



HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
Appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Supported by the Planning Division of
Community Development Services
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
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Meeting Summary (Action Minutes)
Humboldt County Fire Safe Council
July 13, 2009

A Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) meeting was held on July 13, 2009 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the Fortuna Fire Station, 320 S Fortuna Blvd Fortuna, CA 95540. The FSC was appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to guide preparation and implementation of the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan (Fire Plan).

Fire Safe Council Members Attending:

Bob Harris, Miranda Fire Protection District, Fire Chief, and Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association, President

Dan Larkin, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services, Emergency Services Coordinator

Hugh Scanlon, CAL FIRE –HUU, Battalion Chief

Joe O'Hara, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council, President

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

John McFarland, Arcata Fire Protection District, Chief and Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association, President

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

Manny Mello, Northwest Insurance, CIC

Will Harling, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council, Director

Fire Safe Council Members Absent:

Dave White, Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association, Treasurer

Debra Lake, Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department, Board Chair

Richard Bergstresser, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Ranger

Tim Jones, Bureau of Land Management, Fire Management Officer

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Planning

Jean-Louis Carmona, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council

Mark Rodgers, CAL FIRE –HUU

Sgt. Marco Luna, Humboldt County Sheriff's, SWAP

Lt. Lee Figas, Humboldt County Sheriff's

Barbara Darst, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council

Don Darst, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council

AGENDA ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M. The agenda items order was mixed up a little to allow our special guests to present and get on with their day. However, the notes on the agenda items are organized consecutively.

AGENDA ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 7, 2008 FSC MEETING

Discussion – The FSC Chair, **Will Harling**, asked if anyone had any corrections or additions in regards to the action minutes. None were made.

Action – On a motion from **Joe O'Hara** and seconded by **Bob Harris**, the Council unanimously approved the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- **700 Forms** – Cybelle asked a few members to complete the forms and gathered them at the end of the meeting.
- **Welcome Richard Bergstresser** – it was noted that Richard's position on the FSC had been formalized. Supervisor Jimmy Smith put the nomination on the Board of Supervisor's agenda and appointment passed unanimously.
- **State of the Forest Conference – Weaverville**
 - 21st century outlook – lots of coordination and science based management
 - Large scale prescribed burning a bigger thing in the south east – Hope for more of this here in the future – talked about agreements with the Forest Service for doing burns on private land. CAL FIRE could help design the agreements.
 - Working towards managing the frosts and our communities in such a way that wildfire can take its natural place in the ecosystem
 - More awareness of the fact that the agencies need to address the problem of wildfire hazards on private lands
 - **Cybelle asked those who attended the conference to pass on any ideas for form and content to the process of designing the Humboldt conference.**
 - Kick off meeting for the North West California Prescribed Fire Council is going to be November 13th. Working on the issue of how to establish a burning program across jurisdictional boundaries strategically, safely and responsibly
 - **Marsha Armstrong – Siskiyou talked about energy independence program – learn more about this and how biomass utilization might fit into this program**
 - Community forests were discussed
 - PG&E Vegetation Management Multi-Agency Meeting - May 19, 2009 – Lucy and Cybelle went – The meeting was focused on the process of managing vegetation along power lines. There did not seem to be a lot of interest in developing biomass utilization and cogeneration opportunities but it might not have been the right people in the organization. They produce lots of wood chips but don't seem to be thinking about it as

biomass utilization and no immediate plans for cogeneration plants. The meeting had a good cross-section of agency folks and represented an effort to improve inter-agency communication and coordination.

- Cybelle passed out the PSA for the request for Resource Advisory Committee members from the Forest Service. This group makes recommendations for use of Title II funds of the Secure Rural Schools Act. Title II funds are used on Federal lands or lands adjacent to federal lands (Federal meaning Forest Service lands) for restoration projects. This is on-the-ground fuels reduction projects or other kinds of natural resource health projects. The deadline was July 1 but they have not gotten enough applications to fill the spots. If anyone is interested, call Julie Ranieri at 441-3673.
- WUI Grant Application Available – CAL FIRE will send out info.
- Funding Source to consider - Fish and Wildlife Service for treatments that are good for wildlife habitat (Can match other Fed funds to those funds). Orleans Somes bar has gotten funding from them because their hazardous fuels reduction project goals match the wildlife habitat goals of the Fish and Wildlife Service goals.
- **Hold over notes from last meeting (sorry I forgot):**
 - Dan mentioned that we should stay in touch with the development of a fire academy at the Collage of the Redwoods – **Cybelle** - put this on next meeting's agenda for discussion. **John McFarland** will make a report and Forest Service staff is also involved and could report as a back-up for John.

