



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
April 18, 2011

A Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) meeting was held on April 18, 2011 at the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department Hall, 320 South Fortuna Blvd. Fortuna, CA 95540. The FSC was appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to guide maintenance and implementation of the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan (MFPP) - Humboldt County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Fire Safe Council Members Attending:

Bill Eastwood, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
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
Jean Louis Carmona, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council
John McFarland, Arcata Fire Protection District, Chief and Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association President
Kenneth Woods, Humboldt No. 1 Fire Protection District, Chief
Laurel L. Reimann, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council, Treasurer and PG&E
Manny Mello, Northwest Insurance, CIC
Will Harling, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council, Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County, Director of Mid-Klamath Watershed Council

Fire Safe Council Members Absent:

Debra Lake, Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department, Board Chair
Ian Sigman, Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company and Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council
Robert Rivelle, USDA Forest Service, Six Rivers National Forest (non-voting Federal Liaison)
Tim Jones, Bureau of Land Management, Fire Management Officer and Liaison to Hum Co FSC (non-voting Federal Liaison)

Pending FSC Members Absent:

Rod Mendes, Director, Hoopa Office of Emergency Services

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Community Development Service
Dr. Yvonne Everett, Professor of Environmental Planning, Dept. Environmental Science and Management, Humboldt State University
Ken Lytle, Fortuna Fire Department, Department Treasurer and Engineer
Lon Winburn, Fortuna Fire Department, Fire Chief
Paul Abbott, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
Susan Abbott, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council

AGENDA ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Business meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M. by Vice - Chair **Bob Harris**. The Fortuna Fire Department was thanked for providing the meeting venue.

AGENDA ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS FSC MEETING

Discussion – The FSC Vice - Chair **Bob Harris**, asked if anyone had any corrections or additions in regards to the action minutes. In a paragraph on Page 3 a confusing statement attributed to Dan Larkin was struck.

Action – On a motion from **Ken Woods** and seconded by **John McFarland**, the Council unanimously approved the amended minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Fire Insurance issues Facing Rural Residents –

Andrea Armas, an Agent from Northwest Insurance spoke:

She mentioned the Journal article in which a Westhaven resident was upset about rates going up – the likelihood is that the whole area was re-inspected and some people ended up getting rate increases or got non-renewed– the gray area is that it the home might have had previously unidentified risk features such as a post and pier foundation – Northwest works with Grange Insurance to get rural folks insured for a good rate. Grange indicates that when there is a split protection class and if they get enough info they will go with the lower class for the whole area (but they need info from fire department). Grange Insurance said if there was participation in a community outreach questionnaire (ISO insurance survey), they would let the local company underwrite a fire insurance policy.

Insurance has better tools now so that they can be more accurate. Miranda was able to bring their ISO rate down from a 7-9 to a 7-7 based on documented level of service (LOS). It has been hard for insurance agents to get info from specific Fire Departments. A list of FD numbers for insurance agents would be helpful as well as educating insurance providers about the on-line web LOS resource (www.humboldtGISportal.com). If you can go from a 9 to a 7, then that's a rate decrease (basically need to be below an 8). Grange Insurance said if there was participation in this community outreach questionnaire, they would let the local company underwrite a fire insurance policy.

There was a public meeting in Trinidad that Supervisor Sundberg convened. Cal Fire was in attendance. Cal Fire has one engine responding in this area. The questions were: are there other things that Cal Fire can do to effectively lower ISO levels there? Or will it be too much cost for Cal Fire to provide these additional services? A lot of the info insurance agents need is also on Humboldt County's WebGIS system mentioned above.

Cybelle spoke to Hugh Gibson with ISO and he is willing to come to Humboldt and put on a class focused on assisting fire departments with the ISO rating process. Ken has been helping with the planning of this class and Shane Wilson, Rio Dell Fire Chief has agreed to have the class at his department's fire hall. The dates we are kicking around right now are May 10 and 11. We will not know if one of these dates work for ISO until later this week. When a date is set **Cybelle** will send an email announcement to Jan Gillespie from Eureka Fire who distributes emails to the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association and to Lou Iglesias who is the secretary of the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association and will get the word out down there.

