

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance
February 23, 2009

1. Call to Order: George Alves called the meeting of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to order at 10:05 a.m. at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), Bowman Station, 13760 Bowman Road, Auburn, California.

a) Introduction of New Members: Nanette Herron and Bill Mikesell from Rocklin were introduced. They are considering starting a fire safe group in their community.

b) Self-Introductions: George Alves, Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator and 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; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Robin Yonash, Citizen; Karina Silvas, Sierra Forest Legacy; Karen Calvert, Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council; Nanette Herron, City of Rocklin; Bill Mikesell, Rocklin Fire Department; Walter Clevenger, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Joanne Drummond, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County; Jane LaBoa, Northern California Society of American Foresters, (NCSAF).

2. Approval of Minutes: No changes were made. To view previous minutes, refer to: <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: No money is currently available to fund projects.

b) RCD/PCFSC Grant Update: Ryan Bellanca just turned in a request for under \$300K to obtain funds to continue the Chipper Program. Ed Crans added that he will be receiving funding this year through Proposition 40. The Applegate Community Shaded Fuel break of 120 acres on the rim will be done. All projects being worked on are CWPP projects. The Bark Beetle Grant is also being worked on. Roadside clearing will also be completed this year in the Dutch Flat/Alta Area.

The group discussed the damage Bark Beetles are doing to many trees in the Placer County area. Brett asked Ryan to write something up about the damage they have observed and submit the information to him. Perhaps the removal of trees damaged by the Bark Beetles can be included in existing projects.

Karen has submitted three grants requesting funding for projects in Alpine Meadows, Gillis Hill Ridge and various roadside improvements in the area. They will be holding a Forest Stewardship Workshop in the near future.

c) State and Federal Grant Availability/Status- Brett is working with the U.S. Forest Service and they will be receiving funding to work on biomass removal. There are over 600,000 acres involved. All of the piles sitting in the forest can now be removed. The project will be completed within 120 days. The material from the piles would be processed through Loyalton, Rio Bravo, Lincoln and Carson City.

The State does not provide any funding for the Fire Safe Councils. Bill was asked by this group to find out where the \$500.00 burn violation fine goes with the thought that perhaps we might capture some of that money. He was unable to obtain any information on this but he will report back about it at our next meeting.

d) Insurance Industry Impact on Defensible Space Requirements- Perhaps next month an Allstate representative will be able to meet with us. Joanne said they have an Allstate representative on their Board. Allstate may be accepting a letter from the Nevada County Fire Safe Council stating the condition of a property after the defensible space requirements have been met. The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council is doing something similar in verifying the completion of defensible space requirements for landowners to be presented to insurance companies.

CALFIRE reports they have trained qualified people to perform inspections on defensible space measures. There is an important need for this service and it could be a good source of potential funding. Within 100 feet, the service is free and over 100 feet perhaps there could be a charge. CALFIRE does not have the authority to tell homeowners to remove trees but perhaps the insurance companies do.

6. Action Items:

a) George passed out a meeting schedule. Our meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Monday of each month. The exceptions are: the May meeting will be held this year on *May 18, 2009*. There will be *no November meeting* and the December meeting will be on *December 7, 2009*.

7. Project Updates:

- a) Pending/Developing Grant Proposals-** This was already discussed today.
- b) Biomass Projects Update-** No update was given.
- c) Legislative Update-** No new legislation has been introduced.
- d) Other-** No information

8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- *California Fire Safe Council-* Robin reported the trademark applications have been abandoned by the CFSC. The Board will meet next on Thursday, February 26, 2009. Robin will be meeting with Supervisor Montgomery in the near future.
- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council-* Tyler reported the next meeting will be tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. at the Fire Department in downtown Foresthill.
- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council-* The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2009 at the Colfax Veteran's Hall.
- *The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council-* The meeting set for this afternoon at 4 p.m. has been *cancelled*. The meetings will resume in March.
- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada Council-* Joanne said they have submitted three grant requests to the Clearinghouse. They continue their Scotch Broom Challenge adding several new sites. This is their third year of participation.
- *Other-* Bill Mendonca will report back next month on the burn violation fines.

9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- *Placer County OES-* The Rural Schools Title II funding has come through. There will be a joint fire service partnership and a new committee is being formed. Everyone is encouraged to apply to be a part of this effort.
- *CDF/CALFIRE-* The form LE100 is being used in the Tahoe Basin. They are currently discussing "Shelter in Place", noting that Southern California is using this method successfully. It works for them but may not work for us here.

Ed reported that the insurance companies are hiring mom and pop operators to protect properties at risk in fire areas. The issue surrounding this includes the insurance liability. The Feds are talking about doing projects without a match. Ed is currently using 2006 monies for his projects.

- *USFS-* No report
- *BLM-* Walt said they are currently working through the State Parks on vegetation management.

- *BOR*-No report
- *Placer County FMC*- George continues to work with the Placer Sierra and the Greater Auburn groups.
- *ARWG*- The group continues to work on educational outreach.
- *RCD*- Rich said there will be some educational outreach done in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. Dr. Richard Harris will be the presenter for the Forest Stewardship in Rural Residential Wildlife Interface. The dates of the workshops are June 5, June 12, June 19 and June 26, 2009. The planning for the events is not yet complete.

The RCD is working with CALFIRE to register applicants for the 2009 Hire Safety Equipment Training to be held 3/18, 3/24, 4/18 and 4/25. About 215 people have already been registered for the classes.

The Chipper Program is continuing but only one piece of equipment is in operation at this time due to monetary constraints.

- *NRCS*-No report
- *Sierra Forest Legacy*- Karina continues to work with six local communities. She is also involved in the Cape Horn Emergency Entrance at Interstate 80.
- *Other*- Jane LaBoa announced their next meeting will be at the end of April in Ukiah. The summer meeting will be on August 8, 2009. They continue to work on their youth education for teachers.

Brett announced that money from the Stimulus Program is coming. One-half of the money will be from the Federal Government and the other half from the Local or State level. This money will be for "Shovel Ready Projects."

Nanette and Bill reported they have joined us today because they are contemplating starting a fire safe group in Rocklin. They may be applying for a grant for start-up in the very near future. They are trying to become pro-active by delivering protective measures to their community before an emergency occurs.

10. Roundtable: Tyler announced there are two new Wikipedia articles that may be of interest to Alliance members. One article is about local fire safe councils, and the other is about the California Fire Safe Council. To read the articles go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_safe_councils and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Fire_Safe_Council

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the same location.