AGENDA ITEM 4 –FIRE SEASON INCIDENT REPORT

Discussion

Backbone Fire – Started in triple junction of Six Rivers, Shasta Trinity and Klamath National Forest. Suppressed actively on South, West, and North side so burning East in Megrim fire footprint. The fire is burning from log to log- live fuels not burning too bad because moister still high.

Want to keep out of the Red Cap drainage

Liaison Program is being put to use - Can call in for briefing about the plan for the day and transfer information both ways – Liaisons have access to briefings

National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) – is the command leadership and crews will be changed out under them. NIMO is committed to staying in the leadership role through the duration of the incident.

There was an incident of a fire breaking out one month after a recoded lightning strike.

Hugh - Where was this again?

AGENDA ITEM 5 –REPORTS FROM LOCAL FSC

Discussion

Willow Creek:

The CAL Trans crew has been helping Willow Creek FSC with fuels reduction project:

Inmate work crew to help with clearing shoulders and roadways – Got a crew a month (One Friday per Month – sometimes get extra). They are working on the downtown corridor of Willow Creek. Community Services District approached the FSC about helping clear this area. FSC members had to go to each land owner to get permission. All said yes.

CEQA issues – Barbara got advice from a consultant in Arcata – Willow Creek Fire Protection District has an ordinance of needing Environmental Compliance for clearing of up-to 30 feet from the structure. Goal is to do 100 feet up the hill. The Fire Department is looking into changing the ordinance.

FSC members are volunteering their times to drag the brush off the site and trucking it over to McKnight's. McKnight's has a grinder and looking into doing something like West Green (Mulch) – May be starting a business.

FSC reps have been working with NEMO on Backbone Fire. They are helping to get information out to the public. The FSC is gaining recognition through this process.

Will be working on developing a CWPP once the Clearinghouse grant funds come in (October/November 2009 at the earliest) – part of that planning process will be identifying the WUI boundary – Fix Rivers NF gave what they would propose. Use that as a starting point.

They will be having a chipper day this Saturday. They are using the CAL FIRE chipper.

Lower Mattole FSC:

There is a meeting tonight that Ian and Mark will be going to.

They are working on updating the Lower Mattole CWPP - **Cybelle requested that Ian and Mark bring up Countywide CWPP update process and discuss coordinating the two processes.**

They are putting in the water tank on State Parks Land. The tank is on the ground without cabling system – waited for spotted owl nesting season to pass.

Orleans/Somes Bar FSC:

Finishing up their CWPP – will be having community meetings throughout the summer. Balancing what the public wants and what the Forest Service wants particularly for where to propose the WUI boundary. **Will - Send a copy of the latest draft to Lucy and Cybelle.**

AGENDA ITEM 6 – SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Marco and Lee – Please let me know how I can improve these notes – Any suggested changes???

Special Guest – Sgt. Marco Luna & Lt. Lee Figas – on Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) - There are two types of crews that Marco and Lee talked to the FSC about, the SWAP Crew and the CAL Trans crew. Here are two excerpts from the website about these two programs:

SWAP - "As an alternative to jail, qualified offenders may also apply to serve their sentence on the **Sheriff's Work Alternative Program or SWAP**. Participants on SWAP, under supervision, are assigned to a variety of manual labor work projects including brush removal, landscaping, wood cutting, painting, carpentry and caring for cattle and hogs at our County Farm. This program allows individuals to live at home with their families, maintain employment or continue their education while serving out their sentence in a productive manner that also benefits the community."

CAL Trans County Inmate Crews - "The Cal-Trans work program is a program that uses inmates housed in the Humboldt County Correctional Facility to work on projects outside the facility under the supervision of a correctional officer. Projects are generally roadside projects and clean-ups along the counties highways. California Department of Transportation funds this program and provides tools and a van for the transportation of inmates to the worksite. Inmates are screened by facility staff before they are allowed to outside of the facility."