It was suggested that we get assurance from ISO that they aren't going to INCREASE anyone's rate. In Oregon, they had a similar meeting with ISO the results of which helped fire departments improve their ratings which in turn significantly reduced resident's insurance rates.

Note: It would be good info for insurance companies to know how many fire emergencies have occurred in a given neighborhood (this information is available through the Cal Fire dispatch center).

Action:

- **Cybelles and Manny** find a way to get the word out about the Humboldt County GIS Portal to insurance agents and the ISO insurance survey.
- **Cybelles** - Keep everyone posted about progress on the meeting being set up with ISO.
- **Cybelles** work with **Manny and Ken** and see if there is an existing effort to address how out of date the ISO process is and put together information that may go into a letter to the insurance commissioner and cc'ed to ISO. We will visit this issue at the next meeting.
- **All - work to get this message out to your communities** - It was suggested that the FSC put forth the message that, with rising insurance rates, the best thing we can do is to invest in fire prevention. Boost your water supply; get a fire extinguisher, and so on. Even if rural homeowners can't get good fire insurance they can still do the work to make themselves less vulnerable to fire.

New FSC Members - The Hoopa Tribal Chair, Leonard Masten wrote a letter nominating Rod Mendes, Director of Hoopa Office of Emergency Services, as the tribal representative on the Humboldt County FSC. Cybelle is working on a report to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors recommending the appointments of Mendes, Eastwood and Carmona. This should be finalized by June.

Firewise Newsletter - Cybelle passed around the spring 2011 version of the Firewise "How-To Newsletter".

700 forms - Cybelle reminded all FSC members to fill out and turn in their 700 forms and thanked those who had already done it.

LHMP - Cybelle announced that the County is starting to talk about submitting a grant proposal to update the County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) - "The Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan". An update is due in 2013 and the update process needs to get started. There is a Fire Hazard Mitigation section in the plan and the FSC will be asked to review drafts. Cybelle has had conversations with Hank Seemann from County Public Works, Environmental Services Division about working together on the update. The next step is to re-convene the hazard mitigation steering committee and check in with all of the planning partners. Cybelle passed around a copy of the current plan.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - CAL FIRE BUDGET ISSUES

Discussion:

- **How do state budget changes for Cal Fire impact Humboldt County?**

Locally the primary change will be reduction in personnel on the fire engines. Augmented staff (operator plus 3 firefighters) has been reduced to operator plus two firefighters. Other than that, there are no reductions on firefighting capability although the ability to get additional personnel to incidents will likely decline. **Hugh** said Cal Fire was on the chopping block through a proposal that would instead have passed funds to the counties, but cooperators at the county level spoke out against this.

Other important state budget issues: It was mentioned that there was a Gubernatorial Proclamation of 15 April for 19 counties in response to the Spring 2011 Storms event. The proclamation did include Humboldt County. But, the Governor did not invoke the California Disaster Assistance Act in the proclamation. The CDAA is what normally provides 75% of covered category damages for local governments. Instead, the State has forwarded its declaration to the Feds and requested a Presidential Declaration. In effect, the State is burying its head in the sand and hoping the Feds will bail everyone out. Right now, the County will receive no funding support for its approximately \$5M in off-system roadway damages. That means a large percentage of damage locations will not be permanently repaired -- only low-cost temporary measures are being instituted.

