



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 – November 21, 2024

A [Humboldt County Fire Safe Council \(HCFSC\)](#) meeting was held on November 21, 2024 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:

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

- **Jill Demers**, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- Ali Freedlund**, Supervisorial District 1 Appointee, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council/Mattole Restoration Council
- Anna Rogers**, Supervisorial District 2 Appointee, Sanctuary Forest
- Cade McNamara**, Humboldt County Planning & Building
- Chris Ramey**, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, HCFSC Vice Chair
- Kathy Weber**, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
- Lenya Quinn-Davidson**, UC Cooperative Extension, HCFSC Chair
- Lyn Javier**, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council
- Patti Pedigo**, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
- Rod Mendes**, Tribal Representative, Yurok Tribe/Yurok Fire Department
- Ross Mathewson**, California State Parks

Fire Safe Council Alternates Attending:

- **Katrina Henderson**, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- Allan Wiegman**, California State Parks
- Harry Vaughn**, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
- Jeff Stackhouse**, Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association
- Olivia Lopes**, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
- Ross Dollarhide**, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
- Yana Valachovic**, UC Cooperative Extension

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:

- **Julia Cavalli**, Humboldt County Public Works / Lead County Coordinator
- **Katherine Rynearson**, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- Cleo Wolfe-Hazard**, UCCE Fire Advisor
- Debra Harris**, North Coast Air Quality Management District
- Dominick Pigmeta**, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Eric Darragh**, Mid Klamath Watershed Council
- Garret Gregory**, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
- Katelyn Suderman**, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Luna Latimer**, Mid Klamath Watershed Council
- Mika Cook**, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council

Remote participation:

- **Tanner Speas**, Humboldt County Public Works
- Basho Parks**, Lower Trinity PBA
- Blaze Shannon**, Lower Trinity PBA
- Jama Chaplin**, Briceland resident
- Janelle Chojnacki**, Cannabis for Conservation
- Jason Butcher**, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
- Jodie Pixley**, Mid Klamath Watershed Council
- Raquel Ortega**, CA Conservation Corps

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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.

In line with AB2449 and upon approval of the in-person quorum, the hazardous travel conditions associated with the atmospheric river event may be considered "Just Cause" for members of the HCFSC to vote remotely.

- **Action: Approve hazardous travel conditions associated with the atmospheric river event just cause for remote participation of voting members.**
 - **Motion:** Rod Mendes motioned to approve "just cause". Jeff Stackhouse seconded the motion.
 - **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor.

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

- **Action: Review and Approve Minutes from the August 2024 HCFSC Meeting**
 - **Motion:** Chris Ramey motioned to approve the August HCFSC meeting minutes. Kathy Weber seconded the motion.
 - **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor.

3. Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

- [USFS Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program](#) Round 3 upcoming: The U.S. Forest Service's Community Wildfire Defense Grant is set to open its third round of funding by the end of the year, with an exact date yet to be determined. Act now to lay the groundwork. Reach out to CCT. Expected to be highly competitive (last round: \$260 million in grants were awarded out of \$975 million requested.)
- [CAL FIRE Forest Health](#) grant application now open: Applications due Jan. 15
- [CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention](#) – keep eye out for solicitation; to open soon.
- [Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Grant Program](#) - due date extended to Dec. 2 for lack of applications - RCD applied.
- [CAL FIRE Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Dashboard](#) (can also be accessed through <https://www.fire.ca.gov>) is a new tool developed by members of the Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division to track the impacts of CAL FIRE grant-funded projects on wildfire outcomes.
- Garberville Fire Department Annual Crab Feed on Saturday, December 7th from 4-9 pm. Tickets are available for purchase at Redway Liquor, Blue Moon, and the Southern Humboldt Chamber of Commerce. Tickets \$40. Featuring music by the Funnicators.
- The Whale Gulch community recently received Firewise status. Congratulations!
- 'Fire Radio' show airs on KMUD Dec. 2, 7-8pm. The subject will be a recap of the successful 2024 burn season.
- Cade announced his resignation from the HCFSC due to a new job. He will be missed! Best of luck to Cade.
- [CWPP Toolkit](#) went live today from CAL FIRE; members of the CCT provided input to several sections and photos were provided by the HCFSC Photo Library, including the photo of a Mid Klamath Watershed Council Chipper Day on the front cover!
- Firewise Communities renewal - 5 using CCT tracking tools raised \$350,000 in volunteer contribution over the target!

