

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance
December 10, 2007

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 CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) Bowman Station, 13760 Bowman Road, Auburn, CA.
 - A. **Introduction of New Members:** *See item 5 below.*
 - B. **Self-Introductions:** George Alves, Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator - Office of Emergency Services (OES); Rich Gresham, and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer County RCD); Edward Crans, CalFire; Richard Herrera Jr., US Forest Service (USFS); Joanne Drummond, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Robin Yonash, Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council; Brett Storey, Placer County Executive Office; Steve Holl, Holl Consulting.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The October meeting minutes were approved with one correction.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** *The Agenda was approved. A new item to be added will be a "Legislative Updates" from Brett Storey. Off agenda-* GIS Coordinator, Leah Phillips will give a presentation next meeting on the GIS mapping process.
4. **Public Comment:** none
5. **Information/Non-Action Items**
 - A. Membership Update: Richard Herrera, Jr. will be temporarily taking over for Marc Walburn; Ken Hood may be replaced by Tim Mullen. Brett Storey will be taking over OES responsibilities.
6. **Action Items:**
 - A. Sub-Committee Structure- George Alves said there are two projects being worked on: Educational outreach including website communication and the Defensible Space Assistance Program.

Discussion centered on standardizing a portfolio of information to present to the community. It was suggested a lending library could assist the public. Contact George Alves if you can assist.

Volunteers are needed to work on the Defensible Space program with some funding available. Suggestions included enlisting support from youth groups, rotary clubs and other fire safe councils. George reiterated that this group is the conduit to bring other fire safe groups together.
7. **Project Updates:**
 - A. **I-80 Fire safe Freeway Project:** Ongoing- The Chipper was in the Colfax area today.
 - B. **Placer County Community Wildfire Protection Plan:** A draft has been distributed for review with input expected back by 12/14/07. Chuck Thomas, from Truckee Fire, voiced concern about the gap in coverage resulting in a greater need for a protection plan. It was suggested that the website define geographical areas so residents may find what fire safe organization is in their area. George Alves will coordinate future efforts on this with Chuck Thomas.

Discussion was extensive about the 500 feet requirement for defensible space. Brett Storey said the county will identify the meaning of this and provide guidance to the local communities as needed.
 - C. **Pending/Developing Grant Proposals:** *Several fire safe agencies have been given grants by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. As an alliance, we could help other fire safe groups in the grant process. Many grants are requiring matching funds.*

Rich Gresham reported the RCD will continue with the watershed coordinator efforts and will see what the needs will be of the CWPP.

D. Biomass Projects Update: *Brett Storey reported a Bio-Mass project is active in Tahoe and also that a grant has been given to Placer County to study air quality and the areas selected for study are Tahoe (due to smoke) and Roseville because of the rail yards. The County is moving forward in the "carbon Market" and working with the State Air Resources Boards, planting trees after a burn occurs.*

E. Other: *Defensible Space Program Ordinance: This was approved along with a strategic plan. The pilot in Tahoe begins February 2008 and pertains to unimproved parcels that may affect an improved parcel.*

8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- *CA Fire Safe Council: A board member has invited Joanne Drummond's group to a meeting to discuss the trademark issue. There is a concern that local fire safe councils will be charged in the future for the use of the term "fire safe." It was suggested a letter be sent to the CA Fire Safe Council expressing the concern that local fire safes could not afford any future costs related to the use of a trademark.*

Robin provided a status report on SB838, noting that that "it has moved from the Appropriations Committee Suspense File back to the full Committee, implying that the bill has been amended, but no amended version is available online yet."

- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill: They will be conducting a two day workshop on fire safe practices including an interactive "fire wise program." A discussion was held on the differences between the Fire wise Programs vs. the Fire Safe Council objectives.*
- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council- They had a quorum at the last meeting and a new citizen representative will be attending next month.*
- *Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council- They are working on fuel break projects.*
- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada County- They are working on the CWPP and have been holding community meetings. They are focusing on working with the GIS and Forest Service to map their areas for residents to get the "you are here perspective."*

9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- Placer County OES
- CalFire- Ed Crans reported they are working on projects in the Truckee and Tahoe Basin areas.
- USFS- Richard Herrera reported undercutting is being done near Snowy Hills. They are also burning piles in various areas.
- BLM- No report
- Placer County FMC- A new way to utilize existing signage was discussed. George will check with CalFire to see what the possibilities are for using road signs to announce fire dangers.
- ARWG- Rich Gresham stated Shelley Mathews will be serve through the end of December as the Coordinator. They are working on the writing for the next three year grant.
- RCD- Rich Gresham stated new maps are being created to show projects in progress.
- NRCS- No report
- Others- No reports

10. Roundtable: No comments

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2007 at 10 a.m. at the same location.

