

## Meeting Agenda for August 9<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 – 3:36PM**  
Introductions – Whitney Lecat (Zoom), Jon Cottington, Melissa Cottington, David & Julie Konno (Zoom), Barbara Grow, Christi Hansard, Lyndall Erb, Kelly Green III (Zoom), Jack Stewart (Zoom), Jay Seslow (Zoom), Erin Capuchino (Zoom), Kevin Kirk  
Approval of the Agenda – David motions to approve, Melissa seconds, motion carried  
Public Comment: *Please limit comments to 2 minutes*
- 3:35           **Consent Agenda**
- Approval of the Minutes
  - Approval of July Treasurer's Report/Financial Report – Lyndall motions to approve both minutes and TR, Melissa seconds, motion carried
- 3:40           **Partner Reports – Please limit reports to 5 minutes**
- NCRS – Mira Dick
  - CALFIRE – Mike Keyser
  - Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council – Ashley Nebeker – defensible space programs underway, launching new chipping program that will run annually when it's not burn season, finished development system with CALFIRE that helps get people into compliance, SNC GIS specialist reached out to them for mapping assistance/consulting, Working with CRCD on Goat grazing project,
  - Yosemite Sequoia RC & D – Erin Capuchino – Progress on first River Parkway meeting, restarting 2023 Winter Storm Hazard Mitigation Work again, getting ready to start planning next round of CALFIRE grant projects
  - 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**
- Speak Off Event – Barbara taking lead/organizing, Topic for this year is “What is the role of agriculture in meeting CA's climate goals?”, discussed CRCD covering Speak Off Winner's travel and/or hotel expenses to attend CARCD's annual conference.
- 4:25           **New Business**
- CARCD Conference – December 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, Jon & Whitney to go down Wednesday and come back Thursday, \$495.00 for full conference, \$159.00 for hotels per night, Melissa makes motion for Jon/Whitney to attend, and Jack as well using his professional development funds, David seconds, motion carries



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- Delegate for CARCD business – **CRCD was supposed to submit a delegate in March, Lyndall volunteers, David alternate,**
- Contractor Bids – possibility of creating a subcommittee but not needed, Jon will be reaching out for bids

4:40 **Workshops/Events/Presentations**

- 8/17 – YGPBC Defensible Space Workshop (Eastern Madera SPCA)
- 8/19 – Xerces Visit
- 9/? Provost & Pritchard Workday

4:45 **Adjourn: Next Meeting September 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:30PM @ Raley's Conference Room**

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
July 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 20<sup>th</sup>.**

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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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:** July 2024

**Report Preparer & Title:** Kelly Green II  
- Firewise Coordinator

**Email address:** [kelly.green@crccd.org](mailto:kelly.green@crccd.org)

**Phone Number:** 559.389.8781

**Date:** 08-04-2024

*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
  - **Bass Lake Heights** – Resident Leader created site in portal. Outreach email sent no response.
  - **Big Rock Lane** – No response.
  - **Blue Heron Way** – No response.
  - **Glacier Drive** – No response.
  - **Hidden Lake Estates** – No response.
  - **Leaning Pine / Whittenburg** – Community meeting held. Resident leader hopes to expand community to cover all of Road 620 in Oakhurst.
  - **North Dome** - No response.
  - **North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians** – No response.
  - **Oneals Firewise** – No response.
  - **Pettit Road** – Resident Leader created site in portal. Outreach email sent no response.
  - **Pine Ridge Way** – No response.
  - **Willow Creek West** – Preparing for community meeting. 3-Year Action Plan is 90% complete, need to complete Community Risk Assessment after community meeting to wrap up and submit application.
  - **Wishon Cove** – Jon spoke with Resident Leader.
  - **Yosemite Forks** – Still needs more residents to complete Individual Risk Assessments.
- 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
  - Kelly attended community meeting for Leaning Pine / Whittenburg.

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

**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.
- 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.



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

- 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.