

Meeting Agenda for October 4th, 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

Introductions

Approval of the Agenda – **Melissa makes a motion to approve agenda, David seconds. All approved.**

Public Comment: Please limit comments to 2 minutes – **No public comment**

3:35

CARCD Speak Off Speech Presentations

CRCD hosted the local speak off competition. Three judges (Tom Wheeler Jon Norby, and Nancy McPherson) came to judge 2 contestants. The winner was Emma Fiala from Minarets High School.

4:00

Consent Agenda

- Approval of the Minutes
- Approval of September Treasurer's Report/Financial Report

Melissa makes a motion to approve agenda, David seconds. All approved.

4:05

Partner Reports – Please limit reports to 5 minutes

- NCRS – Mira Dick – **Not Present**
- CALFIRE – Mike Keyser – **Not Present**
- Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council – Ashley Nebeker – **D space grant is continuing with Kevin taking the lead. PGE grants at Camp Oakhurst are coming to an end. CRCD is hoping to assist EMCFSC on creating a fence line for the goat grazing project at Camp Oakhurst using the Americorps crews. We also received our first round of funding for the RFFCP program. This funding will help to cover the cost of our fellows as well as some admin and training time. We will be working with CRCD to begin the next stages of the project, Regional Priority Planning, in the coming months. And of course we will see all of you at the Oakhurst fall festival next week**
- Yosemite Sequoia RC & D – Erin Capuchino– **We are continuing work on the American Water grant along the Oakhurst River Parkway. We will also be partnering with CRCD's Americorps crew to work on some vegetation management along a portion of the trail. We have been working on our Regional Priority Plan for round 2 funding of RFFCP from SNC. We will be closing out our grant in December. Jessica, our contracted grant writer is working with CRDD to identify so funding sources and will help Jon and staff submit some proposals in the coming months. Our social media coordinator is also continuing to assist CRCD on the Be Firewise website. And as partners in Firewise, we are here to assist you whenever we can. We will be having our in person quarterly meeting on Thursday, October 24 at the museum in Shaver Lake. I know Jon will be attending, but if anyone else can make it we would appreciate it.**
- Madera Dept. of Water Resources – Jeannie Habben– **Not Present**
- Madera County – Bobby Macaulay– **Not Present**
- North Fork Rancheria – Lance Fink– **Not Present**

4:20

CRCD Reports

- Firewise Report – Kelly Green (see attached)
- Executive Director Report – Jon Cottingham (see attached)

4:35

Old Business

- Speak Off Event

As of now, now other local RCD's are participating so Jon Cottingham has reached out to CARCD for guidance regarding the regional competition. He will update at the next meeting. No other action is needed at this time

- AmeriCorps Crew

- CRCD was awarded a crew for Round 1 of the 2024-25 Americorp season. I met with Takeo, Program Manager for the Program at Camp Oakhurst this morning to show him the cabin as well as one of the projects they will be assisting on. We will be purchasing the food items that we discussed at last month's meeting in the near future. I will reach out to the group with additional needs of the group to see if anyone has items they may wish to loan and/or donate. I also wanted to double check that the board was willing to cook a meal or provide a meal on occasion. If so, I will create a little sign up sheet for that so we can all choose a date that works best. No Action is needed at this time

4:50

New Business

- GIS Account

I wanted to let the board know that we are in need of our own GIS account. YSRCDC has been gracious in allowing us to have one of their logins for their account, but with Melanie and Kelly both needing access, this wasn't working. We received access to a discounted rate from CARCD of \$300/year for 1 user. We will have to buy one more user (for a lot less). But, this is down from \$875/1 user. I had this on the agenda because I was thinking it was over the \$250 spending limit, but then I realized we had grants we can charge it to, so no motion was needed. Then CARCD wrote back and said they would be able to cover up to \$300.00 for us on the purchase. So we are covered for the year. No action required.

- Central Sierra Contract

The hiring committee reviewed three proposals on Friday morning, September 27. All three proposals were very well done we chose to go with Central Sierra Enterprises for round 2 of the Eastern Madera Fire Prevention grant. Central Sierra is local and has a great workforce that will allow us to complete the project by the deadline of January 31,2025.

5:05

Workshops/Events/Presentations

- 10/10 : Meeting @ Oakhurst Library with Woodcrest Estates/Road 426 FW 630PM
- 10/11-10/13: Oakhurst Fall Festival
- 10/22: North Fork FW meeting @ North Fork Studio 6PM

Firewise Report

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

Coordinator
Email address: kelly.green@crwd.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 October 5.
 - **Willow Creek West** – Community meeting held. Application submitted September 12, 2024
 - **Yosemite Forks** – Application submitted.
 - **Italian Bar** – Application submitted.
- 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.

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

- CRCRD 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.

Executive Director Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 4, 2024

CALFIRE GRANT: We have chosen a contractor, Central Sierra Enterprises. They will provide chipping days and/or roadside fuel reduction to all Firewise communities. We need to make a budget adjustment because we spent less than expected and we want to allocate more for the trailer. We are looking to purchase the work trailer in the next month 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 visited 6 communities that needed Roadside fuel reduction and have flagged those projects. We are working on rights of entry so we can start in the coming weeks.

