



MEETING MINUTES

Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting – November 13, 2025

A [Humboldt County Fire Safe Council \(HCFSC\)](#) meeting was held on November 13, 2025, at the UC Cooperative Extension Office in Eureka. [Members of the HCFSC](#) are appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to guide maintenance and implementation of the [Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)](#).

*The HCFSC is coordinated by the County Coordination Team, composed of staff from Humboldt County Public Works and the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District. **Team Contact:** Cybelle Immitt, Lead County Coordinator | cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us*

Fire Safe Council Members Attending:

Members listed as follows: name, member seat, additional affiliation.

Ali Freedlund, Supervisorial District 1 Appointee, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council/Mattole Restoration Council

Anna Rogers, Supervisorial District 2 Appointee, Sanctuary Forest

Chris Emmons, Supervisorial District 3 Appointee, Arcata Fire Protection District

****Jill Demers**, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Kathy Weber, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

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

****Olivia Lopes**, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council

Will Harling, Supervisorial District 5 Appointee, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council/Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Fire Safe Council Alternates Attending:

Allan Wiegman, California State Parks, North Coast Redwoods District

Eric Darragh, Supervisorial District 5 Appointee, Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Harry Vaughn, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Henri Holbrook, Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association

Mika Cook, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council

Reid Cody, Green Diamond Resource Company

Ross Dollarhide, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

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

Non-Voting Agency Liaisons Attending:

****Cybelle Immitt**, Humboldt County Public Works Director Designee and Board of Supervisors Liaison

****Members of the County Coordination Team**

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

****Tanner Speas**, Humboldt County Public Works

Alicia Phibbs, Bridgeville Community Center

Garret Gregory, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Lathrop Leonard, Forest Ecologist, Adjunct Faculty CR

Zack McElwain, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Zoom Participation

Kacy Tuel, NCUAQMD

Jesus Isidoro Diaz, Bridgeville Resident, Equipment Operator

Jason Butcher, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Mark Deperro, Six Rivers NF

Patrick Esh, Humboldt OES

Tracy Katelman, ForEverGreen Forestry

Charlie Smith

Lex Omma

Natalyne DeLapp

Ronnie McLarens

Steve Masterson

Thomas Jones

Meeting Minutes

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

HCFSC Chairperson, Lenya welcomed all and convened the meeting at 1:00 pm. Quorum (11) was confirmed, and introductions were made in-person. Zoom participants introduced themselves. The Zoom recording is available on the [Public Works – Natural Resources channel](#) and will be available until it is replaced by the next meeting's recording.

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

- **Action: Review and Approve Minutes from the August 2025 HCFSC Meeting**
 - **Motion:** Allan Wiegman motioned to approve the May HCFSC meeting minutes. Ali Freedlund seconded the motion.
 - **Vote:** All in favor.

3. Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

- County Coordinator Team member and Public Works staff, Julia Cavalli has taken a job with Dudek, a company that assists in writing CWPPs across the state. She is likely to continue to be involved with the CWPP update through her role at Dudek.
 - HCFSC members signed a block print made and donated by Lenya as a parting gift for Julia and shared words of appreciation for her over eight years of HCFSC support.
- Governor released [Exec Order N-35-25](#) on beneficial fire. Changes site visit requirement for issuance of burn permits for CARX and cultural fire practitioners. RCDs and VFDs can enroll projects in the Claims Fund. CAL FIRE can support prescribed burns for projects that don't have CEQA. Additional Details can be found on the [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force web site](#).
- Trees Foundation publication - Forest & River News - latest addition available and made available at meeting.

4. HCFSC Membership

- New member for VDWFS - Lyn is stepping back from primary rep to alternate for VDWFS. Alicia Phipps to be the primary representative. Letter will be taken to BOS before Feb HCFSC meeting.
- Working on membership changes for: Planning and Building
- OES: Ryan Derby has moved to another position and Patrick Esh will coordinate with Cybelle on the process of nominating a new OES Rep.
- Possible changes for USFS and HCFCA membership and need to fill Tribal rep vacancy.
- Will Harling gives notice that he will be switching with Eric Darragh from the Primary to the Alternate.
- Any additional changes that need to be made to HCFSC membership, get in touch with Cybelle directly.
- The HCFSC committee resolution is set to sunset on Oct. 5, 2026, and there needs to be planning for renewal.
 - Cybelle provided a review and update on the organizational structure of the HCFSC and how this could direct the future.

- A decision needs to be made at the May 2026 HCFSC meeting.

5. Consent Agenda

- **Action: Vote to approve Consent Agenda Items**
 - Proposed CWPP Project Database Updates:
 - Willow Creek Fire Safe Council (proposed project addition) regarding completed treatments. See [meeting materials](#).
 - **Motion:** Ali Freedlund motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Kathy Weber seconded the motion.
 - **Vote:** All in favor.