4. HCFSC Membership

- Primary Prescribed Burn Assoc. member, Elicia Goldsworthy stepping down; current alternate Jeff Stackhouse will be stepping up and Henri Holbrook will be added as his alternate.
- Mika Cook will replace Elliott Brown as alternate for the Van Duzen Watershed FSC.
- Eric Darragh will be added as a second alternate for Supervisor District 5.

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5. Consent Agenda

- **Action: Vote to approve Consent Agenda Items**
 - There are three proposed CWPP Project Database updates included in the meeting materials for this item: Northeast Redway Fuelbreak, Little Larabee Creek Roadside Clearance, and McKinleyville Vegetation Treatment Project.
 - **Motion:** Jeff Stackhouse motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Jill Demers seconded the motion.
 - **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor.

6. County Coordinator Team Update

- CWPP Update: The grant agreement funding the CWPP Update is in the process of being executed for the countywide CWPP update project. We hope it will be fully executed before the end of November. Keep your fingers crossed. Those who are written in as Partners in the grant application (MRC, WCFSC, SHFSC, HCRCD) will be contacted soon to reorient to their roles and begin to develop detailed scopes of work for their professional services agreements with the County.
- Current grant funding the County Coordinator Team ends Dec 31 - next round is still uncertain.
 - The CCT will be able to support the quarterly meetings, but other support may be paused or reduced until new funding can be identified.
 - CWPP Update grant will also support CCT objectives and some CCT functions.
- Members of the CCT will present to the Board of Supervisors on the accomplishments of the CCT at their next regular meeting on Dec 3 @ 10:00 am.
- HCFSC Org Structure committee (discussion) - consideration of MOU structure
 - Discussion with Ad Hoc committee members resulted in the decision to close the book on the idea of developing an HCFSC non-profit and move forward with exploring an MOU (structure and implications for the relationship with the county)
 - Cybelle met with an ad hoc of the BOS - no opposition to exploring an MOU model; they appreciate the shared vision and good work of the FSC and want to see it continue in a functional form.
 - Priorities of MOU development would include maintaining flexibility/limiting restrictions, maintaining connectivity with the county; many successful MOU examples in the region.
 - **Action: Approve a recommendation from the HCFSC Organizational Structure Ad Hoc Committee for the County Coordinator Team to move forward with exploring a structure held together by a Memorandum of Understanding.**
 - Motion: Jeff Stackhouse. Lynn Javier seconded.
 - Discussion: Cade requested clarification on how an MOU could be expected to affect funding for member participation on the HCFSC. The MOU is not expected to increase the responsibilities of members – members are not compensated, individual orgs and agencies would continue to be responsible for supporting the participation of their representatives, some orgs would continue to ask their representatives to participate on a volunteer basis.
 - Redwood Valley educational evacuation board game event held in October with the help of the CCT. A great opportunity for Firewise Communities and local FSCs to rally their communities. [Read the special edition eblast](#) for more info or contact Julia if interested in hosting your own event.
 - The CCT is developing an interactive Firewise GIS map that can be used to determine if an address or APN is within one of the designated Firewise sites. This will be a place to access the community Firewise Certificate that can be downloaded and shared with insurers for a potential discount.

7. Feature Presentations (presentation slides linked)

- **[Orleans Somes Bar Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update](#):** A presentation from the Mid Klamath Watershed Council/Orleans Somes Bar FSC on the recent update of the Orleans Somes Bar CWPP. To share advice and lessons learned applicable to the upcoming update of the countywide CWPP.
 - Jodie Pixley, Western Klamath Resource Partnership (WKRPP) Coordinator / Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC)

