

# **Meeting Summary Humboldt County Fire Safe Council August 2, 2004**

The ninth meeting of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (FSC) was held on August 2, 2004, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M., at the U.S. Forest Service Six Rivers National Forest conference room, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, California. The FSC was appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to guide preparation of the County Master Fire Protection Plan (Fire Plan).

## **Fire Safe Council Members Attending:**

Kevin O'Neil, Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Division Chief, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Kirk Gothier, Humboldt County Community Development Services, Assistant Planning Director

Glenn Ziemer, Humboldt Fire District #1, Assistant Fire Chief

Ian Sigman, Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company and Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council

Dave White, Arcata Fire Department and Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association Representative

## **Fire Safe Council Members Absent:**

Will Harling, Orleans/Somers Bar Fire Safe Council and Orleans Fire & Rescue

Gary Risling, Hoopa Fire Department, Wildlands Fire Manager

Frank Hizer, Fortuna Fire Protection District, Fire Chief

Debra Lake, Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department, Board Chair

Lucy Salazar, USFS, Six Rivers National Forest, Vegetation Management & Air Coordinator

## **Public and Agency Representatives Attending:**

Tracy Katelman, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council

Ben Riggan, Program Director for Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council

Hugh Scanlon, CDF Fire Planning and Prevention Battalion Chief

Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Community Development Services, Planning

Chinmaya Lewis, Humboldt County Community Development Services, GIS

Wayne Mitchell, Santa Rosa CDF

Stephen Underwood, California Department of Parks & Recreation

Chris Larson, Lower Mattole FSC

Karen Hans, NOAA Fisheries

Praline McCormick, ForeverGreen Forestry

George Duffy Bridgville (Van Duzen FSC)

## **County Fire Safe Council Coordinator / Master Fire Protection Plan Consultant**

George Williamson, Planwest Partners, Principal Planner (Fire Safe Council Coordinator)

## **Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 P.M. by the Fire Safe Council Chair, Kevin O'Neil and self introductions were made by the Council members and the audience.

There was not a quorum of Humboldt County FSC members and for that reason proposed decisions could not be finalized at the meeting.

### **FSC Review of the Draft Master Fire Protection Plan**

The Coordinator made a presentation summarizing the changes and additions to the Fire Plan and solicited input from the FSC. CDF submitted a copy of the Fire Plan with editorial comments. Additionally, the following changes were recommended by the FSC and meeting attendees for the next draft of the Fire Plan:

1. Figure 1.2 title and legend needs to be changed to reflect the fact that emergency response outside of Fire Protection District boundaries is on a “good-will” basis and could change at anytime. It was proposed that “District Response” in the legend be changed to “Out of District Response” and “Non-District Response” be changed to “Non-Governmental Response” or “Non-Taxing Response”.
2. The title of the figure 3.7 should be changed from “Wildland Ignition Risk” to “Wildland Ignition Risk Ignition Components”.
3. The ISO information in Chapter 4 needs to be cited, verified and updated.
4. May want to consider more than just first responder on scene in the response time modeling to reflect the varying levels of response depending on the type of incident and amount of resources needed.
5. Explicitly state in the Fire Plan that the GIS maps will be made available to fire departments and FSCs. Possibly write an additional recommendation that is dedicated to the subject of making maps available.
6. Needs to be made clearer who the target audience is. Seems like too much responsibility for Fire Plan implementation is given to the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association.
7. Further discussion is needed on the “implementability” of the recommendations. They may need stronger language.
8. Consider creating individual implementation plans for areas or subjects, with an introduction that summarizes the Fire Plan but focuses on specific implementation steps. These documents would be shorter and easier to understand than the Fire Plan.
9. Community Fire Planning meetings can be used to gather data that can be used to create “quick and dirty” community fire plans that can be used to secure National Fire Plan funding.
10. The prioritization method for selecting which recommendations to write associated implementation measures for was questioned. There was a stated need to get more fire hazard reduction implementation measures into the plan.
11. The Fir Plan needs stronger implementation language to give it “more teeth”. Implementation measures need stronger wording and need to be more specific.
12. A comparison should be made between the local state of readiness for emergency response and the State average. This can be used to measure ourselves against the rest of the State.
13. Chapter 7 needs to get much more specific to be useful.
14. Put together a summary of the Fire Plan for community meetings with reference information on how to find the whole document if someone wanted it.
15. Square miles of response area for fire departments quoted in chapter from survey data needs to be cross referenced using GIS technology and verified with departments because some errors were noted.
16. Information in the fire department characteristics table in Chapter 4 needs to be corrected and verified with the fire departments.

### **Review of Proposed Community Outreach Program**

The next topic of discussion on the agenda was the proposed community outreach program to get public feedback on the draft Fire Plan and gather additional community risk assessment information. A program outline, tentative schedule of meetings, and a draft meeting flyer were reviewed by the FSC. The following comments were made about the proposed program.

1. Provide meeting participants with a summary of the plan highlighting policy recommendations and implementation measures. Provide them with information about where they can get a copy of the whole Fire Plan
2. Create a feedback form that can be used to gather public comments on the draft Fire Plan
3. Create a survey that can be given to meeting participants asking them about their understanding of emergency service response times, water supply, fire protection capability etc.
4. Wildland fire issues overshadow other services provided by the fire departments like structure fire suppression and medical aid.
5. Need to incorporate into the meeting agenda a presentation on what will be implemented as a result of completing the Fire Plan. Be clear about the objectives of the process.
6. Make sure to make a pitch for how local communities can get a FSC going.
7. Before the meetings start make sure that we know how the Title III funding is going to be allocated so we can provide information on how to apply for funding. Also need to have a long-term plan laid out for how the HR2389 funding will be used to fulfill a long-range vision of community fire safety.

### **HR 2389 funding for local projects**

A brainstorm was conducted to come up with project ideas that fit the allowable use under Title III funding source. The following ideas were recorded:

1. Map book projects to update what the fire departments have now.
2. County-wide response guide.
3. A program similar to Trinity County's "Big Red Truck" program. Fire departments get paid for evaluating the accessibility of homes in their response area and providing fire safety advice to homeowners.
4. Provide a set amount of funding to the currently active FSCs (\$5-7,000), offer seed grants to emerging FSCs to help get them started, and set aside a fund for projects that are developed through a coordinated effort that will benefit all local FSCs. Specify that all project proposals must fit requirements of the Title III funding source.
5. Make sure to gain a clear picture of the long-term plans for use of the HR 2389 funds. Need a larger vision and must look at ways the funding can be used to leverage more monies. Depending on decisions made by Congress, Title III may not always be an option and Counties will be required to have a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC).

### **Proposed new functions of the FSC**

A revised resolution including new duties for the FSC was reviewed. Kirk Gothier will take the revised resolution to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and ask that they extend the life of the FSC for two more years to guide the implementation of the Fire Plan. Some suggestions of changes in the FSC membership included:

1. Adding a representative from each active local FSC.
2. Adding a representative from BLM, State and/or National Parks.
3. Adding an insurance industry representative.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting has yet to be scheduled. FSC members and interested parties will be notified when a date is set.

**Adjournment**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:30 P.M.