- **California Fire Plan**

The plan was reviewed in 2010. Under the original plan, there were several factors that were assessed to identify projects on the ground for fuels reduction. What it missed was the opportunity costs. If you don't have buy-in from the landowners, you are wasting your time. The new plan focuses work where there are landowners that want the work done. It allows the unit at the local level to focus this work. The state is rolling out a new internal database called CalMapper that shows where projects have been done, where they are proposed, and who has been doing it. This fits well with the County's efforts to map existing and proposed projects. Cal Fire is not asking FSC's to kick out additional information, but instead will use Humboldt County's data. **Mark Rodgers** just went to training and he and Hugh will be Beta-Testing the database and moving forward with this project.

- **Humboldt-Dell Norte Unit Fire Plan:**

Cal Fire is in the process of updating their Unit plan and County's work on the fuels modification database was a component of that.

Note: Weott Fire Station – The bonds that were allocated for this station were pulled so it's just a pile of dirt right now. Temporary housing has been located for firefighters in Scotia. The Bridgeville Station has been torn down, and so Cal Fire is housing firefighters nearby at Grizzly Creek State Park. Bob was interested because a retraction in Cal Fire services will mean more work for local VFD's.

Action: No actions identified

AGENDA ITEM 5 - FSC COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORTS

MASTER FIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP) UPDATE

Discussion: **Cybelle** shared progress - The time and energy spent working to support local CWPP development over the last few months and into the future is an investment in the update of the County CWPP.

- **Cybelle** has been working with the Van Duzen Watershed FSC on their CWPP and helped put on a community CWPP meeting. **Jerry** made CWPP maps for the meeting and residents drew on the maps and updated lists of fire planning features that were gathered at earlier planning processes. FSC reps are now bringing the maps and lists around to smaller community meetings in specific neighborhoods and with specific groups such as the local fire department. When **Cybelle** gets the maps and lists back from the FSC she will work with **Jerry** to digitize the information and create map figures for the CWPP – She will then work closely with the FSC to draft the plan (modeled after the Willow Creek CWPP).
- County staff has also been coordinating with **Jen Hayes** who was hired by the Lower Mattole FSC to draft their local CWPP – **Jen** has an outline and is gathering information – **Cybelle** will send her a spreadsheet with all projects identified from past County fire panning processes in the Mattole area. **Jerry** is updating data so we are ready to make figures for the CWPP. We hope to do something similar with Southern Humboldt and Orleans.
- We had to put off hiring a consultant until after budget work was done on fire projects and will have to do an RFP of sorts. This will happen sometime in early July.

Action Items:

- **Cybelle** will secure consultant service to assist with drafting the updated County CWPP with a contract up to \$10,000.
- **Cybelle** asked **Tim and Robert** to look over the sections of the Plan that relate to their respective entities and for the **Fire Chiefs and Cal Fire** to do the same. **Cybelle** will begin to send out the appropriate sections of the plan in Word format.

1. FUEL MODIFICATION/BIOMASS UTILIZATION

*(Tim Jones (pending approval from the BLM Director), Will Harling, Laurel Reimann, Cybelle Immitt and Bob Rivelle **Coordinator – Cybelle**)*

Discussion: There was a meeting on Biomass the same day as the tsunami that Lynn Jungwirth attended, but Cybelle missed it. Cybelle will attend future meetings and report to the Hum CO FSC. **Hugh Scanlon** reports a Sudden Oak Death site in Redwood Creek right now. It was potentially associated with ornamental plantings on private lands in the area. It is genetically similar to the Redway sites. The fuels are being quarantined and potentially may be used for biomass. The site is downstream from the Hwy 299 crossing, and just above the Redwood National Park boundary.

