



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 – May 18, 2023

A [Humboldt County Fire Safe Council \(HCFSC\)](#) meeting was held on May 18, 2023 at the UC Cooperative Extension Office in Eureka. 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
- Chris Ramey**, CAL FIRE, HCFSC Vice Chair
- Greg Moon**, Hoopa Tribe/Hoopa Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services
- 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, HCFSC Chair
- Lyn Javier**, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council
- Michael Richardson**, Humboldt County Planning & Building, Long Range Planning
- 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
- Ryan Derby**, Office of Emergency Services, Humboldt County Sheriff's OES

Fire Safe Council Alternates Attending:

- Brita Goldstein**, Green Diamond Resource Company
- Dale Unea**, Samoa Peninsula Fire Department
- Jason Butcher**, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
- Jeff Stackhouse**, Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association
- Ross Dollarhide**, CAL FIRE (pending CAL FIRE Alternate)

Non-Voting Agency Liaisons Attending:

- **Cybelle Immitt**, Humboldt County Public Works Director Designee and Board of Supervisors Liaison
- Ben Hendricks**, Six Rivers National Forest Primary Member
- Brittany Patterson**, Six Rivers National Forest Alternate
- **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
- Bri Tiffany**, BBW & Associates
- Damien Roomets**, Trees Foundation
- Debra Harris**, North Coast Air Quality Management District
- Henry Holbrook**, UC Cooperative Extension
- Lindsey Holm**, BBW & Associates
- Remote participation:*
- Kerry Reynolds**, Trees Foundation
- Nancy Bailey**, Mid Klamath Watershed Council
- Tracy Katelman**, ForEver Green Forestry

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Meeting Summary

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

HCFSC Chairperson, Lenya Quinn-Davidson called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Quorum was confirmed, and introductions were made in-person and via Zoom.

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. Lyn Javier seconded the motion.
- **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor.

3. Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

Tanner – Provided an update on a series of four community wildfire preparedness workshops. Great turn out and wide-ranging participation! Two down, two to go. Willow Creek workshop this Saturday. Lower Mattole, May 25th.

Julia – Provided an update of her experience representing the Humboldt County Coordinator Team in Sacramento as a part of a Legislative Walk organized by the CA Fire Safe Council and shared her personal news of pursuing a master's degree focused on wildfire behavior at Cal Poly Humboldt. Transitioning to part-time in August.

Chris – Promoted to be the Assistant Chief for the CAL FIRE Community Wildfire Mitigation Division. Will continue to serve on the HCFSC as the Vice Chair.

Jason – Promoted to be the Wood Products Planning Forester with the statewide [Wood Products and Bioenergy](#) team of the CAL FIRE Climate and Energy program. The question of his continued membership on the HCFSC will be resolved shortly.

Lenya – Promoted to a statewide position focused on building a statewide network of fire practitioners. Will continue portions of her existing work: WTREX, PBA development, and more. A new Fire Advisor will be joining the Humboldt-Del Norte UCCE team.

Michael Richardson is retiring at the end of June and is glad to continue serving or may step down depending on the preferences of the Planning & Building Department.

Upcoming Events:

- June 24th 9:30 - 3:00 Pre-Fire Season Meeting at the Blue Lake Rancheria Sapphire Palace - agency briefings; tabletop exercise focused on fire outside of Garberville.
- June 29th Cultural Burning Seminar at the Sapphire Palace and June 30th Burn Demonstration.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

4. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

- Committee facilitators reported on the progress of the ad hoc committees established to further explore topics introduced at the February meeting.
- **CWPP Update Committee**
 - Committee lead, Julia summarized progress to date. There is consensus among the committee and HCFSC that the current CWPP is working well and that a few refinements to the next update would enhance its effectiveness. Potential improvements include enhanced project prioritization as well as mapping processes and capabilities; a more scientific and data-backed risk assessment; better progress tracking and integration with other plans.
 - A [draft CWPP Hubsite](#) is in development. It's a popular platform for CWPPs because it is interactive, adaptable, and integrates mapping functionality. The draft site is populated with information from the current CWPP and is tied to a new progress tracking tool for tracking accomplishments related to the countywide Action Plan.
 - Funding is not expected to be a limiting factor for the CWPP Update. Who applies, and the roles of various partners, will be determined in part by the outcomes of the Org Structure Committee.
 - Ryan would like to join CWPP Update Committee as an observer.
 - Rod Mendes would like to join CWPP Update Committee.
- **HCFSC Organizational Structure Committee**
 - Committee lead, Tanner reviewed the pros and cons of the current HCFSC structure as discussed by the committee. There is consensus that the current structure is functional though it could be further optimized. Future discussion among the committee will explore opportunities for improvement, potentially with the help of an outside consultant.

