



PLANNING DIVISION
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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DATE Wednesday, March 21, 2007
TO: Humboldt County Fire Safe Council
FROM: Cybelle Immitt, Planner
SUBJECT: Agenda and Staff Reports for FSC Meeting of April 2, 2007

AGENDA Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting

Monday, April 2, 2007 Time: 1 to 4:00 P.M.
Location: CDF Command Center, 118 Fortuna Blvd. Fortuna, CA

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions** (1:00 - 1:05 PM)
- 2. Approval of Minutes from January 7, 2007 FSC Meeting** (1:05 - 1:10 PM)
- 3. Public Comments/Announcements** (1:10 - 1:15 PM)
 - a) Announcement about progress with hazard mitigation planning
 - b) Announcement about County Payments reauthorization
- 4. County Insurance Umbrella for fire departments** (1:15 – 1:30 PM)
- 5. Committee Progress Reports & Discussion of Next Steps:** (1:30 – 3:55 PM)
 - a. Fuel Modification/Biomass Utilization**
 - b. Revenue Source for Fire Protection**
 - c. Level of Service Standard**
 - d. Improve Emergency Dispatch Services**
 - e. Safety Element of GPU (fire)**
(A break will be had as needed)
- 5. Set Next Meeting – Date and Time** (3:55 - 4:00 PM)

AGENDA ITEM 2
For Meeting of April 2, 2007

AGENDA ITEM 2

DRAFT Meeting Summary (Action Minutes) DRAFT
Humboldt County Fire Safe Council
January 8, 2007

A Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) meeting was held January 8, 2007, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the BLM Arcata Field office, 1695 Heindon Road, Arcata, California 95521. 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:

Will Harling, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council and Orleans Fire & Rescue
Manny Mello, Northwest Insurance
Dave White, Retired Arcata Fire Department Chief and Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association Representative
Lucy Salazar, USFS, Six Rivers National Forest, Fuels Management Specialist & Air Coordinator
Dan Larkin, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services
Tim Jones, BLM Fire Management Officer
Ian Sigman, Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company Chief and Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council
Debra Lake, Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department, Board Chair
Glenn Ziemer, Humboldt Fire District #1, Fire Chief
Bob Harris, Fire Chief, Miranda Fire Protection District
Kirk Gothier, Retired Humboldt County Community Development Services, Assistant Planning Director

Fire Safe Council Members Absent:

Duane Sherman, Hoopa Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Chief
Kevin O'Neil, Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Division Chief-Operations, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

Jim Zoellick & Richard Engle, Schatz Energy Research Center
Yvonne Everett, HSU natural Resources
Hugh Scanlon, CDF
Dustin Jolly, Yurok Tribe
Yana Valachovic, UC Extension
BLM Staff Foresters

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M. by the Fire Safe Council Vice Chair, Will Harling.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of Minutes from 12/01/05 FSC Meeting

Discussion – Vice Chairman Harling asked if anyone had any corrections or additions in regards to the December action minutes.

Action - On a motion from Glenn Ziemer and seconded by Dave White the Council unanimously approved the minutes.

Agenda Item 3. Public Comments

Hugh Scanlon presented a recently prepared draft CDF map of Fire Severity in Humboldt County. The draft will be presented at the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association meeting on 1/24/07 for review and comment. Local review of the draft map is important because it will result in changes to building standards in identified areas of severe fire hazard. The State Board of Forestry will make the final decision to approve the map.

Agenda Item number 4. Schatz Energy Research Center presentation

Presentation – Jim Zoellick and Richard Engle explained the structure and focus of the Schatz Energy Center. They are committed to the development of clean, sustainable energy and see forest biomass as a significantly potential source. The challenges in developing this energy source are lack of infrastructure, dispersed and varying locations of biomass fuel sources, inconsistent source of biomass, transportation costs and immature technology. They are working with the tribes in assessing viability of establishing a generator on a village level.

Discussion – The Council members in attendance discussed the need for research to develop in-site production of energy sources, and developing methods and programs to coordinate the transportation of biomass to generators. Concerns were expressed about the labor costs associated with operating and maintaining generators on a village level. All present agreed that the involvement of the Schatz Energy research Center was important in developing needed technologies.

Break: 2:20 -2:30 pm

Agenda Item number 5. Committee Progress Reports & Discussion of Next Steps

Progress Reports:

8.3-1 Fuel Modification/Biomass Utilization with Lucy Salazar, Tim Jones, Will Harling, and Community Development Services, Economic Development Division staff. This subcommittee is considering scheduling a Biomass Forum to initiate a dialogue among all interested agencies and parties within the County. The purpose of the Forum would be to establish contacts and exchange information

8.5-1 Develop a Reliable Revenue Source for Fire Protection with Dave White, Glenn Ziemer, Kirk Gothier, and possibly a consultant. Cybelle, Kirk and Glenn met to discuss developing a tool kit for establishing or expanding assessments for fire protection districts. Planning staff is reviewing information used to establish assessments in Humboldt Fire District 1 and Arcata Fire District with an eye towards developing a step-by-step “cookbook” for local districts interested in establishing assessments.

