



Meeting Agenda for: Thursday, January 12, 2023, from 4pm to 5:15pm
Zoom meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86999943919?from=addon>

To receive documents provided to those in attendance at the board meeting, please email julie.konno@crccd.org with your request no later than 3pm the day before the meeting. Items provided to directors prior to the meeting will be emailed with the agenda to all recipients requesting to be on the distribution list.

3:30 *EXECUTIVE SESSION - Personnel- Notes taken on another document.*

4:00 Call to Order 4:08

Approval of the Agenda- Melissa makes a motion to approve the agenda. David makes a motion to second the agenda. Motion carries.

Introductions

Public Comment **Please limit comments to 2 minutes**

4:05 **Consent Agenda**

- Approval of the Minutes of 12-8-2022 Melissa makes a motion to approve the minutes and reports. Nancy seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Financial report

4:10

Reports – Please limit to 5 minutes per organization

- **NRCS** – including **EQIP** – Mira Dick - general programs for NRCS this year is still in a building process. The first batch was Dec 9th. More batches will come in. They are tied to the Inflation Reduction Act, so things are taking time. This should include Forest Service Funding. RCPP goes... it is in the paperwork, but not in the software yet. Catastrophic Fund Pool and Emergency Recovery Funds. All the same funding opportunities are there, but they are not able to be viewed at this time. Cultural Footprint, if that has got through. The Catastrophic Fire money is available. People can apply with projects and funding. Workshops and volunteer opportunities NRCS will be able to help. Watershed level can be sponsored by an RCD, large scale watershed challenges NRCS can put together a package for the Farm Bills such as help with dams and so on.
- **Madera Dept of Water Resources** – Jeannie Habben- not in attendance.
- **Madera County** – Supervisor Bobby Macauley. The hospital has been closed for emergency services for 2 weeks. For us in district 5 means to reestablish many local services and changes. The 5050/50 is not changed; we have to get a new MOU for Fresno. Looking into a reanalysis for our services. Create some new services or new medical correspondence in the valley. Working on reimbursements for roadways. \$5-6 million dollar range of damages.
- **North Fork Rancheria** - Mary Stalter-Confirmed today to have a community event in February to get Firewise community. Mary's neighborhood experienced massive flooding in the creeks. Put in two tickets from 311. What is the turn around for the tickets? Usually the turn around is quick. The triage of events has been a challenge.

The mission of the Coarsegold Resource Conservation District is to promote, protect, and improve the diverse natural resources of Eastern Madera County



- **Mikie James North Fork Rancheria-** Fuels reduction and burning in Wah Up Way. Looking into further reducing fuels. Looking up at the face, the goal is get this done prior to fire season. - Hazard mitigation covers most of the North Fork, not just the Rancheria.
- **CALFIRE – Mike Keyser- not in attendance.**
- Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council – Ashley Nebeker- **not in attendance.**
- **Yosemite Sequoia RC & D – Erin Capuchino:** At a Forest Vegetation management Conference. made good contacts for future forest reforestation projects. YSRCD working on finishing the grant of the grant of clearing the road ways. Leaving the wood out for people to get firewood. The forest service will support burning the piles along the road way once the time as weather allows. The piles will be burned by the summer. Darren has approved the advance for CRCD personally. Funding for a grant writer. Send list of priority of projects. YSRCD has funds to help with funding. Postfire workshop press release- the UC extension is doing. Want to bring it to us from Creek and Oak fire. It is a \$25 fee for a class with a field trip .
- **Firewise and Pollinator programs – Jon/Kelly-See attached report.** The month of December has now reached 16 communities.
- **Executive Director report - Jon-See attached report**

