

Meeting Agenda for September 13th, 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 – 3:37**

Introductions – Jon Cottington, David Konno, Lyndall Erb, Barbara Grow, Jon Grow, Melissa Cottington, Julie Konno, Erin Capuchino, Jack Stewart (Zoom), Jay Seslow (Zoom), Mira Dick (Zoom), Kris Robison (Zoom), Kendall Flint (Zoom), Christi Hansard

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment: *Please limit comments to 2 minutes* – Kendall Flint, Measure T will be on November Ballot, would appreciate if CRCD board would have a town meeting/board meeting to highlight Evacuation/Planning topic that is included on the Measure. Since we are a special district, we can not host a meeting such as this but are willing to sit in or help facilitate. measuret-2024.com for more information and written materials

3:35 **Consent Agenda** – *Dave wants to add Fish and Wildlife restoration program brought up by Jack Thornburg to NEW BUSINESS. Melissa makes a motion to consent with addition, Lyndall seconds, motion carried*

- Approval of the Minutes
- Approval of August Treasurer's Report/Financial Report – Lyndall makes a motion to approve, Melissa seconds, motion carried

3:40 **Partner Reports – Please limit reports to 5 minutes**

- NCRS – Mira Dick : *Not going to get a Farm Bill again this year, but it will not effect program delivery and for those already having a contract it will not change. Having CSP contracts (CSP rewards you for work you're already doing). EQIP can be a tool for getting ready for CSP, but if you've already done conservation work, CSP can happen without EQIP based on certain criteria. Madera Office has had a big year, currently without an engineer, Shawn Neil hired for planner position, next meeting Mira will have Madera County end of the year numbers to report. Prescribed Grazing considered part of CSP. CSP starts out at 5 year contacts, Annual meeting is October 24th*
- CALFIRE – Mike Keyser
- Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council – Ashley Nebeker
- Yosemite Sequoia RC & D – Erin Capuchino – *Got recommendations for Oakhurst Parkway Trail 9/13, going to be helping at the town clean up in October, CRCD will send their AmeriCorps crew to help YSRC&DC for two days*
- 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 – contacted Minarets and YHS to inform them, Jon/Barbara to send info out for schools to give to kids. They just need a date for when to do the voting, but at the moment for the “region” CRCD is the only one involved. Need to figure out what the “prize” will be for the winners in case we are disqualified from “regional” if we don’t have anyone else participating

4:25

New Business

- AmeriCorps Crew – CRCD got approved
- Fall Festival/October Board Meeting – will have two booths Fri-Sunday, Erin will be doing the read along on Sunday
- Grizzley Corp Fellow – Melanie, starting Monday to work on GIS/mapping
- Review of CALFIRE contractor selection (RFP sent out) – Hiring meeting to happen within next two-three weeks.

4:40

Workshops/Events/Presentations

- 10/11-10/13: Oakhurst Fall Festival

4:45 **Adjourn: Next Meeting TBD - agreed to do October 4th at 3:30PM**

Sub-contractor Progress Report: Title III Firewise Coordination Program

Sub-contractor/partner: Coarsegold
Resource Conservation District

Reporting Period: August 2024

Report Preparer & Title: Kelly Green II
- Firewise Coordinator

Email address: kelly.green@crccd.org

Phone Number: 559.389.8781

Date: 09-12-2024

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
 - **Pettit Road** – Community meeting scheduled for September 28.
 - **Willow Creek West** – Community meeting held. Application submitted September 12, 2024
 - **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 Willow Creek West

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.

Sub-contractor Progress Report: Title III Firewise Coordination 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 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.



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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
September 13, 2024

3:30 Call to order

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment: Please limit comments to 2 minutes

3:35 Consent Agenda

♣ Approval of the Minutes

♣ Approval of August Treasurer's Report/Financial Report

3:40 Partner Reports – Please limit reports to 5 minutes

♣ NCRS – Mira Dick

♣ CALFIRE – Mike Keyser

♣ Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council – Ashley Nebeker

♣ Yosemite Sequoia RC & D – Erin Capuchino

♣ Madera Dept. of Water Resources – Jeannie Habben

♣ Madera County – Bobby Macaulay

♣ North Fork Rancheria – Lance Fink

3:55 CRCD Reports

♣ Firewise Report – Kelly Green

♣ Executive Director Report – Jon Cottington

4:10 Old Business

♣ Speak Off Event

4:25 New Business

♣ Americorps Crew

♣ Fall Festival/October Board Meeting

♣ Grizzley Corp Fellow

♣ Review of CALFIRE contractor selection (RFP sent out)