5. Community Wildfire Defense Grant ([CWDG](#)) Panel Discussion

- Panelists: Ali Freedlund, Kai Ostrow, Damien Roomets, Nick Pape and Rod Mendes
- A panel of four successful applicants to the first-ever round of the CWDG program shared their experience and lessons learned through the application process for the benefit of future applicants. It was also an opportunity to learn about the \$13.8M worth of projects that will benefit Humboldt County through their respective efforts. Panelists discussed project identification, grant application development and budgeting, and advice on building partnerships and leveraging the countywide CWPP and local CWPPs to support their applications.
- Yurok Fire Chief Rod Mendes was also able to share his insights as an applicant and a reviewer of applications for projects in other areas of the country.
- Some key takeaways:
 - Having a project identified in a CWPP less than 10 years old was important. Some used the County CWPP and/or a local CWPP. Ali found it helpful to already be familiar with these plans.
 - Reviewers were looking for a demonstrated ability to maintain capacity built during the project.
 - All panelists had at least one paid staff available to prepare the grant application.
 - There were some unexpected questions like one regarding local roofing ordinances. It was helpful to ask others in the HCFSC network for help. Panelists also encouraged reaching out to the grant agency staff who are intimately familiar with the requirements and are happy to provide clarification.
 - Panelists encouraged collaboration to reduce competition and benefit from varying skillsets. Reviewers may also rate collaboratives more highly since they demonstrate buy-in and advance planning.
 - Some questions remain as to whether both CEQA and NEPA will be required for environmental compliance since the funding is federal.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

- Match was required though some panelists received a waiver due to being in a disadvantaged community.
- Project Summaries for all successful Humboldt County applications:
 - Briceland Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Hazard Reduction Project
 - \$205,251 to create a Fire Hazard Reduction Crew, to conduct roadside clearance and improve fuel breaks along otherwise unmaintained roads, creating safer routes for emergency response and evacuation and reducing the chance of roadside ignitions.
 - Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, Greater Willow Creek Wildfire Resilience Project
 - \$5,027,427 to implement a suite of area-wide outreach, education, and implementation actions as well as the implementation of 9 priority fuels reduction projects encompassing 25 CWPP priority sites.
 - Mattole Restoration Council, Prosper Ridge Community Wildfire Resilience Project
 - \$2,175,132 to hazardous fuels treatment on 450 acres of land bordering the King Range National Conservation Area. Various treatment methods will be used from prescribed treatment, mechanical and hand thinning.
 - Resort Improvement District No.1, Shelter Cove Wildfire Resiliency & Community Defense Project
 - \$6,222,500 to provide outreach, coordination & inspections services and conduct 1,211 acres of hazardous fuels reduction work over a 5-year period.
 - Yurok Tribe, Yurok Fire Department, CWPP Update
 - \$250,000 to create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that identifies critical at-risk communities on the Yurok Indian Reservation. Prioritizing places that are "low income", have "been impacted by a severe disaster", or have "high or very high wildfire hazard potential," as well as protecting sensitive and sacred sites, assist in producing basketry materials, traditional foods, ceremonial regalia, and traditional medicines for the Yurok People.

6. Sharing CWPP Accomplishments

- As part of our continued effort to track progress, written updates were provided by HCFSC members and will be included with these meeting minutes. In addition, members were asked to input a recent accomplishment (distinct from progress) into a new progress tracking platform. Thank you to those who took the time to test it out.
- Summary of accomplishments related to the Fire Protection Action Plan shared as part of a round-robin. Everyone had at least one thing to share. Members of the Coordination Team will ensure accomplishments shared are tracked appropriately within the new CWPP progress tracking tool:
 - Garberville Fire Protection District Annexation and passage of Measure U
 - Developed the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association and Southern Humboldt Chapter both of which partner with volunteer fire departments on trainings.
 - Supporting volunteer firefighters in becoming CA Rx Bosses (Humboldt will have 6 of the first 15!)
 - Hoopa co-hosting trainings for prescribed burning in partnership with MKWC and The Nature Conservancy
 - Green Diamond giving program has provided funding to local fire departments for safety equipment etc.
 - Six Rivers US Forest Service maintains an open invite to fire departments for trainings; started a joint prescribed fire cache for TREX events and other burns; updated pre-attack mapping (available to departments as a PDF and via ArcGIS Online). Wildfire Crisis Strategy - EA was just approved. Creating Fuel Specific crews that will be available for fire response too.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