4:55

Old Business

- **Succession Planning and Personnel; Recruitment update-** Executive session. Lyndall has been asked to be an Associate director of the CRCD. Nancy makes a motion to approve Lydall and David seconds the motion. Motion carries. The board wants to offer Kelly the position of The Regional Coordinator Firewise Position with a raise of \$25. Kelly does accept the offer. We have received one application for the Office manager position, we would like to get more applicants. Erin succeeds speaking with Wade for an article in looking through Sierra News Online.
- Audit update- gathered more information for Lori on a thumb drive.
- AB 361 vs AB 2449 – continue with distance meetings? Coming to an end after our February meeting. # of the members need to be in quorum. 2 people will be on zoom. 3 meetings can be missed in a year as a board. Jan 3rd County Council met with the planning. The 3 laws were looked at: AB 361- will continue for one more year. AB 2449 came into effect. Jan 2023-Jan 2026- requirements that depend on the size of the board depends on a board member's remote meeting. Personal emergency and cause(caregiver, contagious unless, traveling on official business). 2-3 meetings missed.

We will reach out to the county council and we are getting shared zoom opportunities.

- CALFIRE advance - See ED Report.

5:10

New Business

- **Correspondence and Bills –** Nothing new. Christmas letter from the Kenny's.



- **Signatory Designation** for Jon Cottington- Nancy makes a motion to approve Jon Cottington as a Signatory for the RCD. David seconds it and we will get a letter for our board president Jay to sign.

5:15 **Workshops / Events / Presentations**

IRWM meeting: January 23, 2023 @ 1:30pm Zoom
Feb 1st- Post Fireworkshop.

Adjourn: 5:35 pm

Next Meeting February 9, 4:00pm via Zoom



PO BOX 1306
North Fork, CA 93643
559-760-6019
Jon.cottingham@crccd.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 12, 2023

CALFIRE GRANT: We are still waiting to hear from CALFIRE regarding the arrival of the advance that was requested. We will let the board know when we hear more. We will be ready to release Firewise community and homeowner applications as soon as the funds are available.

MADERA FIREWISE® COMMUNITIES: CRCD has requested an advance of personnel and implementation funds to alleviate the reimbursement process for both our organization as well as community members receiving assistance. Both requests have been approved. Contractors can now invoice directly instead. CRCD will be reimbursed for outstanding funds and have access to the advance in the coming week.

CA FIRESAFE COUNCIL FIRE PREVENTION COODINATOR: The contract between CRCD and Madera County is on the BOS agenda for January 24th. Once approved, the county will have the ability to create an account to hold the funds and we will be able to invoice the county. Tristan Shamp has submitted an advance request for 50% of the funds to CFSC. Once approved, we've been told the advance should take no longer than 60-90 days.

NACD: There is no new business with the NACD grant. Quarterly reporting is due next month. We have had no new public meetings to share the EQIP program in the past 30 days, but have spoken with 2 community members in the queue and will continue to present the NRCS programs to property owners as we meet with potential Firewise Communities. We also have links for the programs on our web page.

This is my first meeting as Executive Director. I want to thank the board and Julie for working with me over the past 5 ½ years in my various roles with the RCD and I am excited to grow both personally and as an organization with this new role. This year, CRCD plans to continue to increase our fire prevention and education efforts



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559-760-6019
Jon.cottington@crccd.org

throughout the county. We hope to expand our relationship with NRCS in order to share the EQIP program with more residents in our district. And I will continue to work with schools and local partners to grow our tree planting and pollinator habitat programs. I look forward to a productive and fulfilling year of conservation work in Eastern Madera County.

Jon Cottington, Executive Director



Sub-contractor Progress Report: Title III Firewise Coordination Program

Sub-contractor/partner: Coarsegold

Resource Conservation District

Reporting Period: December 2022

Report Preparer & Title: Jon

Cottington, Executive Director

Email address:

jon.cottington@crkd.org

Phone Number: 559 760 6019

Date: 1-9-2023

Progress reports are an explanation of what occurred during a one-month period. If no fiscal activity occurred, that is acceptable, but explain what did occur during the reporting period (challenges encountered, plans made or changed, etc). Please include details about upcoming projects, workshops, or purchases that you will be making to accomplish the tasks/deliverables outlined in your scope of work.

