

**Placer County Fire Safe Alliance**  
**June 23, 2008**

**1. Call to Order:** George Alves called the meeting of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to order at 10:00 a.m. at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), Bowman Station, 13760 Bowman Road, Auburn, California.

**a) Introduction of New Members:** No new members were present.

**b) Self-Introductions:** George Alves, Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator, Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Brett Storey, Placer County OES; Rich Gresham, Ryan Bellanca and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer County RCD); Ed Crans, CALFIRE; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Paula Celick, Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council; Mike Brenner, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Two minor changes were made to the minutes. Minutes are available at: <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** met twice to define public assistance plans for seniors and the disabled. Ryan Bellanca and George Alves will meet to discuss additional information Ryan has gathered for this project. Tyler Harkness and Ryan Bellanca are also working together on the **GIS sub-committee** and Ryan has updated the fire safe projects on a map. Tyler will provide a list of people who can assist Ryan in identifying project areas on the map. Ryan is also working with the Auburn City Fire to map all of the fire hydrants in the city. Ryan will contact John Pickett in the Tahoe Basin area to obtain data about the vacant parcel inspections being conducted.

**b) The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The plan is being worked on. The final document is due to be completed by 2009. George continues to attend workgroup meetings.

**6. Action Items:**

**a)** None

**7. Project Updates:**

**a) I-80 Fire Safe Freeway Project-** Rich Gresham reports he believes there is no longer money available for this project.

**b) Pending Grant Proposals-** Brett Storey reported there may be grant opportunities with CABY in the form of Prop 84 monies related to watersheds and fuel break work. He also suggested that we speak to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy about possibilities. It was noted that the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has been extremely successful this year in securing numerous grants. Brett noted the county can assist the group in grant reviews prior to submission. Luana Dowling from Foresthill is also an excellent resource and she is currently involved with other fire safe councils in helping them obtain cost sharing monies.

**c) Biomass Projects Update-** George reported the biomass problem continues to grow and they are currently handling some very large projects. Brett further reported they are working on securing 5 or 6 sites where people can dump their green waste and then they can have contractors come and perform the chipping/grinding work. Overall, this would be the most cost effective method. Brett added that Senator Diane Feinstein has given the county her support in assisting us and working with environmental groups to get the job done, especially in Tahoe.

**d) Legislative Update-** Brett Storey reported there is likely going to be a one year gap in rural schools Title 3 funding but the Chipper and Defensible Space Programs should be funded

through next year. Although we will continue the biomass efforts, no money is available for “on-the ground programs.” The county has asked for around \$1 million in the form of a FMA Grant for emergency funds to do projects in Foresthill, Colfax and Meadow Vista and may hear back by August or September.

e) **Other-** No information.

#### **8. Fire Safe Council Reports:**

- *California Fire Safe Council-* No report
- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council-* Tyler Harkness reported Todd Valley has been mapped out. A discussion revolved around the status of emergency plans for the Foresthill, and Michigan Bluff areas. Brett noted the county and the Red Cross are aligned to handle any emergency matters including fire or extreme weather conditions. A “shelter in place” was suggested for the Michigan Bluff area.
- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council-* George reported the group meets this Thursday when they will be seating the 7<sup>th</sup> member of the council. Their group had a booth in Pioneer Days in Meadow Vista. Possibly a meeting will be arranged for the Colfax area in the near future.
- *The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council-* Paula Celick announced their meeting will be held at 4 p.m. today at Auburn City Hall, Room 10, upstairs. Currently, they are working with the fire chief on preparing a plan for on-going maintenance of the town shaded fuel break. Additionally, they are updating the MOU to include the areas of Penryn and Newcastle in their group. Paula noted that work has been done on the fuel break including eradication of Scotch Broom.
- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada County-* No regular report; George Alves reported the group toured the Angora Fire area last week. The Tahoe area is using a 1.5 mile WUI boundary.

#### **9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:**

- *Placer County OES-* No Report
- *CDF/CALFIRE-* Ed Crans reported they continue to use Prop 40 funds for various projects. They are working on applying for various grants due in August for such things as urban forestry and insect and disease issues. Ed noted they lost 2 engines in last week's Lincoln Fire and they hope to replace them soon.
- *USFS-* No report
- *BLM- CALFIRE* met with BLM in Iowa Hill and anticipate they will jointly do some burns. Ryan reported they will be working in November on mastification and they are looking for a demo area.
- *Placer County FMC-* No other information to report.
- *ARWG, RCD-* It was announced there was no meeting of the ARWG this month. Rich Gresham did report they are waiting to hear about the receipt of a \$200,000 grant and he will follow-up on that prior to the end of this month.
- *NRCS-* Mike Brenner reported the new Farm Bill was passed and included a 30% increase in conservation funding over the next five years. He hopes everyone will spread the word about the EQIP program. He showed a map of the Foresthill area where 9 parcels were treated, forming a community type fuel break. He explained the program is for private land and this is a cost share program where the homeowner and the NRCS each pay around \$900-1300 per acre to perform the work. The kinds of work done includes removing and pruning trees and even leveling Manzanita fields. Trees are planed for harvest in the future. He can be reached at 530-885-6505 for more information.
- *Other:* Watch for an insert in all local papers about fire safe data. Title 3 money will be paying for this publication.

**10. Roundtable:** Tyler Harkness noted his group will be working diligently on bringing together other community groups.

**11. Adjournment and Next Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the same location.