan Kida, PG&E
David Markin, USDA Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest (nominated to be non-voting Federal Liaison)
Erin Reed, Humboldt State University Student
Lyn Javier, Bridgeville Community Center (nominated to be new member representing the Van Duzen Watershed FSC)
Rachel Capistrano, Bridgeville Fire Department
Richard Kieselhorst, Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department
Tim Bailey, Institute for Sustainable Forestry
Tom Mulder, Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department

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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 10:00.
Meeting attendees went through introductions.

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

Kai Ostrow motioned to approve the January FSC meeting minutes. Barbara Darst seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

Hard-copy CWPPs and Planning Unit Action Plans are available for Fire Safe Council members to take back to their communities. The full CWPP is always available online: humboldt.gov.org/FirePlanFinal

4. HCFSC Membership Review

Members discussed the process of adding and replacing members on the Council through the Board of Supervisors. The resolution establishing the HCFSC was handed out so that members could discuss edits to the "Appointment and Term of Members" section. Kai and Ali volunteered to be on the editing committee. Additional edits should be sent to Cybelle. Cybelle is waiting to receive a letter from each prospective member before proceeding to the Board.

Motion: Barbara Darst motioned to approve formation of a committee to develop the HCFSC formation resolution renewal. Dorie Lanni seconded the motioned. The motion was unanimously approved

5. 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.

Feature Presentation

- **Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group**
 - A grant from the CA FSC will help strengthen the partnership between the County and UC Cooperative Extension/Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association to increase the use of beneficial fire. (see Fire Protection section for grant discussion.) A feature presentation from this group was scheduled for the next meeting after the completion of the Prescribed Fire Liaison contractor selection process and Lenya's official appointment to the HCFSC.

- **Integrated Planning Work Group**
 - The CAL FIRE Humboldt – Del Norte Unit recently completed their Strategic Fire Plan update. The CWPP was reviewed during this process and integrated as appropriate. CWPP projects are incorporated by reference. Jen Renner provided an overview and passed around draft plans.
 - This group will meet before the next meeting to brainstorm ideas on how to share and synthesize all fire response and planning project data (Josh Eichamer is leading this effort).
 - The CA Fire Safe Council organized a Fire Safe Communities Capital Walk to talk to state legislators about the potential for a \$200,000 block grant for each county per year for a 5-year period as base funding to support "keeping the wheels on these important organizations". Funding is pending the fiscal year budget approval.
 - Since the last HCFSC meeting, the CWPP Update was officially completed and certified. The full plan is available on the web: humboldt.gov.org/FirePlanFinal.
 - The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) update is nearly complete. The CWPP was also reviewed and integrated into the wildfire hazard section of the LHMP.
 - Fire Safe Regulation updates (State and County): The Board of Forestry is currently considering an update to the [SRA Fire Safe Regulations for 2020](#). The County will follow with an update to its own regulations (which must either meet or exceed the state regulations). The HCFSC, and this Work Group in particular, has an opportunity to provide recommendations/proposed updates to the Board of Supervisors before updated regulations are approved. The County will adopt the updated regulation after January 2020, following Board of Forestry adoption of the state regulations.

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- Conversations are ongoing about how to integrate and share fire-planning data between agencies/groups.

Progress Reports

- **Wildfire Ignition Prevention Work Group**

- The Fire Chiefs' Association Annual Report (currently in progress) can be used as an additional resource for identifying areas with particularly high rates of ignitions. The ignition data needs to be made into a usable format to complete a useful analysis of ignition trends countywide.

- **Wildfire Preparedness Work Group**

- The County of Humboldt, on behalf of the HCFSC, was successful in securing a CAL FIRE grant for almost \$500,000 that will go toward the purchase of a County chipper, 90+ days of roadside fuels clearance, defensible space assistance, up to 14 chipper days, and educational materials for hardening homes. The funding will provide an opportunity to work closely with the County Roads Department and establish a process for identifying priority roads for fuels reduction.
- County Roads provided flaggers for Willow Creek while a crew cleared debris from roadsides. WCFSC is also working to develop a partnership with the Roads Department.
- Redwood Valley will be hosting a Chipper Day on May 21st, with assistance from the WCFSC.
- WCFSC will be hosting their annual Firewise Community Fair on May 18th.
- WCFSC has been working with the CCC (using grant funding) and a SWAP crew.
- The Wildfire Preparedness Work Group worked with many contributors to publish the third edition of [Living with Wildfire in Northwestern California](#). Hard copies are available from USFS, CAL FIRE, and the Humboldt County Office of Natural Resources Planning.
- Ongoing work on Priority Action 3.2.2-3 of the Wildfire Preparedness Action Plan (pg. 3.2-4) began with the establishment of a HCFSC Photo Library hosted on Flickr. HCFSC members are encouraged to use this photo library for educational materials and to add appropriate pictures that can be shared. See attached instructions (Attachment 1).
- PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program: Representatives of PG&E participated in the meeting and provided answers to many questions. So far, 17 weather sensors, three with infrared cameras, have been installed throughout Humboldt. Safety inspections of all above ground lines are nearly complete.