Summary of activities that occurred during the reporting period (e.g., communities established, communities outreached, workshop coordination, products created/developed):

- Sierra Highlands and Leisure Acres recognized as new Firewise Communities (16 communities total)
- 2 contractor projects in Nelder Heights Community
- Create FW Volunteer Hour Survey and accompanying database
- Continue outreach to Resident Leaders in certified communities to begin planning neighborhood meetings with CRCD, as well as begin recertification process.
- 2 prospective communities submitted Firewise applications: Ahwahnee Estates, Oak Creek
- Attended Still Meadow FW Committee meeting
- Continued outreach to in-progress communities (Still Meadow Estates, Jean East, Oak Creek, Indian Lakes, Pine Ridge Way,) in varying stages of completion and interest.
- Planning/Prep for Livestream of FW events YLP, North Fork Rancheria
- Continued to distribute educational materials to existing and prospective communities.
- Social Media outreach on defensible space and home hardening to engage new communities.
- Maintained technical assistance and communication with all established Firewise® communities.
- 3 month evaluation of Fire Prevention Tech

Relation of activities to overall goals, deliverables, and timeline. Please quantify progress where possible (e.g., XX community members engaged on MM/DD/YYYY for kick off meeting, XX new communities established, XX action plans developed):

- The creation of 2 new groups with property adjacent to WUI, helps expand fire safety along rd 222 and 426. Madera county now has 16 active Firewise communities.
- The Nelder heights projects were voted on by committee and completed. These projects assisted 3 homes in improving their defensible space .
- The Stillmeadow Firewise Committee meeting was important to create a gameplan on getting the community at large to participate in the risk assessment process so they can complete application.

- Our new Fire Prevention Tech, Kelly Green, has continued on-boarding into the position but has streamlined the volunteer hours process with the new online survey. This survey makes the volunteer investment portion of the application much easier for homeowners and Resident Leaders as well as letting CRCD track hours for more accurate reporting.
- Completing the 3 month evaluation of Kelly Green will allow us to move forward with this position. ED recommends that Kelly soon become the Regional Firewise Coordinator.
- Timely assistance to prospective communities has allowed for consistent progress in certifying new communities. 2 new communities applied this month.
- Livestreaming FW events will allow us to expand our outreach to residents who are unable to attend upcoming meetings. This equipment, once purchased, will expand the program as a whole.
- Outreach to all Resident Leaders re: Scheduling contracted workdays, community meetings, Recertification deadline, Tool Cache reminder; continued assistance to individual communities as needed, including portal uploads for recertification efforts and new applications.
- Social Media outreach has increased the visibility in the community, leading to additional inquiries on the program.

Challenges encountered during the reporting period and possible challenges in the future (e.g., meeting cancelled, unresponsive homeowner's, personnel change):

- CRCD continues to face the challenge of waiting for the in-progress communities to essentially make progress. Coarsegold RCD must wait for the committees to complete the application process in their own time.
- Lack of response for scheduling community meetings from approved Firewise® communities. Community members are not reaching out to schedule meetings.

How challenges impact overall accomplishments and plans to remedy the situation (e.g., personnel change required additional time to onboard for program but they began outreaching communities this month; unexpected weather required cancelling a risk assessment but it has been rescheduled for next month, etc):

- CRCD continued outreach to individual resident leaders through email, site visits, and community meetings has kept energy high in recertification, as well as progress on community action plans. Some communities remain silent so continued correspondence will be necessary.
- CRCD continued outreach to prospective and in-progress communities.
- CRCD is continuing with requiring community meetings to retain full transparency for the agencies as well as community members. We are also creating a new project application that can be shared with the whole community.

Next steps (please provide a brief summary or list of activities planned for the next month):

- Continue program development on the CAL FIRE grant.
- Expand use of new Firewise surveys to streamline process in larger communities
- Continue scheduling the existing Firewise® Communities for contracted work.



- **Schedule Community meetings for every certified community to plan for future funds/projects.**
- **Continue to attend meetings and webinars for additional grant funding opportunities.**
- **Review Action Plans for each community to see where implementation funding can be used to the best advantage.**
- **Continue to be flexible and available to any community in need of assistance towards becoming Firewise®.**
- **Continue community outreach to find new prospective Firewise® communities.**