Action Items:

- **Bob Rivelle** - get an update from the USFS on what funding may be available for community wildfire assistance. He also said we should feel free to prompt him for input into this committee, and he can speak with **Lucy** about biomass questions to report on at future meetings.
- **ALL** – Keep an eye out for grant opportunities to fund fuel management and biomass utilization. **On-Going**
- **ALL** - Provide support to staff as the fuels plan portion of the MFPP is updated and incorporated into the rest of the fire plan update process. **On-Going**
- **ALL** - Provide support to staff to draft a woody biomass utilization section for the updated Humboldt County fire plan. **On-Going**

- **Cybelle** - keep in touch the Redwood Futures group and their activities related to this topic. **On-Going**

2. DEVELOP A RELIABLE REVENUE SOURCE FOR FIRE PROTECTION

(Ken Woods, John McFarland, Ian Sigman, and Cybelle Immitt **Coordinator – Cybelle Immitt**)

Discussion: John Miller has been working hard on this project and has made a lot of progress – He is preparing reports on each department to present at a May 18, 2011 LAFCO meeting. John and Cybelle have had meetings with fire department members, Board of Director and/or Chiefs of the following departments: Bridgeville, Fruitland Ridge, Briceland, and Westhaven. Many emails and phone conversations have taken place with the rest.

The next meeting with LAFCO on this will be May 18, 2011, at 9am in the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors chambers. There will be several hearings to follow. Dave White has agreed to attend. The cost of the application and elections is uncertain, so additional funding will be needed from a foundation or another source that believes in fire protection services. This is a good investment because the end result will be self-supporting as opposed to many grant projects.

Action Items:

- **Cybelle and John Miller – Continue to work with the following:**
 - Forming a new district where only a fire company currently operates:
 - Palo Verde Fire Company
 - Briceland Fire Company
 - Bridgeville Fire Company
 - Fruitland Ridge
 - Expanding district boundaries to more accurately reflect where service is regularly provided:
 - Garberville Fire Protection District
 - Redway Fire Protection District
 - Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District
 - Whitethorn Fire Protection District
 - Rio Dell Fire Protection District
 - Ferndale Fire Protection District
 - Petrolia Fire Protection District (north toward Bear River & southeast toward Honeydew).
- **Cybelle and John** - Work closely with LAFCO staff and the participating fire departments to get the reorganization application to the LAFCO Commission.

3. LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARD

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

Discussion: Committee members **Ken, Hugh, and John** met about NFPA 1720 – Level of Service Standard for Volunteers – Sets a standard of minimum staffing you would need for a structural fire response among other things. It is unclear how and likely will be very hard for fire departments to meet this standard. 1720 is a guide for what departments should be shooting for, but whether we can get there is another question. We need additional sources of funding for required equipment and training. We need to keep in mind that we are in the funding trough right now, so setting the standards lower now

might preclude future funding to meet these higher standards. One of the major issues is getting buy-in from the 43 fire departments in the County (even when there's funding to hand out).

Is the action item of identifying and agreeing on LOS goals for each Volunteer Fire Department still current? Yes, keep it. Keep in mind that over 50% of the county currently has no dedicated coverage except for Cal Fire.

Could a review of a district's level of service compared against NFPA 1720 standards be incorporated into the development and updates of Municipal Service Reviews (as sort of non-binding advisory done by LAFCO)? It essentially comes at little to no cost to the districts themselves. **Cybelle** will look into this.

We learned at a California Fire District conference in Tahoe that the word coming out at the state level is that the state legislator is getting ready to take funding from special districts. This is one of the many proposals to balance the state budget.

Action Items:

- **ALL** – Assist staff to incorporate the LOS data tracked by this group into the updated County Fire Plan. **On-going**
- **ALL** –Work with the HCFCA to Identify and agree on a level of service standard that can be used as a goal by fire departments.
- **ALL** - Start thinking about what "adequate level of service" might mean. Start with the NFPA 1720 standard. **Ongoing**

4. IMPROVE EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES

*(Dan Larkin, Hugh Scanlon, Bob Harris, Robert Rivelle and Debra Lake - **Coordinator – Bob Harris, and/or Debra Lake**)*

Discussion: The County did take possession of the Trinidad Vault and is in the process of installing a repeater there. The ball is moving and the site will be operational in weeks to months, and will improve coverage in the Trinidad/Westhaven/Patrick's Point area.

