

**Placer County Fire Safe Alliance Meeting
September 22, 2008**

1. Call to Order: Brett Storey 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: Brett Storey, Placer County Office of Emergency Services (OES); Ryan Bellanca and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (PCRCO); Ed Crans and Bill McKenzie, CALFIRE; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Karina Silvas, Sierra Forest Legacy; Robin Yonash, Citizen of Colfax.

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: 1. *Educational Committee*- Robin Yonash reported on the review of fire safe educational materials. She has divided materials into three categories. Items not selected will be donated to the library.

The group agreed to keep two DVDs including "Marin on Fire" and another titled, "Home Improvement- A Fire Wise Approach." Several flyers will be kept including those on equipment, chipping, outside burning, preparing for disasters, Public 4290 Resources, EQIP and CWPP. Cost is a major factor in selecting publications to publish. Brett will meet with George Alves about other publications we may wish to retain.

Tyler Harkness mentioned that the Sierra Nevada Alliance has a lawn and garden book that could be a good resource. It costs about \$15.00 but could be sold for \$20.00 in a fund raiser.

b.) Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan: No information to report.

6. Action Items:

a) Consolidation of the November and December meeting into one meeting on December 8, 2008. *This action was discussed and approved by those present.*

7. Project Updates:

a) Pending/Developing Grant Proposals- Ryan Bellanca reports working on three grant requests. The first is through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for updating of the "Defensible Space Handbook", previously published by the RCD in 2003. The second one is for \$266K and is in conjunction with the Placer Sierra Fire Safe group for a planning CEQA to clear 1470 acres. The final grant Ryan is preparing is a Western States WUII grant for \$299K to support the Chipper Program. He said comments about the proposal have been favorable.

Brett asked Ryan to prepare an "Executive Summary" and a "Cost Benefit Analysis" on the \$266K planning CEQA grant so it can be determined if end projects might be done through County FEMA grants.

Brett reported a grant has been submitted to the U.S. Endowment for Forestry for \$2 Million encompassing a broad investment area. The fire safe groups could use this as a source for

matching dollars over a 4 year period with monies to be used for carbon sequestration and biomass projects.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has asked for help from the County. Money has also been received by the County from Sierra Pacific Industries, (SPI). Efforts will be focused in the Truckee area in a partnership with the Forestry Service, Air Pollution Control Districts, etc. The County has matching money for such things as forest thinning and replanting. It is reported new factories are being opened for pellet production in Northern California region.

b) Biomass Projects Update- No update

c) Legislative Update- Brett noted further funding will probably be unavailable for roads and schools for about a year due to California Budget issues.

Robin reported that AB1883 became a law on August 4, 2008. It allows fire safe groups to contract with inmate crews for planned projects. SB1595 covers vegetation management, including fuels management. SB1617, the legislation that would allow a \$50 fee to be used for fire prevention, has not passed. SCR80 became a law August 27, 2008 and honors fire safe councils.

d) Other- No information.

8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- *California Fire Safe Council-* Robin said the next meeting is still to be held on October 22, 2008 at McClellan Park. Our attorney has requested the California Fire Safe Council abandon, "with prejudice", its application for trademark.
- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council-* Tyler announced the "Fire on the Divide" in Foresthill will be held on October 11, 2008. Fire suppression demos will take place with other activities.
- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council-* No other information to report.
- *The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council-* No report
- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada County-* No report.

9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- *Placer County OES-* Brett reported homeowners have been busy clearing their properties. The chipper crews were sent to Tahoe to clear massive piles of material. Brett will recommend that another significant area be selected for cleanup in the near future.

Brett was asked who does the work on a property when a homeowner does not and the response from Brett is that the County has an RFP for contractors to perform the work.

A fire safe presentation, given by the County, will be held this Thursday in the Lincoln/Sheridan area. The hope is to create a CWPP in that area and also one in the Granite Bay area.

- *CDF/CALFIRE-* Ed Crans believes Prop 40 funds will be available after budget approval.
- *USFS-* No report.
- *BLM-* No report
- *Placer County FMC-* No report since George Alves is on vacation.
- *ARWG, RCD-* No other information.
- *NRCS-* Ryan reported the EQIP Program has received 19 new applications.
- *Other:* Karina Silvas of the Sierra Forest Legacy reported she will meet with CALFIRE this week. The Sierra Nevada Legacy meets next Wednesday with the Alpine Meadows Community in Alta and with Cape Horn residents. Both communities are interested in being provided with bins from the County.

10. Roundtable: None

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting will be on **Monday, October 27, 2008 at 10 a.m.** at the same location. There will be **NO NOVEMBER MEETING**. The December meeting will be on **Monday, December 8, 2008**.