6. County Coordinator Team Update

- Recognition of Julia Cavalli for her contributions over the last 8 years.
- Cybelle gives an update on county staff vacancy recruitment - She expresses appreciation for patience and understanding during the transition.
 - Serena Kuczmariski - Starts in early Dec. Coming to us from the Forest Service - Ottawa National Forest. To be Senior Environmental Analyst with a role in HCFSC.
- High level review of what the team is working on:
 - HCFSC Coordination: Role to put on the quarterly HCFSC meetings and assist in updating the CWPP over the next two years.
 - CWPP Implementation and Tracking:
 - Support for collecting data on implementation - high priority because of CWPP update.
 - Leveraged funds:
 - Example: CFSC 2025 State Fire Capacity grant pre award for Humboldt County project. CWPP Connect: Tools for Turning Plans into Action - confirmation pending - will complement the CWPP update and support implementation with the development of project development tools and will support an update to the Living with Wildfire magazine.
 - Local Capacity Building support
 - Maintaining a Resources library - new item [Roadside Hazardous Fuels Reduction Treatment Planning Guide](#)
 - Reminder about the new [CWPP Hub Site](#) form that can be used for requesting assistance – Resources:
 - Can help with Letters of Support in grant applications related to the County Fire Plan
 - Can amplify events
 - Travel and training stipends
 - Print materials

7. CWPP Update Report

- Cybelle provided a review on the history of the CWPP Ad Hoc Committee. This led to the current grant funded CWPP update project.

- Starting to pick up speed again as we work through the transition to a new lead project manager. Cybelle filling in until new staff comes on board early December.
- Will be reaching out soon to the contracting implementation partners to confirm next steps and provide guidance for their role. Some implementation partners are not updating their local CWPPs and plan to utilize their unit action plan going forward.
- Meeting regularly with the HCFSC CWPP Ad Hoc and the consultant
- High level review of Dudek scope and next steps:
 - Help us develop and use a CWPP Prioritization Framework, Implementation Progress Review, Public Engagement Strategy; conduct Existing Conditions and Data Review, Hazard Modeling, and Risk Modeling; and help us draft an updated CWPP document and a Story map.
- What could the new CWPP provide that the past one hasn't?
 - Focus more on CWPP Prioritization Framework for both action plan and spatial analysis. Add a landscape level chapter, which previously lived in the beneficial fire section. Determine whether it is a maintenance project or a landscape-level maintenance project.
 - Look at unit plan boundaries.
 - Will Harling expresses the perspective that the updated plan should include the next level of landscape beneficial fire within areas that are adjacent to recently burned areas. Including this perspective should be considered. Discussion around how to best include.
 - From zoom: Tracy Katelman recommends looking onto CAWildfireData.com to support process to landscape prioritization.

8. Feature Presentation and Group Discussion

- Local Agency Perspectives on Landscape-scale Implementation and Workforce Development Projects - Jill Demers - Tanner Speas
 - Jill:
 - The HCRCD was not a part of the last CWPP update but uses the plan now to support project implementation. RCDs are around the entire state, and are special districts of the state, but do not get any state or local government funding.
 - Can be lead agency for CEQA.
 - SB 901: Identified RCDs as underutilized resources in wildfire resilience work.
 - Southern Humboldt
 - Started with small grants (\$25K, multiple \$15K NCRP technical assistance), layered partnerships and funding.
 - Completed study area of 50,000-acre CalVTP document for Mail Ridge that includes prescribed burning, mechanical, and manual treatments.
 - CWDG, Forest Health, SCC, NCRP TA/Pilot, CCT support...
 - Tanner:
 - Phase IV and V work with Trees Foundation, County Natural Resources Planning, and HCRCD partnership.
 - Successful partnerships that have built to present projects.

- Collaboration increases capacity, capacity increases funding, funding increases implementation. Similar path with fire services in Southern Humboldt.
- Current Projects:
 - Shelter Cove RID, FD, Trees Foundation, and local contractors
 - Had more success with acceptance of grant applications when partnered with HCFSC and HCRCD
 - SoHum Fire & Rescue Joint Powers Alliance (JPA):
 - Southern Humboldt Fire Chief's Association
 - Recruitment and retention issue for volunteer firefighters
 - Challenges with administrative capacity
 - SoHum Fire JPA - workforce development / fire service involvement during a time of financial hardship in rural Humboldt County
 - RRRise (Redwood Region Rise): Rural Resilience Partnership
 - Created ability to begin staffing, run payroll, implement fuels reduction project utilizing.
 - SoHum Fire partnership with HCRCD awarded 9.8 million CWDG funding.
- Popcorn Discussion guided by the following question:
 - What are you doing with strategic partnerships / How are you weaving/leveraging funding sources?
 - Bringing local, state, federal, and tribal all together. Example of Western Klamath Resource Partnership
 - Fire Safe Councils are utilizing tax levies to secure baseline funding in other areas - something to consider in Humboldt.
 - Stewardship agreements with National Forests
 - In SoHum, NEPA had been completed on BLM land, so had cooperative agreement.
 - MKWC has master stewardship agreement for fuels work, not fire work.
 - Wyden Agreements: Allow the FS to enter into coop. agreements with willing partners and landowners for the protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and other resources on non-Forest Service lands.
 - Call High Rock to get CAL FIRE FF Crews as inmate crews are dissolving.

9. Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn

- Next meeting is proposed for February 26, 2026, 1-3pm at UCCE Office, 5630 S Broadway St, Eureka.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.