4:40 Workshops/Events/Presentations

♣ 10/11-10/13: Oakhurst Fall Festival

4:45 Adjourn: Next Meeting TBD

CALFIRE GRANT: The change of scope has been approved. We will now be able to continue to provide chipping days and/or roadside fuel reduction to all Firewise communities. We have received our next advance. So we can now purchase the work trailer and get ready to assist communities. We are reaching out to communities to let them know we are going to be scheduling them for chipping days, unless they are opting out. We have also released the Request for Proposal and will be hosting a job walk on Wed Sept 18 for local, licensed contractors. I will discuss the hiring committee under new business.

MADERA FIREWISE® COMMUNITIES: Kelly has been busy helping the various new communities with their maps and initial documentation. Willow Creek West was submitted for review. Yosemite Forks is being compiled. Pettit has the necessary amount to start. Kelly is meeting with them on the 28th. And Italian Bar has the necessary 8 Participants and Risk Assessments to start the process. A meeting will be scheduled soon.

CA FIRESAFE COUNCIL FIRE PREVENTION COODINATOR:

- **Submitted Americorps Round 1 (Nov-Dec) Full Application; Approved 9/10/24**
- **Oversaw CRCD's Firewise program (12 proposed communities currently)**
- **Meeting with Sierra Highlands for CWPP edits.**
- **Ongoing collaboration with Jack - SNA fellow (CWPP's, Social Media Posts, Be Firewise Curriculum)**
- **Presented for Yosemite Gateway Prescribed Burn Cooperative**
- **CWPP created for Meadow Springs, Bass Lake Annex, Cascadel Woods, Mudge Ranch, Indian Lakes, community.**
- **WFAP assessment for Sierra Highlands resident**
- **Created maps for YSRCDC to share with SNF regarding WUI**
- **Completed Be Firewise Kids for Elementary. Working on getting into first school**
- **Worked with YSRCDC on "Be Firewise" website.**
- **Worked with Yosemite Visitors Bureau on "Be Firewise" video edits.**
- **Attended planning meetings with Madera County, CFSC, EMCFSC, YSRCDC, and YGPBC.**
- **Social Media outreach on defensible space and home hardening to engage new communities.**

NACD/RCPP: CRCD has received the last advance from the NACD 2021 TA funding. The funding ends on September 30, so we are expending the last of this grant. We are 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. Mira and I met in August and had a great meeting regarding ideas on how we can partner with the RCPP program as it progresses. We are exploring some avenues, so we will keep you posted.

Fork Fire Post Fire Rehab:

We met with Lance from North Fork Rancheria a few weeks ago. He was going to do some outreach for the properties on Tu Nobi and Poy Ah Now

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

We are still awaiting a decision from North Fork Rancheria regarding the "Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity" agreement language that I mentioned last month. I have spoken with Lance Fink and the tribal council has been unable to meet recently due to unforeseen circumstances. After our discussion, Lance was going to take the information to the council and he did not think it would cause an issue with our project, but I will keep everyone updated.

We had a visit from the Xerces Society on August 19 at 11:30 am in North Fork. Angela Laws and Jessa Kay Cruz came to visit a few of our sites. I thought we'd visit a few of the sites in North Fork, for ease of driving. We just planted Karine Wines last year, but it had a good first year. Although things were looking a little dry and



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Jon.cottingham@crccd.org

grasshopper eaten, Jessa and Angela were happy with the progress for a first year habitat. They were excited about the property owner's ideas around integrated pest management using the pollinator habitat. They are looking to partner with Karine in the future to possibly expand the site.

Then I plan to take them by the North Fork School site, which is what started the partnership between Xerces and CRCD. The site was really pretty. Full of plant and animal life. They were excited to see the bee and butterfly diversity in the area. I believe the visit went a long way in cementing the partnership between CRCD and the Xerces Society. But since then... The Fleabane (or Horseweed aster family) and grass has gone crazy in the last month, choking out portions of the site. But this morning, CRCD partnered with Provost and Pritchard for their annual volunteer day by taking 7 volunteers from the company, one volunteer from the Fire Safe Council (Kevin), and CRCD staff to hand weed the area. It made an amazing difference. We added a mountain of weeds to the compost pile and all the students were able to see the group in their garden helping out.