Fire Radio Network Grant is still outstanding. John says "No news is good news" but, "IF" the fire chiefs receive this award they will be faced with producing matching funds for THREE MILLION DOLLARS.

Action Items:

- Keep the FSC abreast of goings on in the effort to coordinate with other agencies. **(Dan Larkin) – Ongoing**
- **All** – Assist staff to incorporate appropriate emergency dispatch and communication information into the updated County Fire Plan. **Ongoing**

5. MFPP POLICY RECOMMENDATION INTEGRATION INTO THE GPU

*(John McFarland, Dan Larkin, Debra Lake, Ken Woods, Laurel Reimann, Hugh Scanlon and **Cybelle Immitt** **Coordinator – Cybelle Immitt**)*

Discussion: **Cybelle** updated the FSC on progress with the general plan update. Advance Planning Staff is currently working through the Conservation and Open Space Element with the Planning Commission. The comparison charts for the Safety Element

have not been completed yet and **Cybelles** will send them out when they are done. As soon as the Charts are released, the Committee for this action will get together and review them and make suggestions for any recommended changes or additions. The committee will then present what they propose to the FSC (via email if necessary) and then forward to County Planners.

Action Items:

- **Cybelles** - keep the Council posted about the Planning Commission's progress toward the Safety Element. **Ongoing**
- **All** - Assist staff to incorporate relevant information from the GPU into the updated County Fire Plan - **Ongoing**
- **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 **Cybelles**. cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us
- **Cybelles** - Send link to Alternatives A, C, and D of the Safety Element when developed.

AGENDA ITEM 6 –FIRE SEASON INCIDENT REPORT AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION REPORT

Discussion: The Fire Chiefs Association sponsored "Annual Report" is really late. Cal Fire is helping with the report and needs additional info from a few sources before it goes out. If they don't get it, they will have to go ahead without the missing information. **Cybelles** is willing to review the document and conduct outreach to the folks with the missing information. It is ready to go to press this week.

Action:

Hugh - send a copy of the report to **Cybelles** to see if she has anything to add from the data she has collected.

All - Contact your neighboring Fire Department and make sure they have responded.

AGENDA ITEM 7 –REPORTS FROM LOCAL FSC

Discussion:

Lower Mattole:

- Picking up on the Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes (FLASH) Program (75 acres under Landowner Agreements = to \$40,000 in reimbursements).
- **Cybelles** met with them in January about the CWPP and Firewise Title 3 grant projects and FLASH.
- CWPP - have produced an outline with some content and are working to fill in the blanks.
- Firewise - Will have a Firewise Event in May. **Cybelles** has reviewed a rough draft of their Firewise Assessment and they are collecting additional information.

Southern Humboldt (<http://www.newforestry.org/shfsc/>):

- Finishing up the Kings Peak Road Shaded Fuelbreak Project
- They are gaining momentum with the FLASH program. So far 32 acres have been committed for an estimated reimbursement to property owners of \$26,000 for fuel reduction completed.
- About to get moving on finishing up their local CWPP

Van Duzen Watershed:

