



**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**  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501-4484 PHONE (707) 268-3736



**Meeting Summary (Action Minutes)**  
**Humboldt County Fire Safe Council**  
**October 19, 2009**

A Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) meeting was held on October 19, 2009 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., Bureau of Land Management Arcata Field Office, 1695 Heindon Road Arcata, CA. 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) - Humboldt County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

**Fire Safe Council Members Attending:**

**Bob Harris**, Miranda Fire Protection District, Fire Chief, and Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association, President  
**Debra Lake**, Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department, Board Chair  
**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  
**Richard Bergstresser**, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Ranger  
**Tim Jones**, Bureau of Land Management, Fire Management Officer  
**Will Harling**, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council, Director

**Fire Safe Council Members Absent:**

**Dan Larkin**, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services, Emergency Services Coordinator  
**Dave White**, Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association, Treasurer  
**Manny Mello**, Northwest Insurance, CIC

**Public and Agency Representatives Attending:**

**Randi Paris**, Resource Officer, Six Rivers National Forest  
**Cybelle Immitt**, Humboldt County Planning  
**Mark Rodgers**, CAL FIRE -HUU  
**Barbara Darst**, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council  
**Jason Evens**, Interested Person  
**Pat O'Hara**, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council  
**Don Darst**, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council  
**Susan Abbott**, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council

### AGENDA ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 P.M.

### AGENDA ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 13, 2009 FSC MEETING

Discussion – The FSC Chair, **Will Harling**, asked if anyone had any corrections or additions in regards to the action minutes. No corrections were made

A few action items from the notes were discussed:

- **Will Harling** - will send Orleans Draft CWPP to Lucy and **Cybelles** **DONE**
- **Mark** will send PDF of chipper program PowerPoint to **Cybelles**

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

### AGENDA ITEM 3 - PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

- RAC – have a group of interested folks and the list is waiting for approval from Secretary of Agriculture
  - This group helps to disperse Title II funding – this helps get projects going that can leverage other funds.
- **Jim Villeponteaux** recently passed away. Services will take place some time next week – **Will Harling** will send information to **Cybelles** to disperse. **DONE**
- Fire academy at the Collage of the Redwoods:
  - **John McFarland** – CR fire tech Board met - \$25,000 for program HROP fire science Fire tech AS degree in Fire technology
  - Also expand the wildland fire side of it – may be able to get credit for work in the field
  - Feeder program to CR
  - New Director – Alan Davis
  - HROP focus will be on Volunteer recruitment certification
  - Merge Arcata and Fortuna and will offer on Saturdays Starting the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January
  - Call **Alan Davis** at HROP 445-7018 or [adavis@humboldt.k12.ca.us](mailto:adavis@humboldt.k12.ca.us)
  - John visited the So-Hum Chiefs and found them to be well coordinated - committed to doing academy in So-hum if get enough interest
  - Need more info? Call John **McFarland** at 825-2000
- Trinity County Blue Dot brigade
  - See flyer
  - Per 4290 and County fire safe regulations, this is already required – but it only applies to new construction
  - Orleans has land owners that have offered use of water for fire but it is only marked on a map but not on the ground – this would be a good next step.
  - **Will Harling** - Find out how Trinity is funding program and share info before next meeting
  - **Cybelles** – look into how we might be able to fund through firewise program once it gets started **DONE**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4 –FIRE SEASON INCIDENT REPORT**

##### **Discussion**

CAL FIRE – Shut fire season down. State budget issues will result in shutting down local stations –

Off season - Weott will only be open for training. The Garberville station will be open and staffed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Trinidad station all days and Fortuna Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Had an active season –Was a busy season – fires were up but acreage was not high in region. However did get some larger fires in Humboldt.

Six Rivers – a few significant fires – The Backbone fire in the Lower Trinity Ranger District – Mill Creek Fire went from 10 acres to 100 over night ultimately went to 27,000 acres. Close to some residences on Red Cap Creek.

BLM – three fires - one in Mendocino County

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 –REPORTS FROM LOCAL FSC**

##### **Discussion**

###### **Willow Creek:**

Fuels reduction project on Paterson road on private property

Coordination with Forest Service - Randi Paris, Resource Officer, Lower Trinity RD, Six Rivers National Forest provided information about Waterman West Project.

