

**Placer County Fire Safe Alliance**  
**May 19, 2008**

**1. Call to Order:** George Alves called the meeting of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to order at 10:13 a.m. at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), Bowman Station, 13760 Bowman Road, Auburn, California.

**a) Introduction of New Members:** Karen Calvert was introduced and is representing the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council out of the Alta area.

**b) Self-Introductions:** George Alves, Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator, Office of Emergency Services (OES); Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer County RCD); Ed Crans and Bill Mendonca, CALFIRE; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Karen Calvert, Sierra Nevada Fire Safe Council; Michael Riley, US Forest Service.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The one minor change made to the minutes was to correct the fire safe website to read: <http://www.placerfirealliance.org>

**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 announced the “**Defensible Space**” **Sub-committee** will meet after this meeting at Sweet Peas Restaurant for its first meeting. Everyone present today is invited to participate in the luncheon meeting. Ryan Bellanca is working in getting participants for the **GIS sub-committee** but he is not present today to give us an update.

**b) The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan** is a public document that is updated every 5 years. George Alves attended a third meeting for this committee last week. The plan being reviewed includes all cities and all emergency circumstances, not just fire. The current document may be available on-line but if you cannot locate it, please contact George for a copy.

**c) CFSC Tour of Foresthill:** The California Fire Safe Council tour took place on May 5 with 27-28 people touring by bus and several traveling by car. There were three sites viewed including fuel breaks and a forested area at Michigan Bluff. Tyler Harkness noted there was positive feedback about the tour and also a real concern was expressed that there needs to be more open communication between the California Fire Safe Council and the local fire safe groups.

**6. Action Items:**

**a) Discussion on handling requests to the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance for written support of local projects and grants:** The group agreed that George Alves should continue to handle these requests on our behalf. If there are any requests that are out of the ordinary, they will be brought to this forum for discussion and final disposition.

**7. Project Updates:**

**a) I-80 Fire Safe Freeway Project-** The work continues along the Interstate.

**b) Pending Grant Proposals-** George Alves handed out a document about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The deadline to apply for this is May 30, 2008 for this statewide announcement. The Clearinghouse is closed and nothing has been received from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. There was some discussion about a large grant for the Tahoe region that is currently being worked on by the RCD and Cal Fire.

- c) **Biomass Projects Update-** George has scheduled 10-12 bins for the Alpine Meadows Home Owners Association. He also had another request from an individual in the same area. A "Biomass Box Program Request Form" was passed out and will be used for the program. Karen Calvert added that the bins are working well in the Alta area.
- d) **Legislative Update-** Brett Story was not present to give a report.
- e) **Other-** No information.

#### 8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- *California Fire Safe Council-* Robin Yonash was not present but a copy of her report was passed out to each meeting participant. (See attached document)
- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council-* Tyler Harkness reported they plan to do another firewise workshop next year and will break it down into specific smaller areas. Their next meeting is tomorrow. Ed Crans added they will begin the King's Hill fuel break project this week in Foresthill.
- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council-* Karen Calvert said they have put on a "Colfax Green Day" and good information was shared. Last Saturday evening, a meeting was held in the Alta/Dutch Flat areas with over 100 people in attendance. Their next regular meeting is this Thursday.
- *The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council-* No report was given since Paula is not present. Bill Mendonca mentioned they conducted a walk through of the shaded fuel break protecting Auburn recently. It is currently being maintained.
- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada County-* Joanne Drummond was not present. George Alves announced that a fund raiser Wine Tasting and Dinner event will be held on May 31, 2008. For tickets, contact Joanne.

#### 9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- *Placer County OES-* No Report
- *CDF/CALFIRE-* Bill Mendonca announced a walk-around to be held in the Talamont area of Truckee at 9:00 a.m. this Thursday, May 22. The RCD inspectors, TRPA and others are to be involved. A media day will be held at a later date. Bill explained how the basic process will work in relation to the ordinances on clearing vacant land. If property does not pass a third inspection, a misdemeanor is issued. If the land is not cleared, the county will then hire a contractor to do the work with a lien being placed on the property to pay back the county.

Bill reported there is talk the Governor will be adding some additional fire protection resources including another engine for Kings Beach. The fire danger this year is especially volatile.

- *USFS-* Mike Riley reported they have done maintenance on over 400 acres. They are also finishing up a mastication project on around 3500 acres that extends all the way to Michigan Bluff. The biomass project at Sugar Pine is progressing slowly. Mike expressed that although areas look green; they are dry underneath and constitute an extreme fire danger.
- *BLM-* No one was present.
- *Placer County FMC-* George Alves added that when homeowners have very large projects it would be more effective to take equipment, like grinders or chippers in instead of taking in bins.
- *ARWG, RCD-* Rich Gresham was not present but Jane Keillor announced an ARWG meeting will be held this coming Thursday, May 22, at 10 a.m. at the Canyon View Community Center. No RCD update was given.
- *NRCS-* No report
- *Others:* No other information.

10. **Roundtable:** No comments from participants

11. **Adjournment and Next Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the same location.