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**Meeting Agenda for: Thursday, February 9, 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@crkd.org](mailto:julie.konno@crkd.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 Committee Session - Personnel*

*4:00 Call to Order 4:03*

*Approval of the Agenda: Melissa makes a motion to approve and David Seconds this.*

*Introductions*

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

**4:05 Consent Agenda**

- Approval of the Minutes of 1-12-2023 *Melissa makes a motion to approve and David Seconds this.*
- Financial report *Jan and February reports will be shared next month.*

**4:10 Reports – Please limit to 5 minutes per organization**

- NRCS – *Mira Dick Johnny had been planning to join today, but another meeting has gone longer. 14 applications for tree mortality. Inflation Reduction Act funds are still coming. Forestry has a good shot of getting funds. Waiting on the IRA.*
- Madera Dept of Water Resources – *Jeannie Habben Looking to hire a Water Resource II Specialist. 5 lawsuits against the water resources. After March the Flooding maps will be dispersed in outreach. Trying to get the Wildlife permit for the Oakhurst River Parkway and then try to get funding.*
- Madera County – *Bobby Macauley A pool of funding is available as a result of the winter storm damage. It will be available in May or June. The scope is to hire about 10 individuals to do wor, they would need to be overseen by another organization. Identify the site location and then work will be updated.  
Waiting on FEMA to authorize emergency repairs or stabilization after the winter storms. Evaluating roads, usage, and cost.*
- North Fork Rancheria - *Mary Stalter- Not present*
- CALFIRE – *Mike Keyser no update. Fuel reduction and burning in Bass Lake area. CAL FIRE grants will be closing the second week of March. Putting in for the max amount is key in the advance. New hires have been in the office and the funds should become available soon.*

- Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council – Ashley Nebeker *Partnered with the county on the fire safety evacuation grant now looking into SEQA. Coco Aim grant. Hiring out a consultant looking at a multi year plan so that shovel ready projects can get done.*

*PBA is looking for volunteers on March 5th at the SPCA to burn a new dog park for the resident dogs.*

- Yosemite Sequoia RC & D – Erin Capuchino - *Looking into Cal Fire grants. Working with CRCD by continuing EDA and Firewise. Chipper update will come soon as an in kind donation.*
- Firewise and Pollinator programs – Jon/Kelly-*See attached report*
- Executive Director report - Jon -*See attached report*

#### 4:55 **Old Business**

- Succession Planning and Personnel; Outreach & Education; Current Recruitment update

*Recruitment update: Hired a new office manager. Kayla Roughbough. She will begin February 16th and work alongside Julie. Welcome Lyndall as associate director.*

*Hire a bookkeeper. Sierra Bookkeeping Consulting. Nancy makes a motion to approve contacting Sierra Bookkeeping. Jay seconds the motion. No nays. Motion carries.*

*AB 361 vs AB 2449 – continue with distance meetings?- Melissa DeSilva the Chief of Staff for District 5 supervisor. AB 361 would work for us until January 2024. The County Council may get back to use. Melissa makes a motion to approve and Nancy seconds. Motion carries.*

CALFIRE advance

Signatory resolution for Jon

#### 5:10 **New Business**

*Correspondence and Bills – CSDA-California Special District Association. We do our training through them. Jay makes a motion to send \$75 and Nancy seconds it. Motion carries.*

*Chipper donation from YSRCDC- Nancy makes a motion to approve and accept the donation as the agreement comes to fruition and Jay seconds that. Motion carries.*

*EMFSC MOU-Outreach for educational opportunities for school aged children. The Fire Safe Council has received a grant. Jon is proposing to do a MOU to partner and hire Ashley Nebeker. Working on a curriculum to teach the youth before the fireseason. We would be contracting with The Fire Safe Council.*

*10 hours a week at \$25 an hour. In the coming months we will develop a program. Lyndall makes a motion. Nancy makes the motion to second. Motion carries.*

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

IRWM meeting: February 27, 2023 @ 1:30pm Zoom

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



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**Adjourn: Next Meeting March 9, 4:00pm via Zoom**

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



## Sub-contractor Progress Report: Title III Firewise Coordination Program

**Sub-contractor/partner:** Coarsegold

Resource Conservation District

**Reporting Period:** January 2023

**Report Preparer & Title:** Jon

Cottington, Executive Director

**Email address:**

[jon.cottington@crdc.org](mailto:jon.cottington@crdc.org)