The following email content was sent as a follow-up to the meeting:

Cybelle:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Fire Safe Council meeting. The bullets below hopefully capture my action items, but if there is anything I forgot, do let me know.

- www.Pge.com/wildfire for all the details on the Community Wildfire Safety Program and to update contact info
- Public Safety Specialist for first responder presentations Mike Weaver michael.weaver2@pge.com
- Vegetation inspectors can arrange to take more than the minimum when tree trimming. The inspectors leave a door hanger with their phone number if you miss their visit.
- For questions/comments about debris call 800-743-5000 or email local Supervisor Eric Haggerty eric.haggerty@pge.com
- Top ten trees that cause outages:
 - Black Oak, Tanoak, Grey Pine, Coast Live Oak, Live Oak, Valley Oak, Eucalyptus, Douglas Fir, Monterey Pine, Ponderosa Pine
- Weather Stations and High Def cameras: www.mesowest.utah.edu www.alertwildfire.org
17 weather stations installed in Humboldt County in 2018 and 2019
 - State Route 36 near China Mine Camp Road
 - Monument Road near Forest Home
 - Mt. Pierce Lookout Road near Monument Road
 - Bloody Camp Road near French Camp Road
 - Snow Camp Road near Ward Road
 - Near Alderpoint Road and Bell Springs Road
 - Airport Road near Bear Butte Road
 - Pole Line Road near Mattole Road
 - Bair Road near Stover Road
 - Upper Bear River Road near Bear River Ridge Road
 - Wilder Ridge Road near Council Madrone Road
 - Bear Butte Road near Airport Road
 - Barry Road near Cross Creek Road

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- Alderpoint Road near Gold Ridge Lane
- Alderpoint Road near Chalk Mountain Road
- Briceland Road near Shelter Cove Road
- Alderpoint Road near Cemetery Road
- Three high-definition cameras installed in Humboldt County in 2019
 - Near Cemetery Road
 - Near Bald Jesse Summit
 - Barry Road near Cross Creek Road
- More weather stations and high-definition cameras planned across service area for 2019

Thank you again, and let me know if I can provide any further information.

Alison Talbott

Government Relations – Humboldt, Mendocino

Pacific Gas & Electric Company

2555 Myrtle Avenue

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Email alison.talbott@pge.com

- HCFSC members participated in a number of recent conferences including:
 - Northwestern California Community Wildfire Resiliency Gathering at Sea Ranch in February and developed a Podio group for networking. If you would like to learn more about the fire practitioners Podio platform, get in touch with Cybelle or Julia.
 - WUI Conference in Reno, NV. For more information about this, get in touch with Cybelle or Dorie.
 - Embracing Fire community event in Redway. For more information about this event get in touch with Bill Eastwood or Julia.
- The fire adaptive communities learning network was discussed including their informative blog – for those interested on signing up, go to: <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/>
- AB 38, sponsored by Assembly member Jim Wood, is moving through the legislature. The bill would establish state and local Community Fire Preparedness Councils, create a fund for no- to low-interest home hardening loans, and begin to develop additional fire-resistant building requirements. Read more here: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB38
- The Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District is being very proactive in addressing their wildfire hazards. They have applied for grants and collaborated with the County Roads Division on a Measure Z application and have convened several meetings with key agency partners to plan projects that address community wildfire safety.
- An active community group is emerging in Telegraph Ridge. They are in close contact with the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council and plan to pursue Firewise recognition. They have been working with Jen Renner and Dorie Lanni to map and plan for community evacuations. Another emerging role model community.
- **Disaster Preparedness Work Group**
 - Two CWPP actions have been completed: 1) Create community county CERT (Priority Action 3.3.6-2) 2) Train more CERT instructors (Priority Action 3.3.6-3)
 - The County CERT has been established and there are 18 new instructors in Humboldt.
 - OES is working to identify more evacuation centers within the county that meet the necessary criteria. South Fork High was recently identified.
 - Also working to identify Community Liaisons that can assist local law enforcement and other emergency management personnel during emergencies/evacuations.
 - Wildfire PPE has been purchased for law enforcement personnel.
 - Pre-fire season meeting will be held on May 23rd for law enforcement and fire agencies.
 - Evacuation Planning: Willow Creek, Mattole, Southern Humboldt, Shelter Cove, and Bridgeville have been identified as the priority for evacuation planning. Mapping will be the biggest challenge and will require GIS expertise.
 - Mapping will include evacuation routes, structure locations, assets at risk, facilities used for disasters, safety zones, and potential public refuge areas (pending).

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- **Fire Protection Work Group**

- The Board of Supervisors approved the tax sharing offers and expectation strategy to help address fire service boundary issues. Several annexations and mergers are moving forward. A handout with an excerpt from the Board of Supervisors April 9, 2019 meeting staff report including the tax sharing offers and associated expectations was passed around – See Attachment 2.
- The Restoration of Beneficial Fire Action Plan received funding through the California FSC for education and training of volunteer fire departments. The County is hiring a part-time Southern Humboldt Liaison to work with UC Cooperative Extension and the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association as part of this project. The Request for Proposals for the Liaison closes May 27th.
- Chiefs' Association Strategic Plan is close to completion.
- Measure Z funding approved for FY 19-20.

