

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance
August 25, 2008

1. Call to Order: George Alves called the meeting of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to order at 10:06 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); 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; Robin Yonash, citizen; Karina Silvas, Sierra Forest Legacy.

2. Approval of Minutes: Changes were made to the minutes. The revisions are available at: <http://www.placerfirealliance.org>

3. Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as submitted. For next month, item 7 A will be removed.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Information/Non-Action Items:

a) Sub-committee Update: George Alves reported on three important committees:
Defensible Space Assistance- Three names are now on his list. He also received a call from a group wanting to volunteer their time to assist. September is a great month to gather volunteers.

Education: George just gave Robin Yonash information. She will evaluate, prioritize and recommend the materials to use. The information and resource list should be available on the website.

GIS: Ryan Bellanca reported all information is updated on the GIS maps including the new CFIP Data. He presented several maps to show the results of his efforts. Some of the private data has not yet been collected and he asked for assistance in gathering all of the data. Ryan noted he will be getting 2008 maps in the near future. The present maps are from 2005.

He further reported he is assisting the WACMAC and showed the proposed CWPP projects on the WACMAC map. (Other maps available are for the Greater Auburn area, Todd Valley and Iowa Hill) He noted there are few projects occurring in South Placer County area. The historic data shows there was a significant fire in Granite Bay in 1954 and currently there are areas near Folsom Lake that need clearing. Various homeowners associations cannot do any management on easements. George and Ryan will meet to discuss potential grants that can be written to assist in future projects.

b) The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan: The sessions will be held on October 2 and October 3, 2008. The plan is currently being rewritten.

6. Action Items:

a) None

7. Project Updates:

a) I-80 Fire Safe Freeway Project- The item will be removed from the agenda as completed.

b) Pending Grant Proposals- Ryan is working on two SNC grants. One is for approximately \$298K (WUI Grant) for planning CEQA, layout and funds for the Chipper Program. We have a good match with Proposition 40 and with PG&E and the Sierra Forest Legacy. The other grant is \$7K for the publication of the Defensible Space Handbook. The publication "You and Your Forest" will also be published with updates and added links to other information on all fire

safe councils and contacts. Pictures will be in color. This will be distributed as a "free handout" to the public.

Ed Crans reported they are also submitting grants including \$350K tailored for projects based on CWPPs. These will be 50/50 grants.

c) **Biomass Projects Update**- Work is being continued in Foreshill.

d) **Legislative Update**- Brett Storey was not present. Robin Yonash shared information on the status of legislation she has been following.

e) **Other**- No information

8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- *California Fire Safe Council*- Robin Yonash reported attending the afternoon session of the August meeting. She noted the Rural Coalition of Counties (RCRC) wants the governor to declare a state of emergency so all local forests can implement projects the same as has been done in the Tahoe area. Don Lang has been hired for the group and his office will be in the McClellan area. The next meeting is tentatively set for October 22, 2008 at McClellan with the Alliance meeting in the afternoon. Robin will provide an update at the next meeting.

- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council*- Tyler Harkness thanked Ryan Bellanca for his efforts in mapping all of their projects. The Heritage Festival will be on Labor Day Weekend in Foresthill. At their last meeting, Karina Silvas gave a fire wise presentation. She will also be doing an article for their publication.

- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council*- George reported there was no quorum at the last meeting. They are working with the Alpine Meadows Homeowners Association, which is an area east of Colfax off of Secret Town Road. The Winchester Community Association is meeting this week with fire officials to discuss their needs to understand defensible space. The meeting will be held on August 27, 2008 at the Winchester Swim/Tennis Club at 6 p.m.

- *The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council*- Paula Celick said they are meeting today and Kevin will be presenting their strategic plan. She thanked Ryan for attending their last meeting and he said he will attend this meeting and bring the project map of their area. There is a concern about the maintenance of some small easement areas.

- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada County*- Joanne Drummond was not present to report.

9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- *Placer County OES*- No Report

- *CDF/CALFIRE*- Ed Crans said there was a red fire on the east side in the respite area. The WUIs are winding down. CALFIRE is working on capturing more funding. The budget delay affects the projects and funding. Ed will terminate agreements and start new ones. He received notice from the Nevada County RCD about an EQIP meeting in December 2008. He also noted that Proposition 40 funds can be used for replanting. There is not enough money to go around. There is also a push for forest management...

- *USFS*- No report

- *BLM-CALFIRE*- No report

- *Placer County FMC*- George announced the website for the Alliance will be moved back to Placer County OES. The present site will re-direct anyone once the new site is set-up.

- *ARWG, RCD*- Rich said the RFP is not out yet for the ARWG and no funding is currently available for them. No additional information to report about the RCD.

- *NRCS*- The NRCS committee will be meeting with Placer County in the near future.

- *Sierra Forest Legacy*- Karina Silvas reported she held a fire wise workshop in Foresthill and about 15 people attended. She will also participate in "Fire on the Divide". They may be starting another fire safe council in Walden Woods. She would like to attend the Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council meeting in September. Karina has also talked with Granite Bay and they said they are not set-up for fire safe type activities.

- *Other*- No reports

10. Roundtable: Ryan expressed his concerns that there is only so much money for fuels management. He hopes to address fighting fires where they need to be fought. He emphasized how important pre-planning is.

Robin said the State Fire Marshall's Office now has a website listing official compliant building project products. That website is:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland.php

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the same location. George will be on vacation on that date and he will designate a facilitator for that meeting.