

Meeting Agenda for July 12th, 2024

Raley's Conference Room: 40041 CA-49 #49, Oakhurst, CA 93644 Or join is via zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84366607385>

To receive documents provided to those in attendance at the board meeting, please email coarsegoldrcd@gmail.com 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 **Call to order – 3:35PM**
Introductions – *In attendance: Jon Cottington, Melissa Cottington, Whitney Lecat, Julie Konno, David Konno, Kelly Green III, Erin Capuchino, Christi Hansard, Chris Robison (zoom), Lyndall Erb (zoom), Jack Stewart (zoom)*
Approval of the Agenda – *Melissa made motion to approve, Lyndall seconds, motion carried*
Public Comment: *Please limit comments to 2 minutes*
- 3:35 **Consent Agenda – Table Speak Off Event in Barbara's absence, David makes a motion to approve, Melissa Seconds, motion carried**
- Approval of the Minutes
 - Approval of June Treasurer's Report/Financial Report
- 3:40 **Partner Reports – Please limit reports to 5 minutes**
- NCRS – Mira Dick – *not in attendance, let CRCD know they're waiting on Farm Bill to pass and are currently trying to get as many applications ready to go*
 - CALFIRE – Mike Keyser
 - Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council – Ashley Nebeker – *not in attendance, but got approved for the Goat Grazing project at Camp Oakhurst (25 acers estimated), CRCD written into the grant for outreach/planning*
 - Yosemite Sequoia RC & D – Erin Capuchino – *deposited their American Water Co. check and will start up a committee for Oakhurst Park Trail revival project soon, Spoke with OHV group that wants to put new trails in forest YSRC&D might bring CRCD in*
 - Madera Dept. of Water Resources – Jeannie Habben
 - Madera County – Bobby Macaulay
 - North Fork Rancheria – Lance Fink
- 3:55 **CRCD Reports**
- Firewise Report – Kelly Green – *see attached report*
 - Executive Director Report – Jon Cottington – *see attached report*
- 4:10 **Old Business**
- 4:25 **New Business**
- RFFCP (Grizzly Crop fellow and EMCFSC MOU Addendum) – *CRCD created amendment on MOU to split budget which gave 2/3 of training funds to EMCFSC and the pipeline project was split into three instead of half, but didn't have time to update before CRCD board meeting, CRCD will get \$135,570.46 over the next two years*
 - Extension of Title III Funds – *County decided to extend personnel funds, those funds are with CRCD now, asking Jon/Erin to create a new one year contract (mostly*



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contractual/implementation), CRCRD is now lead, looking into Ember Screen program in the future,

- Speak Off Event – Tabled , CRCRD has not done a Speak Off Event since prior to 2017

4:40

Workshops/Events/Presentations

- 7/17 - NRCS/CRCRD/Madera RCD Local Work Group Meeting (FSA Building 425 N. Gateway Drive, Madera CA)
- 8/1 – FW Presentation at Road 600 FW Group

4:45 **Adjourn: Next Meeting August 9th, 3:30PM @ Raley’s Conference Room – Adjourn 4:36PM**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
June 14, 2024

CALFIRE GRANT: The report for the CALFIRE was finally approved. Thanks to Whitney for her diligence with that one. There were a few small updates required. The report was resubmitted multiple times and after review many of the issues were simply misunderstandings. We have submitted the change of scope on the grant to provide assistance to all communities. We are waiting till the change of scope has been fully approved and will then ask for the next advance from Southern Region Grants.

MADERA FIREWISE© COMMUNITIES: Kelly assisted Slide Creek Estates with becoming recognized. Slide Creek Estates resubmitted their application. Kelly has also been busy helping the various new communities with their maps and initial documentation. We have spoken with the County and have received the extension of funds, but I will mention more on this under new business. We have submitted an Americorps concept form to try and bring an Americorp crew to our area this fall. This group would be working on Firewise community assistance, as well as habitat restoration/cleanup for the pollinator grant and YSRCDC's River trail grant. I received word from Americorps this morning that our Concept form had been approved and they would like us to submit a full application by August 22, 2024.