**Phone Number:** 559 760 6019

**Date:** 2-8-2023

*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):

- Ahwahnee Estates recognized as new Firewise Community (16 communities total)
- Kelly Green Promoted to Firewise Coordinator
- Attended Mudge Ranch Community FW meeting
- Continue outreach to Resident Leaders in certified communities to begin planning neighborhood meetings with CRCD.
- 1 prospective community resubmitted FW application - Oak Creek
- Attended YLP FW Committee meeting
- Attended Indian Lakes 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 North Fork Rancheria Community Meeting
- 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.
- YSRCDC votes to donate chipper to CRCD

**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 1 new group helps expand fire safety around Highway 49. Madera county now has 16 active Firewise communities.
- Attending the Mudge Ranch meeting helped to onboard 3 new members into the community



- Attending the Indian Lakes FW meeting helped add 4 new members in order to continue with the application process.
- Attending the YLP meeting helped add an additional 25-30 members into the growing community.
- Continuing Resident leader discussion to help committees plan projects for the 2023 year.
  
- Our Fire Prevention Tech, Kelly Green, was promoted to Firewise coordinator and has continued onboarding into the position.
- Timely assistance to prospective communities has allowed for consistent progress in certifying new communities. 1 new communities reapplied this month.
- 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.
- We have created a new project application that can be shared with the whole community in order to create a list of shovel ready projects in the 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.**



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
February 9, 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 work with NF Rancheria on the first round of the Eastern Madera Fire Prevention Assistance Program. We had four individuals sign up for more information last night. We hope to have a few applications approved by the time funds arrive.

**MADERA FIREWISE® COMMUNITIES:** CRCD has received the advance of personnel and implementation funds from the county. Kelly and I assisted multiple in progress communities and also began receiving project ideas from certified communities. We currently have one application submitted with NFPA, and another 3 that will be ready to submit in the coming weeks.

**CA FIRESAFE COUNCIL FIRE PREVENTION COODINATOR:** The contract between CRCD and Madera County was approved on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The county is creating an account to hold the funds and we are currently working out the invoicing process. I presented at 5 community meetings this month, speaking with over 80 people. I am currently collecting participants from fire prevention agencies in the county to begin quarterly check in meetings. We participated in a 6 acre prescribed burn on my property that brought multiple agencies and community volunteers together to collaborate. We will be collaborating with YSRCDC, who is a partner in this grant, to assist the PBA with getting its social media outreach together.

**NACD:** There is no new business with the NACD grant. Quarterly reporting was submitted. We have shared the EQIP program during 2 presentations in the past 30 days, but we did not have anyone interested in signing up. I have been in contact with Dennis Dudley from NRCS to identify community members that we interacted with to include them in the upcoming round of RCPP funding. However, I received word from CARCD this morning that funding is on hold at the moment as they work through details of the agreements. We 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.

### **WCB Pollinator Block Grant**

The WCB has approved the CARCD Pollinator Habitat block grant this last month. CRCD submitted a proposal for \$178,350.00. The proposal included plans to create 2-3 new acres of pollinator habitats across multiple school sites to continue the educational work we started at North Fork School. We have also discussed sites with the NF Rancheria, Ahwahnee Hills Park, and the North Fork Rec Center. We are waiting for CARCD to reach out to discuss our sub agreement. I will let you know more as it develops.

### **One Tree Planted**

Not long after the fork fire, CRCD and North Fork elementary school started collecting acorns to grow oak saplings for properties within the Fire Scar. I submitted a community event grant proposal to OTP but did not receive funding because the project was not during one of their funding cycles. However, we still had acorns lying in cold storage that were beginning to germinate. Melissa and I, along with the Kern Family farm, donated pots to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to allow them to plant these acorns. We had a successful planting day, planting 250





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pots that will grow blue oaks saplings in the months to come. We are donating the rest of the viable acorns to a property in the fire scar. One Tree Planted has reached out this week to let me know that the community event grant is now open and have encouraged CRCD to apply for a spring project. We will be discussing planting areas and submitting a proposal in the coming weeks.

Jon Cottingham, Executive Director