The CAL Trans crew has been helping Willow Creek FSC with a fuels reduction project.

In order to get the Cal Trans inmate crew you have to have a project with demonstrated public benefit – the outcome is for the greater public good.

Eureka is collaborating with Arcata and Fortuna to generate funding to hire the crews and share them for their needs.

Generally they try to keep them away from private property – Keep it to non-profit agencies and County departments.

Will they go out to the Mattole? Yes will go – but have to be back in jail at 4:00 will have to leave at 2:00. You just have to ask yourself if that's cost effective. Sometimes arrangements can be made for them getting out early with a bag breakfast.

SWAP – There is also the SWAP farm near Rohnerville Airport. They farm vegetables for the jail, produce certified organic feed, and hogs – use to off set cost for jail or sell for buying needed equipment. They are technically booked into jail system but are not housed in the jail (can do this exchange for 180 days or less) 300 people in this program now- one mandatory day a week to work. For every day they work they get a day of jail time taken off? Their focus is the woodlot and farm. The farm land is leased from the County through Jacquelyn Hulsey (Tom Matson is also involved from Public Works) – in-kind service exchange – Jacquelyn wrote an article on cost savings and good coordination among County Department featuring the program.

Marco - Does this go here or up with other crew?
The program has a small budget.

One of the things they do is produce 1500 -1700 cords of wood to benefit seniors.

Now they are doing clearing brush on a small scale and getting a lot of requests. For example they are clearing along County roads and around baseball fields.

Ideas:

Getting them to far out places – they could come out earlier (bag breakfast) – Want to do what they can to benefit citizens of Humboldt County.

Think outside the box – The County has a contract with Cal Trans for two crews that run Monday through Thursday – They can use the rest of the inmates during that time (a small group) or use the whole group on Fridays. FSCs could use grant funds to contract the use of crews on Fridays. Get numbers for how much this would cost (current estimated cost for current use - **\$124,000/year on a 4 day work week** – this includes staff, work trailer, equipment, food, clothing). Approach the Sheriff about this idea. Inmate labor value = **\$10.50/hr.** (could possibly use as a local match for federal grants)

Community Service - is another program but could possibly provide labor for fuels reduction.

FSC should stay in touch with Marco and consider this crew as one of their resources – Communicate with Marco at mluna@co.humboldt.ca.us

Special Guest Mark Rogers CAL FIRE – Chipper program

Cybelle - Get Power Point from Mark

Who can get the chippers? FSC in cooperation with fire departments- Alternative is CAL FIRE to write a loan contract – can take a long time

Willow Creek is using one and can share it with the Forest Service. The Forest Service is buying their own soon.

The person who is using the chipper has to have the proper training.

Van Duzen FSC has been using the chipper.

Mark - Talk to Will about ideas for using the chipper with Orleans.

Have to have a 1 tone truck to transport it.

Can use it for in-Kind match \$ for fed grants.

CAL FIRE doesn't currently have anything budgeted to maintain the chipper program – have stockpiled some equipment but the grant ran out. If you want to use the chipper in the future need to consider writing maintenance cost into the grant. Travel cost and diesel cost is a consideration too.

CAL FIRE chipper has been permitted withy Air quality – needs an annual permit (\$250/yr). Less than 50 horse power doesn't need the permit.

Could get Orleans folks trained up to take advantage of the chipper being use out at Willow Creek. They will just need to coordinate their use of it.

At this Point CAL FIRE covers the maintenance per the maintenance schedule. Willow Creek has a Cal Trans mechanic out there who has been helping them.

Baileys has a good \$10 sharpening devise daily sharpening – look up chipper section it will be in there. Something Master – may be found at target. Ask J.L. Carmona (maybe at this link - <http://www.baileysonline.com/itemdetail.asp?item=89250>)

Will suggested that it would be good for FSCs to get their own chipper – could use it to contract with the Forest Service on a fire to do some clearing. Could use the CAL FIRE chipper but have to have the agreement in place –use the funds like a fundraiser.