- Planning & Building: Updating the Safety Element - to be presented to BOS June 27th. Integrating aspects of the CWPP that are relevant to the General Plan.
- Yurok Fire: pursuing grants and giving presentations, taking every opportunity to promote fire awareness.
- CAL FIRE: Redway and Salmon Creek fuel reduction projects. Fire Prevention and Forest Health grant programs. Advocates and an offer for labor assistance. Integrating the CAL FIRE unit plan and the CWPP.
- HCFCA: Promoting the local fire departments through lobbying for funding through Measure Z.
- Willow Creek FSC: Chipper program to address the snow/weather down trees that created a fuel load problem. Have built a channel of communication between WCFSC and local VFD.
- OES: Established an early notification system: Zonehaven. Early notification system developments and refinement of the Zonehaven Zones with local fire departments.
- SHFSC: Promoted the Measure U measure to assist Garberville Fire. Campaign to promote address signs for easier identification and road signage to aid in emergency response.
- MKWC: Besides the Karuk Tribe, the Orleans Volunteer Fire Department is a main partner to MKWC/OSBFSC. We write OVFD into all fire and fuels grants. We hire their water tender on all prescribed fires, they are key partners in Firewise educational activities and are assisting with our CWPP update. We support firefighter training through our Klamath TREX events. The main challenge for OVFD is recruitment. Finding willing volunteers to join them is always on our minds.
- VDFWFC: Help developed the CERT Team and connected them with the fire department. Received a grant to install two 5,000-gallon water tanks for first responders.
- MRC: Fire atlas, emergency radios, Fire apprentice training program “Fire Fellowship”. Burn planning program. Hired local firefighters to assist with delivering water tanks to local fire departments. Hosting prescribed fire training and including VFDs.
- Kai: Working with PBA to facilitate prescribed fire training and involve them in burns. Developing economic opportunities for VFD in the off-season - maintaining and building capacity.
- Shelter Cove RID: Clearing ingress and egress
- CAL FIRE: ignition prevention 40-60% reduction, 5,000 acres burned, Statewide fire safety implementation committee...
- Ettersburg FSC supported Telegraph Ridge VFD fundraiser
- Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association [Annual Report 2021](#) published, and [Fire Services Web App](#) updated. Will be presented by the Chiefs to the Board of Supervisors on May 23, 2023.
- CWPP Hub Site Tour
 - Time did not allow for this item. Julia is available for individual conversation.

7. Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn

- **Action: Confirm revised meeting schedule for 2023.**
 - **Motion:** Kai Ostrow motioned to approve the revised schedule. Ryan Derby seconded the motion.
 - **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor.
- Next meeting will be August 17, 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 for public and non-voting participation.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Attachments:

- HCFSC Member & Partner Reports – May 2023

Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Member & Partner Reports May 2023

North Coast Air Quality Management District	1
Hoopa.....	1
Shelter Cove Fire Department & Resort Improvement District #1	2
Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council / Mid Klamath Watershed Council	3
Willow Creek Fire Safe Council	4
Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council	4
County Coordination Team	5

North Coast Air Quality Management District

Submitted by Deb Harris

The district met with Jeff Stackhouse and Kai Ostrow to discuss amendments to the district’s Rx burn program. As a result of the meeting, there were changes made to the Rx burn program. The following changes have been made to the Rx burn program:

1. Smoke Management Plan (SMP) holders do not need a burn authorization when burning one 10ft in diameter pile.
2. SMPs can be extended for an additional 2 years without filling out the form again (if there are no changes). SMP holders are eligible for two extensions before plans are required to be updated.
3. The district has committed to implementing a process to allow SMP holders without a current burn during the last 3 months of the calendar year to purchase the next years permit and be able to burn during last 3 months of the current calendar year.
4. The district has developed a form listing the SMP holders’ specific responsibilities needed to implement their plan and obtain a burn authorization number. This form shall be included with each approved SMP.
5. The district has improved the methods for SMP holders to contact the district to obtain a burn authorization number. This includes updating voicemail language and adding an additional contact person to provide authorizations when responsible staff is absent. 707-443-3093 x 122 and 128. The district office is closed on the weekends and SMP holders are encouraged to obtain their burn numbers by Friday for the weekend.

