

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance
January 26, 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:** Otis Wollan is attending today. Previously involved in the formation of the American River Watershed Group he currently leads the American River Watershed Institute. Dave Funk is a Board Member of the RCD and is here to gather information about the Nevada County Fire Safe correspondence to Senator Aanestad.
 - b) Self-Introductions:** George Alves, Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator; Dave Funk, 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; Otis Wollan, American River Watershed Institute; Karen Calvert, Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council; Gary Kirk, Foresthill Fire Protection District.

- 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:** All projects are currently on hold due to funding constraints.
 - b) RCD/PCFSC Grant Update:** Various State funding sources have been put on hold. The RCD is putting in for a Chipper Grant through the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) Clearinghouse. Ryan Bellanca is working on the Long Point Fuel break and mitigation with local ATV groups. This area is the access to Lake Clementine where a 20 foot buffer is needed. He is also working on another CWPP project involving the removal of beetles. Karen Calvert reported their group is also pursuing grants through the Clearinghouse for their projects. She will be walking the Alpine Meadow Projects area. Karina Silvas volunteered to assist Karen.
 - c) State and Federal Grant Availability/Status-** Ryan reported there is no money available. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy funding is on hold. Approximately \$40,000 may be available this year through the Clearinghouse.
 - d) Other-** George will contact Allstate Insurance and invite one of their representatives to come to speak to our group. . The question we need answered is: "What is the criteria used to cancel a homeowners insurance?" Bill Mendonca said he is inundated by calls to perform property inspections. No amendment has been yet submitted to CA4291 to clarify the role of CALFIRE or other fire agencies. The question is whose liability is it? Bill added that trained fire professionals should perform the inspections.

- 6. Action Items:**

 - a)** Our meetings will continue to be held on the fourth Monday of each month. George will prepare the yearly schedule and send it to everyone. As usual, there will be no November meeting but instead a combined meeting to be held in early December. Due to Memorial Day, falling on the fourth Monday, the May meeting may be held on May 18, 2009.

- 7. Project Updates:**

 - a) Pending/Developing Grant Proposals-** Karina is working on a grant to keep the Fire Wise Program going. She is also in search of letters of support from all local fire safe councils. The

Foresthill community is currently 100% Fire Wise. Ryan will also be asking for letters of support.

b) Biomass Projects Update- Planning meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every other month. The next one will be in February at the Domes. The Chipper Program continues but funding may soon run out.

c) Legislative Update- Robin said there are no new State bills to report on.

d) Other- No information

8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- *California Fire Safe Council-* The next meeting of the council will be held on February 26, 2009. Robin reported the council will withdraw its application for the exclusive trademark for the Fire Safe name. However, they will still be eligible to file an application at a later date. There is a concern that the CFSC continues to hold closed door hearings. Senator Aanestad might submit legislation requiring private groups to follow "Brown Act" type procedures and disclosure.
- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council-* Gary said the 63 acre Todd Valley Fuel Break project will soon go out for bid. They are currently identifying all properties to be included. Tyler noted that a "Peer Court Workgroup" may be available to help deliver senior assistance programs in the area. The Rooster Ridge Project will extend as far as Cape Horn.
- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council-* Karen said they will be receiving some assistance on defensible space clearing in the Alta area from a group of young people. Also, they are in the midst of applying for six grants.
- *The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council-* George will be attending their meeting today and will be assisting them in their reorganization. The group will be including the Penryn and Newcastle areas
- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada County-* Although Joanne Drummond was not able to attend the meeting, the group discussed a letter her council has sent to Senator Aanestad regarding using fines for local fire safe council activities instead of sending them to the State's general fund. The letter also went to the Yahoo group for comment. The basic question is "Do we want to write a letter saying we support the concept? How much of a penalty per violation should be charged?" Robin will draft a letter and send it to Bill Mendonca so he can provide an estimate of how much money might be available annually from fines. If the dollars justify it, the letter will be sent on to the Yahoo group to request support.

9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- *Placer County OES-* The Chipper Program continues to the top priority.
- *CDF/CALFIRE-* Ed is waiting for the receipt of more funding. He is also seeking groups who can contribute a 25% cost share under Prop 40 for fuel load reduction projects because he would like to expand these projects. He is currently utilizing funds from 2006 to complete projects by April 15, 2009. The Rooster Ridge project is tied into the project that Ed is administering.
- *USFS-* No report
- *BLM-* No report
- *BOR-* No report
- *Placer County FMC-* George said his hours will be reduced to about 20 hours a month and a possible contract extension through September 2009.
- *ARWG-* The group continues to work on educational outreach.
- *RCD-* Ryan Bellanca reported Rocklin held a workshop about using goats to manage fuel load reduction. They may establish a fire safe council and complete a CWPP. Ryan will be disbursing a publication to local communities called "Protecting Communities." The new issue of the "Forestland Newsletter" is out.
- *NRCS-* No report.
- *Sierra Forest Legacy-* Karina is currently working with six local communities.
- *Other-* Robin reported speaking with Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery recently. She agreed to attend one of our monthly meetings in the future.

The Placer County Air Pollution Control District will be meeting on February 19, 2009 at the Domes at 2:30 p.m. to discuss issues associated with "burning." Everyone is encouraged to attend. **Update: Refer to the web page at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Ar.aspx>**
The February meeting may not impact Alliance members as the topic for the meeting is: "Rice Straw Emission Reduction Credits."

10. Roundtable: No additional comments.

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the same location. George will try to have a speaker from the insurance industry present to answer questions. Perhaps Supervisor Montgomery will also be present.