Southern Trinity - Drum chipper from biomass utilization grant program Steve Dunn got the grant.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - GRANT REPORTS

Discussion

- **2010 USFS grant Project – Fuels Reduction Cost Share Program**
 - Grant application selected
 - Provided all of the requested information
 - Plan to go to a mandatory Grant management training in August – **Cybelles** offered to host training in Humboldt County, **Barbara** thinks **Dave** from the CA FSC will take her up on it – **Cybelles** – follow up on this.
 - Soonest funding will get here is October/November

- **2009 USFS Grant - Humboldt County CWPP Update and Countywide Fuels Reduction Coordination Program:**
 - **Cybelles** - Contact FSCs in the (1) Orleans, (2) Mattole, (3) Southern Humboldt, (4) Van Duzen, (5) Willow Creek, And (6) Greater Eureka Areas to plan meetings to review and identify fuels reduction projects (ID proposed, funded, initiated or treated projects);
 - **Jerry** - Load BLM, Six Rivers, and community identified projects from MFPP on to WEB GIS Application
 - **Lucy** get data layers to **Cybelles & Jerry**
 - **Tim**- Get data layers to **Cybelles & Jerry**
 - **Cybelles** - Continue drafting the fuels reduction plan (maybe present outline on FSC at October meeting). Use the information Jared from BLM collected.
 - **Cybelles, Lucy, Tim, Will, Hugh and Joe** - Continue planning the capacity building conference
 - **Bob** – contact Fortuna Fire Department folks about having the conference at the fire hall
 - **Cybelles** – find out about the prescribed fire conference as a possible conflict with our conference
 - **Cybelles** - get a write up describing the conference to Manny and Don Brown so they can start getting commitments from insurance providers for dominations.

- **Other grants and Funding Sources:**
 - **Cybelles** – Look into WUI and FEMA grant opportunities
 - **Cybelles** – Write a proposal for a three year allocation from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for the use of Title 3 funds.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - FSC COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORTS

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL COMMITTEE Task Tracing from Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting of July 13, 2009

Fire Safe Council Members: Please look over these action items and come prepared to report on any that you are involved in carrying out.

1. FUEL MODIFICATION/BIOMASS UTILIZATION

(Lucy Salazar, Tim Jones, Will Harling and Joe O'Hara. Coordinator - Lucy Salazar)

Discussion:

The 2009 USFS Grant is supporting the update of the fuels reduction project identification portion of the Humboldt County MFPP. The project planning Web tool is being designed, community meetings are being planned and the associated countywide data sharing and capacity building workshop is growing into the Northwest California FSC Conference. The conference may take place in November.

Blue Lake Power is planning to start up in September - have a 2 month supply of fuel –
Lucy – How many millions of \$ did they get from the stimulus program?

Action Items:

- **Lucy** - Keep tabs on progress with biomass utilization and report back at next meeting. Need to focus on goals for Humboldt County.
- **Lucy** - keep tabs on the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition – woody biomass utilization.
- **Cybelle** – Keep an eye out for grant opportunities to fund Fuel management and biomass utilization.

2. DEVELOP A RELIABLE REVENUE SOURCE FOR FIRE PROTECTION

(Dave White, John McFarland, Will Harling and Cybelle Immitt. Coordinator – Dave White)

Discussion:

Cybelle and John Miller - have continued their work with interests departments to form or expand districts. They were guests on the KMUD Burning Issues Radio program on Sunday, July 5 at 1:30PM. This is a show the fire service to use to get info out to the community. It is on the first Sunday of each month.

Action Items:

- Showcased the how-to-guide to local departments on an as needed basis
(Ongoing) – CI – get updated version from Dave W. post on FSC web site. Send a copy to Ian and to Joe.
- **Fire service reorganization project –**
 - **Cybelle and John – Contact the following:**
 - Palo Verde – have they done their survey yet? Have they identified their district boundary yet? Let them know what the next steps are
 - Garberville – have they identified their expansion area yet? Discuss list of next steps that was sent to them that identifies how reasonability will be shared. Take next steps.