CA FIRESAFE COUNCIL FIRE PREVENTION COODINATOR:

- **Oversaw CRCD's Firewise program (1 new communities approved, 3 communities started process)**
- **Created and shared the new quarterly Firewise Newsletter with Communities**
- **Presented at Ahwahnee Estates/Miami Highlands, Klette's Pride, Jean Loop and Sierra Highlands Firewise Meetings.**
- **Ongoing training and collaboration with the new Firewise SNA fellow (who created newsletter and CWPP)**
- **Presented for Yosemite Forks Water Board**
- **WFAP assessments for Bass Lake, Yosemite Forks Estates.**
- **CWPP template created for Jean East and Sierra Highlands community.**
- **Create addendum to EMCFSC/CRCD MOU for RFFCP funding**
- **Attended and Presented at EMC Fire Advisory Meeting**
- **Worked with YSRCDC on "Be Firewise" website.**
- **Attended Video Filming with Yosemite Visitor's Bureau, YSRCDC, EMCFSC for "Be Firewise" campaign.**
- **Attended CALFIRE Defensible Space training for certification in CALFIRE assessments**
- **Attended planning meetings with Madera County, USFS, CAL FIRE, CFSC, EMCFSC, YSRCDC, and YGPBC.**
- **Hired GrizzlyCorps intern position to aid in GIS and Priority Pipeline Planning.**
- **Social Media outreach on defensible space and home hardening to engage new communities.**
- **(Jon – 102.5 hours, 358 miles)**



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NACD/RCPP: CRCD has received the last advance from the NACD 2021 TA funding. We will be looking into the possibility of future rounds of funding. We have been sharing NRCS information at recent table events. We also have links for the programs on our web page and have been sharing NRCS posts on social media.

Fork Fire Post Fire Rehab:

I have received the approved Notice of Exemption from the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse. We began outreach and have met with 3 properties on Road 228 and have spoken with an additional property owner. We are awaiting Right of Entry forms. We also met with NF Rancheria and accompanied them to a few properties on Poy Ah Now. The Rancheria is going to help us with outreach to tribal residents in the coming months. CRCD will continue to work on getting Right of Entry forms from all participants and hopes to release a Request for proposal in the fall.

WCB Pollinator Block Grant: CRCD will be submitting the first report for this grant on April 20th.

As I mentioned last month, CRCD and North Fork Rancheria met this morning to look at planting sites and discuss timelines and responsibilities. We met again to discuss potting the rest of the trees and taking care of them till the fall. We are working together to set up an area by their greenhouses that can house the 150+ trees. In the fall, we hope to incorporate some of the trees in the pollinator habitat and plant around the base of the seedlings.

The month was fairly quiet with the exception of a couple off mild disasters at two of our school sites. I found that the timer had never been hooked back up at our Wasuma Elementary site. This led to some significant die off of the plants around the perimeter of the garden. On top of that, volunteers worked with the kids to expand the weedcloth and bark mulch around the perimeter of the garden early in the spring. CRCD and students dispersed a great deal of seed on top of the 50 starters that we planted. However, this seed was covered by the weedcloth and mulch and was unable to sprout. I have spoken with school admin and the UC Master Gardeners and we will be working together so these issues do not happen again.

Then I went over to YHS to check on things and found that the power to the timer in that habitat had been shut off for an extended period of time. Plants in that habitat were quickly dying as well. These plants are native and can go without heavy water, once they are established. They need water for at least the first year after installation. I reached out to Maintenance and after a long weekend of no response, I was finally able to find out that construction crews had turned off the power to that wing of the school to do some electrical work in the library. Our water was connected to this and no one thought to warn us or do anything about it. Luckily, maintenance worked with the contractor and let them know that if they kill the power they need to let us and/or maintenance know so we can reset the timer. I am now on the radar of every school that we are in, so I hope this can be used as a learning lesson.

CERF (Community Economic Resiliency Fund)

The new facilitator from United Way has their first meeting next week so I will attend and let the board know more next month.