- Board of Supervisors approved funding of 2011 Title III grant – funds will support a firewise day and materials for a Blue Dot program that will help firefighters find water sources, road signs, and materials to retrofit water tanks for fire fighting hook-up. These activities will help Bridgeville maintain its recognition as a Firewise Community and implement their Firewise Action Plan.
- Received Firewise Recognition and held a ceremony on March 20 to celebrate. Supervisor Clif Clendenin, Cybelle and Mark Rodgers (Cal Fire) went out to Bridgeville to commemorate this milestone.
- 2010 Clearinghouse Grant: CALFIRE chipper needed maintenance, split coast of parts with FSC. Got 12.5 miles done and one mile cut but not chipped yet. Will get goal of 20 miles done (50 ft on each side of the road) but it will be tight with the budget due to unexpected higher costs (eg rise in diesel costs and maintenance).
- Forest Service work is still up in the air until they get their budget from Congress (yikes). Not looking real good but we do still have (supposedly) at least \$17,000.00 left in the burn agreement, waiting to hear from Nancy (Forest Service rep.), could start anytime. Other agreements will probably happen but don't know when.
- FLASH grant doing pretty good, as of today we have eight folks signed up for a total of 28 acres and \$18,000.00 worth of estimated reimbursement. We are still accepting apps for a couple of weeks.
- Humboldt RAC proposal got full funding (\$100,000) - RAC proposal to do 8 miles of road clearance in Buck Mountain area – the “Buck Mountain Evacuation Route Clearance Project”.
- Also Trinity RAC proposal got funded - \$29,000 – this work will tie into planned Forest Service projects on the Trinity County side of the watershed.

Willow Creek (<http://willowcreekfsc.org/index.html>):

- June 11, is the date for the Fishing Derby at Burnt Ranch – will have Firewise Info available as well as ecological educational materials.
- Making progress on the FLASH program - 24 acres and a little over \$14,000 committed.
- Their annual Firewise day event, the Fire Safe Day and Youth Ecology Fair is set for May 21, 2011 from 10:00 Am to 3:00 PM.
- SWAP crew coming out once a month to complete fuels reduction work around the community.
- Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approved funding of 2011 Title III grant – funds will support a firewise day and materials for a Blue Dot program that will help firefighters find water sources. These activities will help Willow Creek maintain its recognition as a Firewise Community and implement the Firewise Action Plan.
- Title III grant project funded by Humboldt County is almost completed (Living with Fire in the Lower Trinity publication – educational outreach). The goal is to have it ready in the Two Rivers Tribune the week before the Fire Safe Day Fair in the middle of May.
- 2010 USDA Fuel reduction grant is ongoing. Fire Wize has the contract for this work and brushing work is ongoing. Almost finished with Camp Kimtu – did work behind the school and on HWY 96.
- Finished the CWPP – Humboldt County Board of Supervisors signed off on it on January 25 and Trinity County Board of Supervisors signed off on it in February – so have all signatures now.

Orleans/Somes Bar FSC (<http://www.mkwc.org/programs/firefuels/index.html>):

- Have completed 110 acres of fuels work with a local crew through grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program, the US Forest Service Community Protection Program, and the Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee. 25 acres

of this was in preparation for 120 acres of prescribed burns that will be implemented this Spring and Fall. Volunteers are welcome to participate in prescribed burns. Contact Will at 530-627-3202 if you are interested.

- FLASH Program - FSC crew was hired by local landowners to do FLASH work on several properties –They have property owners committed to approximately 28 acres and \$16,000 worth of estimated reimbursements to property owners. Having to coordinate workdays directly with each other has increased both FLASH participant's and our fuels crew's appreciation of FSC staff that usually coordinate this work.
- The 3rd Klamath Fire Ecology Symposium will be held Tuesday, April 26 to Thursday, April 28, in Orleans, CA, featuring presentations on the following focus areas: landscape-level fire planning, climate change, and fire and aquatic systems. There are still slots available for the KFES, including scholarships. Call MKWC at 530-627-3202 for more info.
- 2010 Clearinghouse grant – Will is working on a script for the Prescribed Fire video they are making through USFS CPP funding. They will interview knowledgeable people at the Symposium for some of the video content.
- New Prescribed Burn coordinator, Chris Root, is working on establishing a Firewise Board, and coordinating a Firewise event for May, 2011.

Fort Seward – No representative from this group was available.