- Briceland – Have they identified their district boundary yet? Discuss list of next steps that was sent to them that identifies how reasonability will be shared. Take next steps.
- Set a date for a meeting with Whale Gulch, Telegraph Ridge, White Thorn, and Briceland fire.
- Look into getting some HSU intern help with community surveys

- **Ian** - Poll the community around Petrolia and Honeydew

3. LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD

(Dave White, John McFarland, Bob Harris, Hugh Scanlon & Cybelle Immitt. **Coordinator – Cybelle Immitt**)

Discussion:

Have made progress and **Bob's** work to get more survey responses paid off. **Hugh** and **Cybelle** met and worked with County GIS staff to figure out how to best organize the data to interface with the Wed-GIS application. They are in the process of drawing information from the Fire Plan surveys and the plan itself, the more recent surveys, the draft General Plan, Municipal Service Reviews and the General Plan draft Infrastructure and Services Element.

Action Items:

- **Hugh and Cybelle** - Finish entering all of the known information into the data charts
- **Hugh** - Get additional information from Arcata Fire Caption Kurt Watkins.
- **Hugh and Cybelle** - Present sample and underlying list of criteria to the chiefs. Will be looking for help from the chiefs to self classify LOS. Each fire department will have to approve base information with some quality control oversight. Each fire department will do a self analysis that is then cleared by the chiefs.
- **Hugh and Cybelle** - Get information to the other committee members and start thinking about what "adequate level of service" might mean (via email). Ask the Fire Department folks about this. They need to put that together. We need a description of this so it is not too technical for the fire service to rate themselves using a matrix.
- Could add this as an item to the Realtor's disclosure document. Wait on this task until we have a more complete draft product to share. **Cybelle** - Check on the disclosure product being prepared by the realtors and make sure they are including fire service.
- **Long-term Plan** - Complete sample area demonstrating how the tool can be used to illustrate the current level of service, present to HCFA and proceed according to feedback received.
- **Longer-term Plan** – Work with the HCFA to Identify and agree on a level of service standard that can be used as a goal by fire departments.

4. IMPROVE EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES

(Dan Larkin, Hugh Scanlon and Dave White. **Coordinator – Dave White**)

Report:

- **Activities:**
 - Sharing of equipment is happening. – Committee is doing a lot of good in coordinating the sharing of resources and equipment and hand-me-downs as well as siting of repeaters.
 - Reverse 911 – not ready here for activation through cell phones.
 - Supervisor Duffy started a group to improve coordinate and cooperation among the fire response agencies. Some of what they have been discussing has helped with recent incidents.

- **Repeaters:**
 - A new Repeater is in place in the Shelter Cove area and has a fire component – there was recently \$100,000 of vandalism to this tower.
 - Sheriffs installing a repeater in the Orleans area – just for Sheriffs office use – could use for fire but there is currently no need.
 - Looking at sitting a repeater near Kneeland – working all the Mt. tops
 - Dave – is still looking for repeater for Humboldt Fire Net and the County is looking for something too so we might look into doing a joint project. This will help Kneeland.
- **Dispatch Co-Op News**– The Co-op is working out their issues and making progress
- **Grants:** Homeland Security Grant \$ available – funding will go to fire services in general.

Action Items:

- Keep the FSC abreast of goings on in the effort to coordinate with other agencies. (Dan Larkin and Dave White) - Ongoing
- Dan Larkin will send updates to Cybelle to be forwarded to the FSC.

5. MFPP POLICY RECOMMENDATION INTEGRATION INTO THE GPU

(John McFarland, Tim Jones and Cybelle Immitt. *Coordinator – Cybelle Immitt*)

The Planning Commission will start to discuss the **Community Infrastructure and Services Element** in September and the **Safety Element** sometime in November (these are tentative dates and **Cybelle will keep the Council posted about possible changes**).

Action Items:

- FSC members send policy level comments addressed to the Planning Commission. A good way to do that is to submit a comment using the website tool (www.planupdate.org).
- Editorial corrections or errors can be sent to **Cybelle**. cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us

AGENDA ITEM 9 CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURN

The next meeting date will be **October 5, 2009 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Bureau of Land Management Arcata Field Office, 1695 Heindon Road Arcata, CA**

Cybelle – confirm the location with **Tim Jones**

Barbara – Check with PG&E about presentation at next meeting about biomass utilization and cogeneration opportunities. Ask Laurel who in PG&E might be a good contact for this.

Look into the possibility of a morning field trip to Blue Lake Power Company earlier in the day before the next FSC meeting in October. **Lucy** - Let **Cybelle** know if Blue Lake Power Company is up for this.