8.1-1 Level of Service Standard with Dave White, Kevin O’Neil, Glenn Ziemer, Bob Harris, CDF support staff & Cybelle Immitt. Two draft tier-based products have been developed by this group. The group is developing LOS standards in formats that would facilitate full disclosure to property buyers. The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be consulted frequently as steps are taken to implement this measure. The information developed by this group will be forwarded to County Planning for consideration of developing regulations to implement the Updated Plan.

8.1-3 Improve Emergency Dispatch Services with Dan Larkin, Kevin O’Neil, and Dave White. The draft Communications Study has been completed by Gaines and Associates and will be reviewed by this subcommittee towards the end of January.

MFPP Policy Recommendation Integration into the GPU with Kevin O'Neil, Glenn Ziemer, and Cybelle. Planning Staff is focused on drafting General Plan chapters, including the Safety Element. Cybelle will be the primary author of the Safety Element. She will contact Kevin and Glenn as she begins this work.

Agenda Item 6. Set Next Meeting – Date and Time

The next Humboldt County Fire Safe Council meeting will be held on **Monday, March 12, 2007 from 1-4 p.m. at the CDF Conference Room.**

Adjournment - The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:40 P.M.

AGENDA ITEM 4
For Meeting of April 2, 2007

DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2007
TO: Humboldt County Fire Safe Council
FROM: Cybelle Immitt, Planning Staff
SUBJECT: County Insurance Umbrella for fire departments

Recommendation

Have a discussion about how fire departments going with Humboldt County workers comp will/can/have directly or indirectly effected what they can offer in personnel and equipment.

Discussion

Various fire departments are receiving insurance through the County at a good cost savings. Council member Bob Harris indicated that his department is participating which is enabling them to bring their volunteer numbers up to 7 to 10 and still have money. Cybelle put in a request to Kim Kerr again for numbers of departments and what their savings are. We may have some of these numbers by meeting time. If anyone has contacts with another source for information on this topic and wants to also ask for those numbers please do so.

AGENDA ITEM 5
For Meeting of April 2, 2007

DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2007
TO: Humboldt County Fire Safe Council
FROM: Cybelle Immitt, Planning Staff
SUBJECT: FSC Committee Progress Reports

Recommendation

- Receive Committee progress reports & discuss next steps for these groups:
 - a. Fuel Modification/Biomass Utilization
 - b. Revenue Source for Fire Protection
 - c. Level of Service Standard
 - d. Improve Emergency Dispatch Services
 - e. Safety Element of GPU (fire)
- Establish dates for next Committee meetings as necessary.

Discussion

Fuel Modification/Biomass Utilization (Members: Lucy Salazar, Tim Jones, Will Harling):

This group is interested in working on the implementation of Master Fire Protection Plan (MFPP) Implementation Measure 8.3-1 Fuel Modification.

This subcommittee is considering scheduling a Biomass Forum to initiate a dialogue among all interested agencies and parties within the County. The purpose of the Forum would be to establish contacts and exchange information. One planning meeting for this has taken place. Lucy will be able to further elaborate on this topic.

Revenue Source for Fire Protection (Members: Dave White, Glenn Ziemer, Kirk Gothier):

Glenn, Kirk, and Cybelle met once to brainstorm on this topic. At this time the plan is to design a “how-to-guide” that a Fire Protection District can use to help them through the process of increasing their level of assessment. As we know, many districts are faced with the problem of fire service delivery costs exceeding the revenue generated from their assessment. The guide would lay out the steps that need to be taken from the beginning of the process to the end and include annotated government codes that must be considered. A list of commonly asked questions with answers would be included and/or common pitfalls and how to avoid them.

Planning staff is reviewing information used to establish assessments in Humboldt Fire District 1 and Arcata Fire District with an eye towards developing a step-by-step “cookbook” for local districts interested in establishing assessments. Materials from a workshop put on by the Arcata Fire Department may be useful.

Level of Service Standard: (Members: Dave White, Kevin O’Neil, Glenn Ziemer, CDF support staff, Cybelle Immitt & Bob Harris):

Two draft tier-based products have been developed by this group. The group is developing LOS standards in formats that would facilitate full disclosure to property buyers. The Humboldt County Fire

Chiefs' Association will be consulted frequently as steps are taken to implement this measure. The information developed by this group will be forwarded to County Planning for consideration of developing regulations to implement the Updated Plan.

Committee members should elaborate on this further as necessary at the meeting.

Improve Emergency Dispatch Services (Members: Dan Larkin, Kevin O'Neil, and Dave White):

This group is monitoring the progress of the communications study that is underway in Humboldt County. A verbal update will be requested from committee members. The draft Communications Study has been completed by Gaines and Associates and will be reviewed by this subcommittee towards the end of January.

Committee members should elaborate on this further as necessary at the meeting.

Safety Element of GPU (fire) (Members: Kevin O'Neil, Glenn Ziemer, and Cybelle Immitt):

This group provided guidance to Cybelle and Tom Hofweber for drafting the fire section of the General Plan Safety Element. A preliminary draft of this chapter will go before the Humboldt County Planning Commission on April 19, 2007 and thus will need to be published to the web on March 22, 2007. After March 22, 2007 people can go to the County website under General Plan Update and review the chapter (www.co.humboldt.ca.us)