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- CWPP update coordinated by MKWC and included a wide variety of partners across Humboldt and Siskiyou
- Held community meetings throughout the planning area to capture priorities of collaborators like roadside clearance, PG&E maintenance, defensible space, etc.
- Treatment prioritization and list of priority actions based on values at risk, community priorities (community meetings + web tool for anonymous data collection), WKRP Overlay Assessment, and integration with existing plans and tools.
- Real time implementation tracking in an online web tool and public involvement (meeting, stipends, excellent comms)
- **Good Fire Update:** A presentation from practitioners involved in recent planned burns. To share experiences and capture lessons learned applicable to future burns.
 - Eric Darragh on MKWC's 2024 Burn Season
 - 598 acres - piles and understory on private and public land over the year - almost every month!
 - Reviewed a slew of challenges and some of the solutions developed.
 - Reviewed successes too - burned almost year-round, developed great teams and communications, engaged youth and the community, built off of past successes and learned from mistakes.
 - Tanner Speas on Southern Humboldt PBA's Fall Burn Season
 - Burned multiple units - sometimes well into the evening.
 - Massive amount of collaboration between the PBA and local fire departments and a long list of other partners!
 - Ettersburg burn came out of a shovel-ready project developed by the Ettersburg FSC as part of a CA FSC capacity-building grant.
 - Some of the burns were professional burns in which those involved were paid - a great workforce capacity outcome.
 - Chris Ramey shared kudos and asked how else CAL FIRE and others should be thinking about quantifying the benefits beyond acres burned. A few ideas were shared:
 - a. Four projects had a student measuring fire effects.
 - b. Henri noted the nearness of burns to homes as a major feat, adding vegetation management within the defensible space zone as a beneficial outcome.
 - c. Number of people trained, and number of fire depts. involved.
 - d. CA Air Pollution Association Officers - Deb presented to them on how Humboldt is able to safely burn during the burn suspension - Hum Co leading the way!

8. Resources for Local Landowners (presentation slides linked)

- **Prescribed Burn Association (PBA)** - Henri Holbrook
 - PBAs are mutual aid associations that work within the community to get fire on the ground, primarily on private land - neighbors helping neighbors! It's a scalable and flexible model that can adapt to fit community needs.
 - Fall 2024: 165 acres burned in grass, oaks, and mixed conifer forest - over 20 partner orgs and 100 community members involved!
 - Support available: tool cache, planning support, volunteer labor, operational leadership, fire resources, fire trainings, relationships with Air Quality and CAL FIRE, and importantly, community connections.
 - For more information on the PBA or to join the group, contact Henri: hholbrook@ucanr.edu
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)** - Katelyn Suderman
 - No cost financial and technical assistance - NRCS branching out into forested landscapes from ag
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - can provide financial assistance for a wide variety of resource concerns; no minimum acreage; cannot treat defensible space; non-merchantable timber only.
 - No cost Forest Management Plans and Prescribed Burn Plans - can pay for the burning as well.
 - No cost private road access planning and implementation
 - Contracts are typically 5 years.

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- Conservation Stewardship Program (max. \$200k per project)
 - All forested land must be enrolled and must meet at least 2 resource concerns.
 - Ex: forest stand improvement, biochar, prescribed burning
 - Includes a base annual \$4,000 min payment as an incentive.
- Contact NRCS to initiate a site visit and application; apps are ranked before being selected. Contact: Katelyn Suderman, Forester, Katelyn.suderman@usda.gov.
- Defensible space and roadside fuel reduction assistance programs
 - Katrina Henderson on RCD Programs
 - Willow Creek CWDG funding for defensible space and roadside fuel reductions (50 acres of roadside and 86 homes YTD); Salmon Creek - roadside fuels reduction funded by CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention, ends March 2025
 - Contact Katrina to sign up or for more information: katrina@hcrd.org.
 - Tanner Speas on Southern Humboldt opportunities
 - Southern Humboldt Defensible Space Project - CA FSC funded, working in partnership with BVFD (second shovel-ready project of the Ettersburg capacity-building grant!); aimed at vulnerable populations; great example of workforce dev for local fire to support recruitment/retention - 79 completed; 130 signed up; on track to meet all objectives by end of year.
 - Shelter Cove Wildfire Resiliency and Community Defense Project - also CWDG; in Phase I of a 3-5 year project; Ph I obj. is risk assessments for all homes in the Cove - 450 homes (257 assessments completed so far; crews on the ground as we speak!); hundreds of treatment acres to be completed - 1200 by the end of the project; great opportunity for community education.
 - Contact Tanner for details about how to sign up for these programs: rspeas@co.humboldt.ca.us.

9. Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn

- Next meeting is proposed for Feb. 13, 2025, 1-3pm at UCCE Office, 5630 S Broadway St, Eureka, with a virtual option available for public and non-voting participation.
- **Action: Review, amend as necessary, and approve proposed 2025 meeting schedule.**
 - **Motion:** Lyn Javier motioned to approve the proposed 2025 meeting schedule. Chris Ramey seconded the motion.
 - **Discussion:** None. **Vote:** All in favor.
 - The approved meeting schedule is posted to the [Members, Agendas, & Minutes page](#) and is available as a [printable PDF](#).

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Presentation Slides:

Item 7. [Orleans Somes Bar CWPP Update](#)

Item 7. [Good Fire Update](#)

Item 8. [Resources for Local Landowners: NRCS](#)

Item 8. [Resources for Local Landowners: PBA](#)

Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Member & Partner Reports

November 2024

The following written updates were provided by HCFSC Members or Partners on their progress and successes since the last quarterly HCFSC meeting.

Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council 1

Sanctuary Forest 2

November 2024

HCFSC Member & Partner Updates

Submitted by

Kathy Weber

HCFSC Member Seat

Local FSC/Firewise: Southern Humbo...

Created

11/19/2024

Report

SHFSC is hoping to implement a small, but critical, fuelbreak for the town of Redway which has been plagued with the risk and nuisance of escaped fires from homeless camps for many years. At the end of September this year there were three fires in one week on the very edge of town. This proposed fuelbreak is on Humboldt County owned property and does not involve removing any houseless people; but it will give the adjacent residents and businesses a fighting chance to survive.

SHFSC, along with Garberville Firewise, had a great season of outreach and tabling at community events, Farmers' Markets and VFD benefits - 8 events in 5 months. We are noticing more depth and scope in people's questions and concerns. Home hardening, defensible space, and insurance issues are the hot topics.

Our monthly KMUD show 'Fire Radio' (first Mondays 7-8pm) is sparking interest in a variety of subjects. In November the SoHum Defensible Space Assistance grant was featured, December's show will be a recap of the successful 2024 Prescribed burn season, and in January we will be addressing Sudden Oak Death.

Last but not least, congratulations to the Whale Gulch community of both Humboldt and Mendocino counties for being awarded Firewise status!

Photos



November 2024

HCFSC Member & Partner Updates

Submitted by

Anna Rogers

HCFSC Member Seat

Supervisory District 2

Created

11/12/2024

Report

Sanctuary Forest has two active projects in Whitethorn:

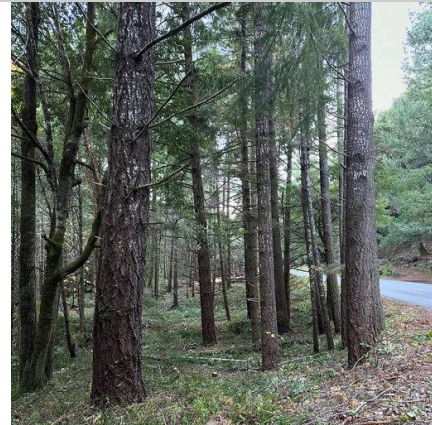
The implementation phase of our Emergency Water Storage Project has officially begun. Ground was broken Tuesday, November 5 for two water storage tanks with a total capacity of 360,000 gallons of water. These tanks will be located next door to the Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department, and will be for use by emergency services as well as be a source of emergency water for members of our Storage & Forbearance Program. This project will be ongoing through the winter and be completed next summer. Thank you to CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) for funding this project.

Sanctuary Forest also has crews working on a shaded fuel break project on Sanctuary Forest property, ongoing as their schedule allows, between Whitethorn and Ettersburg Junctions. By reducing ladder fuels, we are improving the evacuation route for residents and preventing regrowth. Thank you to DWR and Natural Resources Conservation Service for their support of this project.

Photos



Emergency Water Storage Tank Site - Whitethorn Fire Department



Shaded Fuel Break Between Whitethorn and Ettersburg Junctions