These changes are in the last stages of development and staff is implementing numbers 1, 2 and 5. The others will be rolled out when completed.

Hoopa

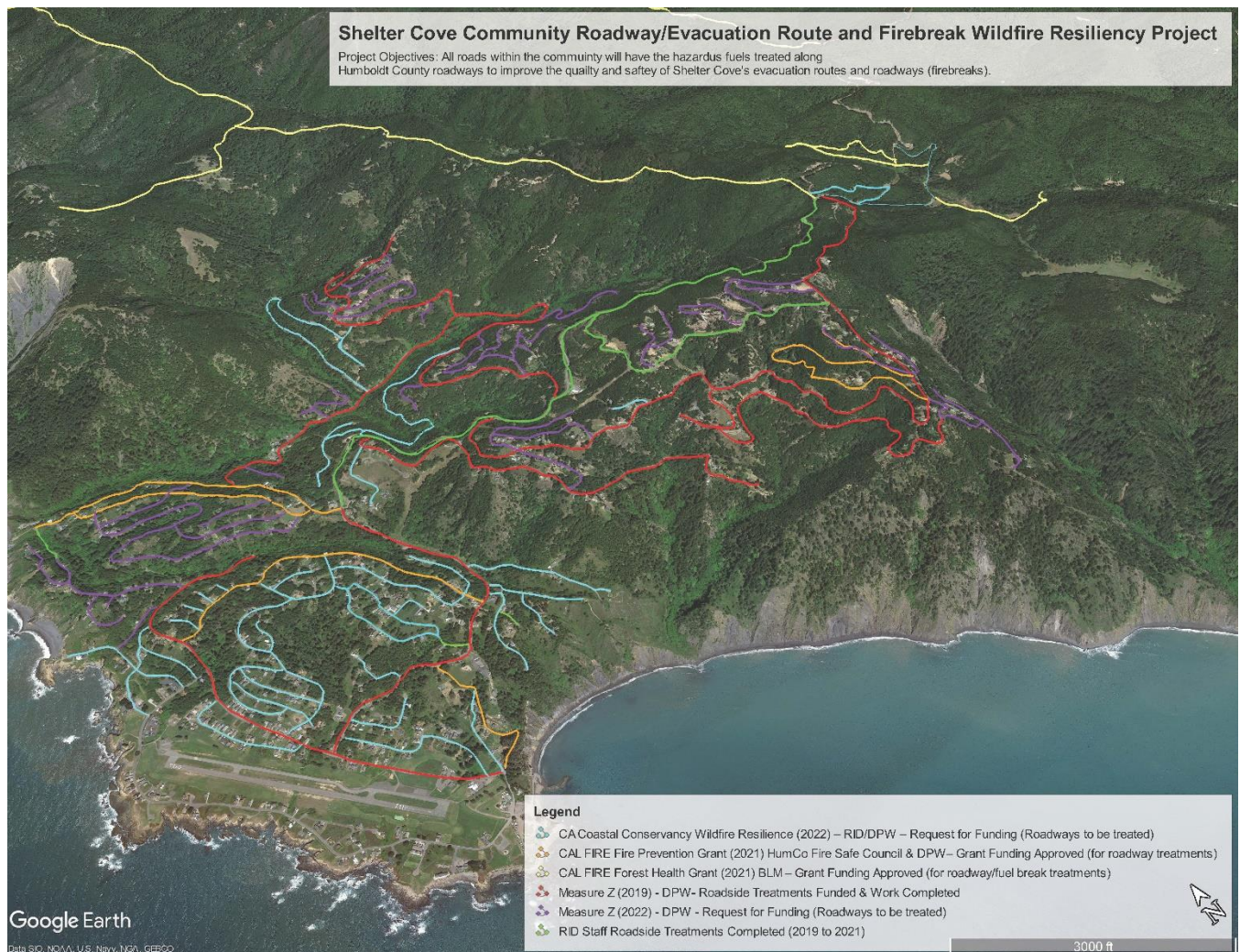
Submitted by Greg Moon

I have shared a short PowerPoint highlighting the Hoopa Indian Reservation CWPP accomplishments for the past quarter. It highlights mapping, fuel breaks, defensible space, public outreach, and debris removal projects. Contact a member of the County Coordinator Team for access.