We now have our new sites to focus on for fall, Mountain oaks high school, Hillside Elementary, Spring Valley Elementary and the Thrapp Homestead. We will be picking up our next round of Xerces habitat kits in early November. Until then, we will be planning, removing solarization, and installing irrigation in preparation for planting.

RFFCP

EMCFSC has received a subaward agreement and we are listed as subcontractors. CRCD and EMCFSC have executed the subaward agreement and are awaiting funding and further instruction from SNC.

Old Business Speak Off

I will open up the floor for Barbara to give us a short update. If a RCD has any contestants, the directors from those districts cannot be judges or timekeepers at the regional competition. This also goes for the state level competition. If you're a director and do not have any contestants representing your RCD, you can judge. Other staff members may also fill these roles. So Barbara, along with staff can act as the judges in place of the board. We will update you with more at next month's meeting.

New Business

Americorps

CRCD was awarded a crew for Round 1 of the 2024-25 Americorp season. Thanks to everyone that helped in the process. Our staff put together a great proposal. I appreciate Ashley's help in connecting me with Sandy Otsuji, owner of Camp Oakhurst. The Americorp crew will be staying in one of his cabins for the duration of



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their stay. The crew will be working on roadside clearance in the Mudge Ranch community and along the Camp road to improve emergency ingress/egress in partnership with EMCFSC. They will be working in a handful of Firewise communities, assisting low/fixed income residents with improving their defensible space. They will be working on installing pollinator habitats while also connecting with the schools/students for discussions. They will spend a few days assisting on trail work/cleanup with YSRCDC for their Oakhurst River Parkway project. We will set up times for them to meet with partners, the board, Supervisor Macaulay, and other people of interest as part of their professional development while they are with us. The Corps members receive a food allowance and from experience with our previous crew, it was very small. Crews had to be frugal and make communal meals in order to afford 3 square meals a day. One thing that was mentioned the proposal was that CRCD would stock the kitchen with staple items (bread, rice, beans, canned goods, etc) prior to their arrival. I was thinking around \$250 of carefully planned items will help get them started. I also mentioned (without asking) that the board would take turns providing them with a home cooked meal or care package to help offset meal costs. This would work out to 1-2 meals by each of us during their time to say thanks. Although the \$250 is within my allowed budget, I wanted to get the boards input and approval. I also wanted to see if the board was willing to cook a meal, or add more to the initial purchase. Let me know your thoughts.

Fall Festival

We are sharing one booth this year with EMCFSC, YSRCDC, and YGPBC because they sold out of additional booths. So we are going to slim down and release our Be Firewise collaboration. But we do need assistance. I am setting up and staying Friday. I will also be there to open Saturday morning. Kelly is there Saturday afternoon and breakdown Sunday. Please let me know your availability.

The other problem is that our next meeting is on the Friday of Fall Festival. So we need to postpone or cancel. I can attend the following Friday October 18.

Grizzly Corps Fellow

If Melanie joins, let her introduce herself. If not...

Melanie Morales joins the Coarsegold RCD team as a Grizzly Corps Fellow and a native to the Central Valley.

Melanie is currently finishing her Master's in Geography at San Jose State University. She will be applying her 7 years of GIS experience to create a Regional Priority Plan (RPP) that identifies and prioritizes wildfires forestry resilience projects. We look forward to working with Melanie. She will be working along EMCFSC's Grizzly Corp fellow Briana as they work to expand agency collaboration and the regional priority plan for fuel reduction projects.

CRCD Contractor Bids

We have released the RFP's for CALFIRE to the public. Last project, the board sat down with me in Executive session to review the bids and choose a contractor. I have the submission day set for September 26. I was hoping to review the proposals on Friday morning, September 27. Melissa is not available Friday and I have to



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clock out around 3 at the latest. Is anyone available to meet and review on Friday morning? If not, Monday morning Sept 30?

Workshops/Events/Presentations

- 10/11-13 Oakhurst Fall Festival

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

Jon Cottington, Executive Director