

**Meeting Summary (Action Minutes)**  
**Humboldt County Fire Safe Council**  
**January 18th, 2005**

The twelfth meeting of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (FSC) was held on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005, 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 and implementation 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

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

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

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

Debra Lake, Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department, Board Chair

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

Dan Larkin, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services

Peter Tittmann, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Manny Mello, Northwest Insurance

Tim Jones, BLM Fire Management Officer

Glenn Ziemer, Humboldt Fire District #1, Fire Chief

**Fire Safe Council Members Absent:**

Duane Sherman, Hoopa Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Chief

George Duffy Bridgeville, Van Duzen FSC

**Public and Agency Representatives Attending:**

Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Community Development Services, Planning

Kim Price, CDF, Fire Captain

Hugh Scanlon, CDF, Battalion Chief

Dean Heyenga, City of Trinidad

Bob Fish, Bush Eaters Inc.

John Hornstein, Bush Eaters Inc.

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by the Fire Safe Council Chair, Kevin O'Neil.

**Agenda Item 2. Approval of Minutes from 12/7/04 FSC Meeting**

**Discussion:** Ian made a qualification to his recorded statement in the discussion of Agenda Item #7. He pointed out that although there would be benefits to creating new boundaries for the Petrolia Fire Protection District to include the Honeydew Fire response area, it may not be the desired approach by all involved. There would be issues of autonomy and the challenges of going through the LAFCO process.

**Action:** Tim Jones made a motion to approve the minutes with the inclusion of Ian's remarks and his motion was seconded by Debra Lake and unanimously approved.

### **Agenda Item 3. Public Comments**

#### **Discussion:**

- Bush Eaters Inc. presented information on their small masticating machine called the Bull Hog Mulcher. They provide vegetation removal services and can be hired to conduct fuel hazard reduction work. They can be reached at (707) 616-3845.

Debra Lake suggested that they put a price list together representing different scenarios of possible applications. This way one could put together a reasonable estimation of cost in a grant proposal requesting fuel reduction funding.

**Action:** No action called for

### **Agenda Item 4. Risk Manager Presentation**

**Discussion:** Kim Kerr, the Director of Humboldt County General Services gave a presentation regarding progress to date on her investigations into the possibility of Fire Districts falling under the insurance umbrella of the County. There are a variety of scenarios Kim has explored for both Workman's Compensation and liability insurance. She has collected loss data and salary information for many of the departments and is now working on a staff report to place an item on the Board of Supervisors meeting agenda.

Kim is looking into possible alternative options for the non-district fire departments and companies because they cannot find placement under the County policy. It would be advisable for these departments to form one organization and have a Joint Power Authority (JPA). This would place them in a better position to negotiate. In March she will have more information on this regarding how much it will cost. Kim would like everyone to have coverage but has to also protect the County. She is open to receiving information from the departments and districts that have not yet provided her with anything.

**Action:** No action taken

### **Agenda Item 5. Continued Discussion of County CSA**

**Discussion:** Kirk Gothier reviewed the work that had been done at the last meeting to identify a possible range of services provided if a countywide CSA were created. He directed the Council to look at the list of possible services created at the last meeting and designate a few knowledgeable Council members to research the details of the service.

Kevin O'Neil asked that the proposed services be grouped in to categories and the following list resulted. Individuals who would be responsible for researching services under each category were also identified as:

1. **Operations** (*Kevin, Dan, Dave and (possibly) Eric Smith from Eureka Fire*).
  - a) Amador agreements
  - b) Compensate fire districts for goodwill service (Fire prevention efforts)
  - c) Dispatch center/communications
2. **Administration (other than training)** (*Hugh, Debra, Manny*)

- a) Insurance umbrella
- b) Access to reliable maintenance for all equipment – engines, SSBA tests (Dan said that he is working on providing a lower cost for this), fit testing etc. (Cooperative maintenance agreements.)
- c) Administrative support (Cal/OSHA Compliance, fire reports, workman’s comp, etc.)
- d) Equipment acquisition and maintenance (including EMS equipment)
- e) Facilities acquisitions/improvements (fire stations, water tanks)

**3. Training (Glen and Ian) Note: may invite CDF and Fire Chiefs Association instructors.**

- 1. Assess fire departments (Testing/certifications)
- 2. Training support (evenings/weekends)

**4. Prevention (Tim, Will, Lucy, Peter, and Kim Price)**

- a) Enforcement
- b) Fuel modification
- c) Mitigation
- d) Public education
- e) Investigation
- f) New development compliance

Each group will explore how the above categories will be supported by a Countywide CSA. They will need to determine:

- How much the service will cost
- If it is or is not a good fit for a CSA
- What can be done countywide under each category

It was pointed out that there is concern that the CSA idea may be a tempting device used by the Board of Supervisors as an alternative to the allocation a portion of Proposition 172 funds to the fire services.

**Action:** No official action was called for. The working groups have until the April meeting to research their chosen service categories. At that time a course of action will be proposed.

**Agenda Item 6. National Fire Grant Form Letter of FSC Support**

**Discussion:** Cybelle reviewed the draft form letter of Humboldt County FSC Support for grant proposals going to the State Grants Clearinghouse.

**Action:** On a motion from Glen Ziemer and seconded by Will Harling the letter was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 7. Review Chapters 6 & 7 of Master Fire Protection Plan**

**Discussion:** Kirk Gothier gave an overview of progress to-date on revisions to the draft Master Fire Protection Plan. He explained that, ideally, Council members should be finished making their suggestions for changes to chapters 6 and 7 by the end of our next meeting.

There was some discussion on possible rewording for parts of 7.3. No changes were conclusively made nor approved but some good ideas were thrown out. It was decided that a clean copy of

both chapters 6 and 7 be emailed out to Council members so that they could make changes and submit them to Cybelle before the next meeting.

**Action:** No official action taken.

**Agenda Item 8. Set Next Meeting – Date and Time**

**Discussion:** A suggestion was made to make a spot for a status report on the Title III grant program on the next meeting's agenda.

**Action:** The next meeting was set for **Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**Adjournment**

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