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RFFCP

EMCFSC has received a subaward agreement and we are listed as subcontractors. More on that in New Business.

New Business

RFFCP (Grizzly Corps Fellow and EMCFSC MOU)

Sierra Nevada Conservancy(SNC) and EMCFSC executed the RFFCP agreement last month. SNC made the agreement with EMCFSC alone as we agreed that they could take the lead. Therefore, we had to set up a separate agreement between the agencies. We created an addendum to the recent MOU we created. EMCFSC and CRCD worked together to split the budget appropriately. The agreed upon budget that I shared with the board had one small update that wasn't able to be made before today's meeting. The Regional Priority Pipeline funding will be split equally between the organizations. This will add an additional \$3,218.67 to our total for this line, plus an additional \$322 to our indirect total, bringing our total overall income from this grant at \$135,570.46. I would like to get a motion from the board to accept this addendum to EMCFSC and CRCD's MOU, with the aforementioned update to the Pipeline funding.

Extension of Title III funds:

As I mentioned before, we were looking for an extension for the last portion of the Title III funds. We were able to transfer some costs to another grant, saving money in the RFFCP and Firewise program. The county decided that they would extend the personnel funds as long as we accepted the remaining amount into our account to be spent as we wait for the CWDG grant to come through. We will be looking in to starting an ember screen program for the communities in the coming months.

The county would also like us to create a new, one year proposal that is aimed at contractual work only (because the CWDG covers personnel). The new contract would have CRCD act as the lead agency, while retaining YSRCDC as a partner agency in outreach/admin. We hope to go in front of the BOS in the fall to share the presentation and new proposal. There is no action needed by the board at this time, but if there are any questions, please let me know.

Speak Off

I will open up the floor for Barbara to give us a short update. (If Barbara is not available, the update is that Barbara contacted Taylor from CARCD and she has been added to the list of interested participants. CARCD hopes to have more information for RCD's on this year's speak off by the end of July.) We will update you with more at next month's meeting.

Workshops/Events/Presentations



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- July 17 – Madera RCD/ Coarsegold RCD/ NRCS Local Work Group Meeting 12-2pm FSA building 425 Gateway Drive, Madera CA
 - July 18 – S2J2 Sprint to the Finish Line 4-7pm Double Tree by Hilton, Fresno CA
 - August 1 - Firewise meeting Road 600 time and location TBD

Our next board meeting is August 9th. If there is no other business, we can adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

Jon Cottingham, Executive Director

Sub-contractor Progress Report: Title III Firewise Coordination Program

Sub-contractor/partner: Coarsegold
Resource Conservation District
Reporting Period: May 2024
Report Preparer & Title: Kelly Green II
- Firewise Coordinator

Email address: kelly.green@crccd.org
Phone Number: 559.389.8781
Date: 06-10-2024

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):

- Maintained technical assistance and communication with all established Firewise® communities.
- Community Application Status
 - **Crooks Mountain** – Approved
 - **Thunderhead Community** – Approved
 - **Slide Creek Estates** – Application submitted and rejected for outdated form. Resubmitted awaiting review.
 - **Yosemite Forks** – Highly motivated resident leader working with residents to complete Individual Risk Assessments.
 - **Big Rock Lane** – Resident leader contacting nearby residents to arrange community meeting for presentation by CRCD.
 - **Wishon Cove** – Progress has stalled, contact needed to determine next move.
 - **North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians** – Two communities to be created Mission Drive and Wyle Ranch, progressing slowly.
 - Continued Social Media outreach focusing on defensible space and home hardening to engage and inform mountain residents of Madera County.
- Firewise community meetings, events, and presentations
 -

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):

- Timely assistance to prospective communities has allowed for consistent progress in certifying new communities.
- 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.

Sub-contractor Progress Report: Title III Firewise Coordination Program

- Social Media outreach has increased the visibility in the community, leading to additional inquiries on the program.
- Review and updating maps in Arc GIS Pro allow us to quickly identify and quantify communities and surrounding forest service lands.

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 scheduled 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 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):

- Expand use of new Firewise surveys to streamline the 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.