- ✓ FSC sponsored public meetings and field trips
- ✓ 3500 ac project along Waterman ridge – commercial thin, and thin that might result in usable biomass, string together with fuels treatment cohesive treatment on ridge top
- ✓ Getting Scoping out this week, environmental documents will be out summer of 2010.
- ✓ HFRA early public input
- ✓ These meetings have been sort of a recruiting tool for the FSC and increases awareness in what the FSC is doing
- ✓ FSC is very supportive of the project and would like to get private land owners to tie into the project
- ✓ From the buffer will put fire in to treat the rest
- ✓ Build on what was done in Salyer and Hawkins Bar – burning right up to private property
- ✓ Hoopa buffer can be tied into the work and the black line from Backbone Fire
- ✓ They will consider fuel hazard reduction project lists when they plan their projects.
- ✓ Next step - Thinking about going to go to Hennessey Ridge – combo of treatment between Shasta Trinity and Six Rivers
- ✓ 3 years out Waterman East
- ✓ Stewardship contract – Timber will not cover all of the cost

Cybelle and Cal FIRE staff will be holding a Fuels reduction tracking meeting with the Willow Creek FSC on November 5<sup>th</sup>

The Willow Creek FSC was awarded a 2010 USFS grant Project through the grants Clearinghouse to draft a local CWPP and complete model fuel hazard reduction projects.

**Lower Mattole FSC:**

Finished water tank USDA grant program –

Cybelle and Cal FIRE staff will be holding a Fuels reduction tracking meeting with the Lower Mattole FSC on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Orleans/Somes Bar FSC:**

Grants:

- Siskiyou County RAC grant - fuels reduction projects
- Fish and wildlife 30 ac thinning in riparian areas – can go up to 20" DBH

Fall burn window will be pushed back to next season

Cybelle and Cal FIRE staff will be holding a Fuels reduction tracking meeting with the Orleans FSC on November 10<sup>th</sup> – (Note: this meeting was postponed to December 1).

**Van Duzen Watershed FSC:**

Cybelle and Cal FIRE staff will be holding a Fuels reduction tracking meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>

**Southern Humboldt FSC**

Cybelle and Cal FIRE staff will be holding a Fuels reduction tracking meeting on December 2.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – Approve 2010 Quarterly FSC Business Schedule**

**ACTION**

On a motion from **Tim Jones** and seconded by **Joe O'Hara**, the Council unanimously approved the 2010 Quarterly Business Schedule.

**AGENDA ITEM 7 – SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**FIREWISE:**

- Mark provided a PowerPoint presentation
- May be able to use local FSC as Firewise Boards
- We will learn more about this as interested communities go through the process of getting certified.
- There will be Title III funds to help do this.
- Seems like a re-branding of what we are all already doing with a few additions.

**AGENDA ITEM 8 - GRANT REPORTS**

**Discussion**

- **2010 USFS grant Project – Fuels Reduction Cost Share Program**
  - Sounds like funding will come in January

- **2009 USFS Grant - Humboldt County CWPP Update and Countywide Fuels Reduction Coordination Program:**
  - **Cybelle** – In the process of contacting and setting up meetings with 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 **Cybelle & Jerry**
    - **Tim**- Get data layers to **Cybelle & Jerry**
  - **Cybelle, Lucy, Tim, Will, Hugh and Joe** - Continue planning the capacity building conference
  
- **Other grants and Funding Sources:**
  - Working on a draft of the three year allocation from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for the use of Title 3 funds.
    - **Cybelle** – Spread the estimated needs more evenly between Firewise and CWPPs. **DONE**

## AGENDA ITEM 9 - FSC COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORTS

### FIRE SAFE COUNCIL COMMITTEE Task Tracking from Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting of October 19, 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 -

##### 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.
- **Cybelles** - 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 interested 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 uses to get info out to the community. It is on the first Sunday of each month.

##### Action Items:

- **Fire service reorganization project** -
- Ian - Honeydew formation of a fire protection district with benefit assessment
  - Test poll in newsletter - Response - 9 positive and 16 negative.
- Board not excited about it
- Frame the message about the change as an opportunity
- **Cybelle and John** - Contact the following: **DONE**
  - Palo Verde - have they done their survey yet? Have they identified their district boundary yet? Let them know what the next steps are
  - Garberville - Identified expansion area. In the process of taking next steps.
  - Briceland - Have identified their proposed district boundary. Taking next steps

- Had a meeting with Whale Gulch, Telegraph Ridge, Whitethorn, and Briceland fire.
- Will meet with them again on October 26<sup>th</sup>
- Look into getting some HSU intern help with community surveys

### 3. LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD

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

#### Discussion:

Hugh has put together a breakout of how the LOS tool might look. He used the annual report sponsored by CAL FIRE, level of service survey, and other sources of information as resources to build the tool.

#### Action Items:

- Committee meet again
- Go to Chiefs meeting with this
- **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 HCFCFA and proceed according to feedback received.
- **Longer-term Plan** - Work with the HCFCFA 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:**
  - Working on getting the system up and running - Central County and Hoopa
  - Changes coming with the marrying of cell phone and radio
  - Increased possibilities for accessing information in the field
  - Kneeland repeter is in the purchasing process this will help communications for this idea
  - Sheriffs Department donated hand held radios to fire service

#### 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 is still in the process of reviewing the Land Use Element -  
**Cybelle will keep the Council posted about progress toward the Safety Element.**

**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](http://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 **January 11 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the** Six Rivers national Forest Headquarters office in Eureka