Shelter Cove Fire Department & Resort Improvement District #1

Submitted by Nick Pape

The Shelter Cove Fire Department under the Resort Improvement District #1 completed, a 4 year 38-mile roadside high limbing and evacuation route improvement project. This project was identified as a community priority during our initial Firewise assessment in 2014 and includes evacuation route fuels treatments, community evacuation education, evacuation notification sirens, and evacuation route signage. We hope this model can be used by other rural communities in the county.



Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council / Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Submitted by Nancy Bailey

MKWC currently has two of our Orleans fuels crew members burning with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Minnesota. These TNC training experiences have been extremely valuable for our staff, increasing their understanding of fire behavior in various fuel types as well as their fire qualifications. MKWC Director Will Harling attended the Alto Minho TREX in Portugal a couple months back, getting to boss his first European burn in gorse, supporting the restoration of burning rights for pastorales, and networking with international participants.

Planning is underway for the annual Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP) workshop to be held over three days at the end of the month (May 30 in Happy Camp, May 31st in Orleans, and June 1 in Forks of Salmon). WKRP continues to be a model for collaborative planning and implementation on a landscape scale <https://www.wkrp.network/>.

MKWC was recently awarded \$7 million dollars through the CALFIRE CCI program for a large project entitled the Western Klamath Fire Resilience and Forest Health Project that will include manual, mechanical, prescribed burn, and pest management treatments on 9,260 acres within and adjacent to the 1.2-million-acre planning area of the WKRP, on CEQA compliant private (SRA – 3,713 acres), public (FRA – 5,260 acres), and Tribal (277 acres) lands. This project also includes trainings, community workdays, educational events and products, and project and program management activities. (Note that a large portion of this project's implementation is in Siskiyou County, though most of the planning and administration occurs in Orleans).

It is exciting to see this kind of work being prioritized by CAL FIRE and other funders. The Karuk Tribe and the USFS (Orleans and Ukonom) have also received large grants from BIL and IRA funds aimed at strategic fuels reduction in and around our high-risk communities.

Other current planning is moving us toward a busy summer which will include Firewise events at the local schools, community chipping days, subsidized mowing, defensible space assistance for elders.

In April, staff organized a comprehensive training on our new Morbark chipper for all crew members, including our Happy Camp crew. This is in preparation for not only chipping days in Orleans and Happy Camp but also a large roadside brushing project on USFS managed roads in the Orleans Ranger District, which can commence when the environmental compliance is complete and we acquire a chip truck.

The SB 926 statewide Prescribed Fire Claims Fund is about to go live some time at the end of this month. There will be an online application process to get \$2 million in claims coverage for prescribed burners and cultural burners. Keep your eyes out for the announcement.

MKWC, the Karuk Tribe, and Six Rivers NF are planning a series of burns on public, private and tribal lands the second half of June and early July, using the All Hands All Lands model for coordinating interagency local resources to organize burn teams.



Willow Creek Fire Safe Council

Submitted by Patti Pedigo

We utilized our TA while assisting in planning for upcoming fuels. reduction projects.

We secured a few grants.

We assisted our subcontractor.

We survived a real winter.

We prepared for the firesafe fair.

Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Submitted by Kathy Weber

SHFSC assisted HCFSC in sponsoring an educational workshop held on April 15, 2023 in Garberville. We decided to make it a celebration of recent events (Salmon Creek Fire Protection District formation, Garberville Fire Protection District expansion, and the 2 USDA 'Community Wildfire Defense' grants awarded to Briceland VFD and Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District). It was a huge success in terms of attendance and the quantity of handouts picked up by the public (200!). Our chosen speakers were well received: Yana Valachovic on home hardening, Manny Mello on insurance, and Ryan Derby on evacuation. We appreciated the opportunity for networking and we are considering doing this again next year.

SHFSC is continuing to support the Mail Ridge fuel reduction project by helping with landowner outreach and a letter of support for Humboldt County Resource Conservation District's grant application to California State Coastal Conservancy for planning assistance.

Another letter of support was written to CALFIRE for Shelter Cove's 'Community Egress/Ingress & Defensible Space' proposal, and a letter on behalf of the 'Greater Redway Wildfire Prevention Project' was submitted to CALFIRE urging more cooperation with State Parks. SHFSC Chair, Gail Eastwood, is our super-hero author of these letters.