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

- A feature presentation from the Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group was requested. No vote was cast.

6. Break

7. Grant Reports and Funding Strategy

Recently closed grants:

- **SRA** – This grant, which supported the CWPP update, was successfully closed in late April.

Current Grants / Funding

- **CA FSC Clearinghouse 2018 grant** – The HCFSC and County of Humboldt are collaborating with UCCE/PBA to support prescribed fire training for volunteer fire departments and education and outreach for targeted groups.
- **CAL FIRE** – This project 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.
- **Title III** – This funding continues to support CWPP implementation including the recent publication of the third edition of the Living with Wildfire magazine.
- **Measure Z** – Measure Z provides funding for sustainable fire services planning. A number of annexations and boundary revisions are currently being negotiated supported by a recent Board of Supervisor approved tax sharing strategy.
- **Department of Conservation/Natural Resources Agency** – The County of Humboldt (on behalf of the North Coast Resource Partnership) was recently awarded a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Block Grant from the CA Natural Resources Agency through the California Department of Conservation to develop and begin to implement a regional priority plan to improve forest health and fire resiliency over the next 3 years. (See following section for more details.)

Grant Applications and Future Funding Possibilities

- **CA FSC Clearinghouse 2019 grant** – Application in progress. This project would expand on the CAL FIRE grant for defensible space and roadside clearing activities discussed above. The CAL FIRE 2018 grant would be used as match.
- **CAL FIRE 2019** – The application will open this fall. The HCFSC will apply for funding for the FLASH program.
- **FEMA** – Standing by for next round – need more capacity and time to apply. Will monitor how similar applications are progressing around the region and keep in touch with others who are applying.
- **County General Fund** – Asking for continued support from Board of Supervisors for FY 19-20.
- **CA FSC Fire Safe Communities Block Grant** – This is a potential program being talked about by the CA FSC. Funding would support organizational capacity.
- **Action, Implementation & Mitigation (AIM)** – Application for AIM funding through Coalitions and Collaboratives (COCO) was initially denied. Will apply again next round, this time coordinating all Humboldt County applications. It was suggested HCFSC consider participating in the USFS Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) program wherein a team of subject area experts is dispatched to help increase capacity and planning over a 10-14 day period. Webinar on CMAT is upcoming, June 28th.

Funding Plan Development

- Keep tracking state and federal funding sources/opportunities and leverage them to implement the CWPP.
- Learn more about Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authority opportunities.
- SB 45 Grant option: \$200 million to OES. \$1 billion to OES and CNRA.

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- Continue to track AB 38.

Discussion:

- Fire Chiefs' Association Annual Report: Submit your annual statistics, department updates, and photos as soon as possible. The 2018 report will be published this summer.

8. State and Regional Meetings and Conferences (Discussion):

- Report on NCRP Quarterly Meeting and Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Block Grant
 - The North Coast Resource Partnership was recently selected to receive a block grant of awarded ~\$4 million dollars from the CA Natural Resources Agency to develop and begin to implement a regional priority plan to improve forest health and fire resiliency over the next 2 years.
 - Given the County's experience acting as the regional grant administrator for the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP), the Office of Natural Resources Planning will be the admin and project management arm of the RFFC program for the northern coast region.
 - This funding is sourced from the CA Climate Investments (CCI) fund appropriated to the CA Natural Resources Agency that they then turned around and distributed to four regional groups in CA. Executive Order B-52-18 mandated implementation of the Forest Carbon Plan and allocated this money to help accomplish that.
 - The Executive Order also mandated the formation of a Forest Management Task Force made up of local, state, tribal, and federal agencies with jurisdiction over CA forest lands to implement the Order and the Forest Carbon Plan. There are four Regional Prioritization Groups (sub-groups of the Task Force) charged with prioritizing projects and making recommendations to the Task Force. Cybelle is participating in the monthly calls for the Northern Region Prioritization Group on behalf of the NCRP and Humboldt County.
 - HCFSC members and others interested are encouraged to join the NCRP mailing list to receive email updates on the project's progress. The NCRP has a long history of multi-jurisdiction collaboration and planning related to natural resources and will be a major stakeholder in the development of the regional priority plan and other components of the RFFC program. <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/>

9. 2019 Leadership Vote

- **Action: Vote for 2019 Chair and Vice-Chair**
 - **Nominees:** Ian Sigman for Chair and Barbara Darst for Vice Chair
 - Dorie motioned to approve the nominees. Kai seconded the motion.
 - **Results:** Ian Sigman was confirmed as Chairperson of the HCFSC and Barbara Darst as Vice Chair.

10. Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn.

Next meeting proposed for August 15, 2019 at the NCUAQMD Office, 707 L St., Eureka

Meeting time and location confirmed. Meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm.