

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance
April 28, 2008

1. Call to Order: George Alves called the meeting of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to order at 10:10 a.m. at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), Bowman Station, 13760 Bowman Road, Auburn, California.

a) Introduction of New Members: Gina Chamberlin was introduced as the new Defensible Space Coordinator in Placer County for CALFIRE. She will also assist the public information officer.

b) Self-Introductions: George Alves, Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator, Office of Emergency Services (OES); Brett Storey, Placer County; Rich Gresham, Ryan Bellanca and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer County RCD); Ed Crans and Bill Mendonca, CALFIRE; Paula Celick, Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Robin Yonash, concerned citizen; Gary Hall, Foresthill Fire Department; Joanne Drummond, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.

2. Approval of Minutes: Two minor changes were made to the minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as submitted.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Information/Non-Action Items:

a) Sub-committee Update: George Alves has signed up volunteers for the three sub-committees: 1. For the Public Assistance Program, notices will be sent out announcing the meetings in the near future. 2. For the Education Committee information continues to be gathered. The Committee will get together, review the material and decide what is to be used as an informational package to be made available to the public. Joanne Drummond reviewed a new DVD called "Marin on Fire" while Ryan Bellanca said he will send the URL to George on "Fuels for Schools." George passed around the first draft of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance logo to be used on our materials.

3. Tyler Harkness and Ryan Bellanca will be working on the GIS Committee. They need names of people who have information about continuing projects to be included in the GIS map.

b) Placer County Firewise Forum in Foresthill, Results: Tyler Harkness and George Alves attended the 2 day event. The speakers were excellent and some very important information was shared. About 40-50 people attended each day. However, only a few local residents attended. Another similar event will be held later this year or next. Organizers will be reviewing how they would attract more of local residents for the next event.

c) CWPP Status: George Alves announced the CWPP was approved by the Placer County Board of Supervisors tomorrow, March 25, 2008. It is posted to the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance website at: <http://www.placerfirealliance.org>. Various projects are shown in the plan including the Chipper Program. Send any updates on projects to George Alves.

d) CFSC Update: Joanne Drummond passed out the Tour Itinerary for the May 5, 2008, CFSC Sierra Foothill Fire Safe Field Tour sponsored by the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County and the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance. The tour leaves from the Holiday Inn, Auburn and will be from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Contact Joanne if you have any questions at joanne.firesafe@sbcglobal.net or 530-272-1122. Reservations are required. Joanne is also working with a forestry group on another tour that will be touring the Angora Fire area. More information will be announced at a later date.

6. Action Items:

- a) None

7. Project Updates:

- a) ~~**I-80 Fire Safe Freeway Project**~~- Not a lot to report on this.

b) **Pending Grant Proposals**- Luana Dowling continues to assist on a Placer Sierra Fire Safe grant proposal. Rui Cunha alerted George Alves that various grants may be available but the deadline to apply is May 22, 2008.

c) **Biomass Projects Update**- George is receiving a lot of calls for boxes, especially in Alta. Brett Storey announced that Placer County will have 5 regional areas providing biomass assistance and it will include having boxes available as well as a tub grinder. This is a test project designed to find out how much bio fuel really is out there and how accessible the areas are where it is to be gathered.

Brett also announced an upcoming biomass two-day event to be held in Auburn at the Power's Mansion Inn on May 20 and May 21, 2008. General information will be presented on the first day. On the second day, information will be provided to contractors who may be interested in stewardship contracts. Other similar events are planned in the future for Sonora and Susanville.

Robin Yonash asked if our website could include information on "alternatives to burning." George said he will work on providing that information on the website.

d) **Legislative Update- Brett** Story said that we have been relying heavily on Title 3 monies but the future availability of these monies is uncertain. We expect a lot of change with a new administration. The three major presidential candidates are talking about the search for alternative fuels. The DOE has awarded \$7million for bio-fuels projects. However, Placer County cannot participate because of the Clean Air Act. George passed out a copy of Senate Bill No. 1617 for us to review. It is important for everyone present to contact their legislators with comments about any pending legislation.

8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- **California Fire Safe Council**- Robin Yonash passed out a summary of the legislative activity and shared her testimony about pending legislation with the Natural Resources Subcommittee. Refer to the attached information.
- **Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council**- Ed Crans said they will conduct a tour on May 7 at 8:30 a.m. at Iowa Hill. Everyone is invited to come and see a shelter-in-place and other work that has been done.
- **Placer County Fire Safe Council**- George announced some events are coming up. One will be "A Green Day" in Colfax on Saturday, May 3. Another event will be held in Alta and it will be a fire related event. On May 17th, a meeting is scheduled in Foresthill with Bruce Kranz as the featured speaker.
- **The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council**- Their meeting will be held today at 3 p.m. Paula Celick explained they will walk the shaded fuel break with various officials to discuss the maintenance of it in protecting the City of Auburn.
- **Fire Safe Council of Nevada County**- Joanne Drummond noted they have finalized their CWPP and it is now in the public comment stage. They also participated in Earth Day at Lake Tahoe where there was a lot of interest in green waste. There is also much interest in the shelter-in-place concept in Nevada County including the possibility of working with the scot camps that are extremely remote in case of the need for emergency services. FEMA homeland money is currently being utilized.

9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- *Placer County OES- No Report*
- *CDF/CALFIRE- They have been conducting emergency preparedness for spring. They will start staffing the engines next Monday. Some events have been fueled by wind from controlled burns. Burn Permits go into effect May 1st. We are two weeks ahead on the vegetation and the logs are the driest seen in many years. The bigger fires will occur in the timber areas.*
- *USFS- No Report*
- *BLM- Brian Mulholland will be the new representative to attend our group.*
- *Placer County FMC- No additional information to report*
- *ARWG, RCD- Rich Gresham announced the ARWG was not approved for its grant but the group will continue to meet and will look for grants with a focus on providing educational outreach. They are also working on a GIS Mapping Project that will include insect data and invasive species data. On the RCD front, Ryan Bellanca attended Earth Day at Sierra College and there was a good turnout. On the GIS topic, Ryan mentioned that the RCD is available to help the Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council.*
- *NRCS- No report*
- *Others: Joanne Drummond shared with us that she recently viewed a Spectral Imaging Program, originally developed by the military that shows the genetic footprint with a focus on wildfires.*

Robin Yonash passed out an interesting graphic showing the 100 ft. defensible space marker. This item is available on our website for all to view.

10. Roundtable: No comments from participants

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the same location.