SHFSC helped with landowner outreach for the roadside fuel reduction projects being implemented by Humboldt County Resource Conservation District this season. The three lucky communities to receive this work are Whitethorn (Briceland-Thorne Road), Harris / New Harris (Bell Springs Road), and Salmon Creek. Work is expected to begin very soon.

There is a big push to get address signs posted, especially in the outlying areas. Four groups (Garberville Fire Safe, Salmon Creek VFD, Briceland Fire, and Ettersburg FSC) are selling the signs at cost (\$15). Kathy Weber has created a graphic handout: 'How to Post Your Address in Rural Humboldt County'.

SHFSC has the opportunity to bring our concerns to the California Democratic Party via Sarah Brooks, a party caucus member and leader of the Redway Fire Safe Group. We have asked her to share these issues at this month's convention: 1) the PG&E enhanced vegetation management program and 2) the cost / availability of fire insurance.

The SHFSC website is being upgraded with new information including a page featuring brief descriptions and contact info of our 11 associated SoHum community groups that are doing fire mitigation work: the Firewise USA communities of Benbow, Garberville, Salmon Creek and Shelter Cove; Whale Gulch FSC, Whitethorn FSC, Ettersburg FSC, Crooked Prairie FSC and Greater Palo Verde FSC; Redway Fire Safe Group; and the Upper Mattole Fireshed Alliance.

County Coordination Team

Program Admin

New funding announced for CA FSC County Coordinator Program through March 2025 with funding from CAL FIRE - Details TBA

HCFSC Organizational Coordination & Support

- Planned and facilitated February meeting, including a survey of member relationships to the existing CWPP to help inform the next iteration
- HCFSC Organizational Structure Ad Hoc Committee facilitation and research
- Local Fire Mitigation Group Coordination & Support
- Firewise, local FSC, and local wildfire mitigation group support, coordination, and facilitation
- Firewise tracking tool development
- LMFSC NEST meeting for alternative emergency communications (idea to use as outreach/education)

Interorganizational Coordination & Collaboration

- Julia represented the County Coordinator Team at a Legislative Walk in Sacramento hosted by the CA FSC. The event included opportunities to speak with legislators and legislative aides, and to connect with fellow Coordinators from across California.
- Continued to attend regular CA FSC meetings for County Coordinators and the Northern Region
- Continued to monitor and coordinate opportunities provided by NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.

CWPP Implementation & Tracking

- Continued development of a Roadside Work Guidance Document
- Initiated development of an ArcGIS Online Hub Site for the CWPP. The Hub Site is an increasingly popular tool among FSCs and CWPPs because it offers integrated mapping and an interactive user interface.
- Continued development of a CWPP progress tracking platform in Airtable that integrates with the new Hub Site.
- CWPP Ad Hoc Committee facilitation and research; preparation of a committee report out for the HCFSC May meeting.
- Continued collaboration with partners and HCFSC members to identify and pursue CWPP implementation funding opportunities.
- Made progress on the supporting fire protection service goal by playing a role in (mostly funded by Measure Z with some support from CCT grant):
 - Completing the 2021 Fire Chiefs Association Annual Report. To be presented to the Board of Supervisors on May 23.
 - The successful Garberville Fire Protection District Annexation and Salmon Creek Fire Protection District formation - both including voter approval of a new special tax and Board of Supervisors approval of a property tax exchange agreement. These changes will go a long way to supporting the sustainability of these two fire departments.
 - Providing technical support (TA) to the Kneeland FPD as they contemplate an annexation to bringing their goodwill service area into their district boundary through annexation and to successfully apply for additional TA support through the NCRP so planning momentum is not stalled as the uncertainty of future Measure Z funding is resolved.

- Providing continued TA to the North Humboldt Bay planning area to help develop the best possible service structure that meets needs and is within the means of the responsible agencies.
- Progress made on Arcata FPD annexation application support

Outreach & Education

- Home Risk Assessment update / development in Field Maps for use in the field
- Provide some support for the completion of a Prescribed Burn Manual for Humboldt County
- Provided some support for the coordination of a series of wildfire preparedness workshops throughout the county
- Outreach to local groups and development of outreach materials related to Defensible Space and Chipper Programs
- Prepared multiple Mailchimp eblasts related to wildfire preparedness for public consumption