MADERA FIREWISE® COMMUNITIES: Kelly has been busy helping the various new communities with their maps and initial documentation. Italian Bar, Willow Creek West, and Yosemite Forks were resubmitted with all necessary edits and we expect them to be approved in the coming weeks. Pettit has the necessary amount to start. Kelly is meeting with them this Saturday. And Woodcrest Estates/Rd 426 has the necessary 8 Participants and Risk Assessments to start the process. A meeting has been scheduled for next Thursday.

CA FIRESAFE COUNCIL FIRE PREVENTION COORDINATOR:

- **Oversaw CRCD's Firewise program (3 proposed communities submitted)**

5:10 **Adjourn: Next Meeting November 8th at 3:30PM, Raley's Conference Room: 40041 CA-49 #49, Oakhurst, CA 93644**

- Ongoing collaboration with Jack - SNA fellow (CWPP's, Social Media Posts, Be Firewise Curriculum, Firewise Newsletter). Met with NF school to plan/schedule first lesson
- Toured new fellows, Jack and Melanie around Firewise sites to get them acquainted with communities.
- Met with Greater Forestry Corps at Yosemite Adult School to discuss future workforce/ on the job training opportunities.
- Presented for Road 225 and Meadow Springs Firewise Communities
- Worked with Senior Project Student to get "Be Firewise Assessors" into Highschool program at YHS
- Attended meeting with EMCFSC and Happy Goat to discuss plan for the new CFSC State Fire Capacity grant. EMCFSC was awarded this \$100,000 grant and has CRCD listed as a partner on the grant. This grant will fund a goat grazing project around Camp Oakhurst as well as the creation of grazing protocol to assist with future projects. CRCD is written in to the grant for \$6650.00 to provide support as needed on the project, as well as help with the grazing protocol and outreach. This grant is connecting with EMCFSC's PGE grant, Americorps labor, and CRCD's Firewise funding for the Mudge Ranch community to reduce a heavily fueled area that acts as ingress and egress for the camp as well as an access point to the County's Strategic fuel break on Thornberry Ridge.
- Created and executed contract with YSRCDC for outreach, grant writing, and support services through December 31, 2024.
- Continued Work with YSRCDC on "Be Firewise" website.
- Continued Work with Yosemite Visitors Bureau on "Be Firewise" video edits.
- Attended planning meetings with Madera County, CFSC, EMCFSC, YSRCDC, and North Fork Rancheria.
- Worked with Melanie on more in depth Firewise mapping, tracking participants
- Social Media outreach on defensible space and home hardening to engage new communities.

NACD/RCPP: The funding for NACD 2021 TA ended on September 30. We are working on submitting a proposal for another round of funding which is due by close of business day on Monday. We will continue to share NRCS information at table events. We also have links for the programs on our web page to continue providing some outreach.

Fork Fire Post Fire Rehab:

We are still waiting to hear back from properties on Tu Nobi and Poy Ah Now. Once outreach is complete and ROE's are signed, CRCD will move forward with additional planning.

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. We are scheduled to pick up our habitat kits October 30. If NFR has not updated the Land Owner agreement, CRCD will either sign over the kit to the tribe, and not be able to help with implementation, or will have to give the kit to one of the other planting sites.

We are preparing for our new sites this fall. Mountain oaks high school will be scheduling 2 days to help CRCD install their habitat. They will first help remove solarization plastic and help install irrigation, then they will come back out to help plant the kit. I've met with Madera RCD and Hillside Elementary again. We have limited space so we are purchasing 20 – 1 gallon native plants. North Fork School is also making pollinator habitat kits, filled with seeds they collected from the NF school habitat, to share with the participating schools. CRCD will also donate a few plugs from our xerces kits to fill in misc. areas. We will be working with the 4th grade class. Spring Valley Elementary will be providing us a hillside that is irrigated, but has little vegetation growing on it currently. They are going through a garden remodel, so we had to move the habitat from its original location. However, augmenting

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the existing plants will be more visible for the students and help retain the hillside as well. The Thrapp Homestead will be planted around the pine trees we planted this spring at the reforestation field trip.

RFFCP

EMCFSC has finally received the first advance funds for the RFFCP program. CRCD and EMCFSC have executed the subaward agreement. Melanie comes to us from Grizzlycorps, but is funded with this grant. She is going to use her GIS skills to help create mapping for the Regional Priority Pipeline of projects that CRCD/EMCFSC will be working to create. This also provides funds for a 6 month term for a staff member, admin time, as well as funds for trainings, supplies, and travel. (\$135,248.46). CRCD is listed as a subcontractor, so we will be invoicing EMCFSC as needed over the 23 month agreement.

Old Business

Americorps

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GIS

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CRCD Contractor Bids

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Our next board meeting is November 8. If there is no other business, we can adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

Jon Cottingham, Executive Director

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