NOTE: CAL FIRE HAS PREVIOUSLY LOANED OUT CHIPPERS TO NON-PROFITS, BUT NOW THEY ARE INTERESTED IN SELLING THEM TO NON-PROFITS OR DISTRICTS TO MEET BUDGET REDUCTIONS. THE NEWEST CHIPPER IS 10 YEARS OLD. SEND AN EMAIL TO HUGH IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – GRANT REPORTS

Discussion:

T3- funds

- **Firewise** – Bridgeville and Willow Creek are now Firewise and Honeydew and Petrolia have small grants to help them with the process of becoming Firewise. These funds will continue to be used to support staff time associated with helping communities through the Firewise process and for Firewise action plan implementation.
- **CWPP** – These funds will be used to support staff time associated with helping local CWPP efforts and the County CWPP update. Funds will also be used for needed consultant services and funding for small grant program and stipends for CWPP activities in local communities.
- **Small grant program 2011 cycle** – The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approved funding for small grants on April 5, 2011 for Bridgeville and Willow Creek. These grants will support maintaining Firewise recognition and to implement their Firewise Action Plans (Firewise events, Blue Dot programs, road signs (address and Rd. name) and water tank retrofit for fire protection). Grant agreements are in the process of being signed and when all signatures are collected, **Cybel** will be able to submit the paperwork to get the first installments of funding sent out.

2010 USFS grant Project – Fuels Reduction Cost Share Program

The Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes (FLASH) program is making steady progress. However, even through progress is being made there is worry that participation is dropping off because property owners are afraid they won't be able to burn piles by the end of September. If they don't get them done now during

the rainy season they won't be able to burn again until October-November. Some places have access to chippers and will need to make them available to property owners signed up for the FLASH program. **Cybelle** spoke to **Dave Farley** and the new grant manager, **Randy Richter**, about an extension and was told that the longest extension that could be granted was through the month of November. **Cybelle** will send an email requesting this extension and mention the need for an extension in this quarter's report. She also inquired about the CA FSC possibly asking the Forest Service for an extension for the state so that longer extensions could be given to grantees. The CA FSC already made such a request and was turned down. We should continue to encourage them to ask again...**Hugh** said if there are piles that still need to be burned after the burn ban to contact him...there may be permits that would allow this.

A webpage has been created on the Humboldt County FSC website and can be accessed at:

http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/fire_safe_council/fsc_flash.asp

2012 CA FSC Clearinghouse grant proposal – **Cybelle** is working on the BOARD OF Supervisors report to ask for authorization to be the fiscal sponsor for the 2012 grant application. Match from the County for this proposal is questionable because Title III might be expired by the time the grant period begins (all Title III funds must be obligated by September 30, 2012 they will have to be sent back to the U.S. Treasury (it is still a little unclear what "obligated" means). The MRC is interested in partnering again. **Cybelle** is working on finding out if other FSCs will be able to contribute match. The proposal is being drafted. **Cybelle** will send drafts to the Hazard Fuels Committee members.

Action: prepare and submit a proposal

AGENDA ITEM 9 – SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Yvonne Everett, Professor of Environmental Planning, Dept. Environmental Science and Management, Humboldt State University - *"Fire Safe Councils in the Interface: The Role of Community Participation in Fire Hazard Management"*

Yvonne made a presentation that you can find as an attachment to these notes. Her presentation generated some discussion about perceptions of obscurity related to the way the CA FSC Grants Clearinghouse funds are awarded. There was also discussion about the question of using local resources and knowledge during big wildfire events. Fire safe Council members expressed appreciating for Yvonne's presentation and noted that they learned a lot about the California FSC and the Grants Clearinghouse that they did not previously know.

There was not enough time for **Will Harling** to make his whole presentation but he did read a 100 year old letter which exemplified the different attitudes about wildfire in the natural landscape between Native Americans and government forest managers. He noted that many of the attitudes have not changed much to this day. See letter in attachment.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION, AND ADJOURN

The next meeting date will be **July 11, 2011 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM** at the **Six Rivers National Forest Headquarters Office in Eureka** (tentative location – must be confirmed).

The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Harris at 4:15 P.M.