



## Meeting Agenda for December 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](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 – 3:38PM**  
**Introductions** – *Jon Cottington, Lyndall Erb, Melissa Cottington, Dave Konno, Julie Konno, Kevin Kirk, Jack Stewart, Christi Hansard, Kelly Green III, Red Team 6 (Americorp Crew), Jay Seslow, Mira Dick, Matteo Fiori, Ashley Nebeker*  
**Approval of the Agenda** – *Jon wants to add brief Executive Session at the end, Melissa makes a motion, Lyndall seconds.*  
Public Comment: *Please limit comments to 2 minutes*
- 3:35           **Consent Agenda**
- Approval of the Minutes/Novembers TR – *Lyndall makes a motion to approve, Melissa seconds*
- 3:40           **Partner Reports – Please limit reports to 5 minutes**
- NCRS – Mira Dick – *Regular EQUIP Application deadline has passed but CSP is still taking applications. Staffing updates, Priscilla will be leaving, plan for Taylor is to be full-time. Shawn Niel joins the team as a planner, hopefully adding another planner staff member by next month. Farm Bill is still “up in the air”*
  - CALFIRE – Mike Keyser
  - Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council – Ashley Nebeker *looking forward to having defensible space grant for the next five years, mutual changes coming forward with SNC grant, thankful to have Americorp Crew assisting on the Goat Grazing project area*
  - 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 – *See attached report*
  - Executive Director Report – Jon Cottington - *See attached report*
- 4:10           **Old Business**
- AmeriCorps Crew Update – *done with their work 12/17*
  - Succession Planning - *Jon stepping down as ED, asking for a motion to transition to a part-time consultant as of 1/1/25. Lyndall makes motion, David seconds*
- 4:30           **New Business**
- SNA Fellow – *Jack’s fellowship ending in March, interviewed Kai Hanson, Melissa makes a motion to sign MOU and hire Kai, Lyndall seconds*
- 4:40           **Workshops/Events/Presentations**



- 12/11-12/12: CARCD Annual Conference

4:45

**Adjourn: Happy Holidays!**

**Next Meeting January 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:30PM, Raley's Conference Room: 40041 CA-49 #49, Oakhurst, CA 93644**



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

**Sub-contractor/partner:** Coarsegold  
Resource Conservation District

**Reporting Period:** November 2024

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

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**Phone Number:** 559.389.8781

**Date:** 12-13-2024

*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
  - Pettitt Rd – Approved
  - Italian Bar Rd – Approved
  - Woodcrest – In-process
- Renewal applications due this period worked with 20 communities to complete applications.
- Work with AmeriCorps team Red 6 to clear defensible space around low income homes in Firewise neighborhoods.
- Continued Social Media outreach focusing on defensible space and home hardening to engage and inform mountain residents of Madera County.
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- Firewise community meetings, events, and presentations
  - Kelly attended community meeting for Pettitt Road.
  - Jon attended community meeting for Woodcrest.

**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.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
December 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 November 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 Cottingham

4:10 Old Business

♣ AmeriCorps Crew Update

♣ Succession Planning

4:30 New Business

♣ SNA Fellow

4:40 Workshops/Events/Presentations ♣ 12/11-12/12: CARCD Annual Conference

4:45 Adjourn: Happy Holidays! Next Meeting January 10th at 3:30PM, Raley's Conference Room: 40041 CA-49 #49, Oakhurst, CA 9364

**CALFIRE GRANT:** Central Sierra Enterprises is currently providing chipping days and/or roadside fuel reduction to Firewise communities. Recent projects include Cascadel, Still Meadow, Sky Ranch, and Leisure Acres, Meadow Springs, River Knolls, Hillsborough, Bass Lake Annex, and Pettit Road. We also purchased a 6x14 box trailer which allow us to haul tools, store documents, and haul small loads of brush, plants, or other items. We need to make a budget adjustment because we spent less than expected on the truck and trailer, so we will be working with CALFIRE to move the remainder into personnel, because there has been more driving and flagging than expected. We are still reaching out to communities for scheduling as they have been slow to provide info and a few roads have taken more/less time so the contractor had to be diverted. The Americorps crews are helping in select communities to improve defensible space around low/fixed income homes in the communities. They will brush the area and leave it at the roadside for contractors to chip. This is increasing our impact while also satisfying the volunteer match portion of this grant. Otherwise the project is moving along well

**MADERA FIREWISE© COMMUNITIES:** Woodcrest Estates is ready to submit in the coming days, so Madera County should have 31 recognized Firewise communities to start 2025. The final funding allowed for the trailer to be outfitted with a storage shelf and composting toilet, hopefully solving the need for future short-term volunteer events. I have inquired with the county about the proposal that we submitted but they have not been able to advance things due to elections and other priorities, but it is on the radar to discuss further.

We are also still waiting on the new Community Wildfire Defense Grant funding from the USFS to be finalized. The county had not received an award agreement, but have been assured by the USFS that they will be coming in the coming weeks.

**CA FIRESAFE COUNCIL FIRE PREVENTION COODINATOR:**

- **Oversaw CRCD's Firewise program (1 community ready for submission)**

- **Ongoing collaboration with Jack - SNA fellow ( CWPP's, Social Media Posts, Be Firewise Curriculum, Firewise Newsletter, Americorps supervision).**
- **Table Event at the Bass Lake HOA Safety Fair**
- **Second meeting with Senior Project Student and interested participants to get “Be Firewise Assessors” at YHS**
- **CFSC virtual site visit**
- **Americorps Red Team 6 oversight in multiple Firewise communities, providing d-space around low/fixed income members**
- **Created and executed contract with Provost and Pritchard for the Madera County Forestry and Fuel Reduction Project Pipeline map/app which will have Firewise community data as well as CRCD and partner information on past, present, and proposed**
- **Meeting with NF Rancheria and YSRCDC about partnering on Mission Drive fuel break project**
- **Continued Work with YSRCDC, EMCFSC and Visitor's Bureau on “Be Firewise” initiative.**
- **Worked on NF Rancheria Mission Drive proposal with YSRCDC and Be Firewise Kids Education proposal with Jack.**
- **Met with YSRCDC grant writer to plan for a submission to USFS disadvantage community outreach grant**
- **Attended planning meetings with Madera County, CFSC, EMCFSC, YSRCDC, and North Fork Rancheria.**
- **Worked with Melanie on more in depth Firewise mapping, tracking participants and past community projects**
- **Social Media outreach on defensible space and home hardening to engage new communities.**

NACD/RCPD – We submitted a new proposal for additional funding for NACD Technical Assistance Grant which will allow us to provide outreach for NRCS programs as well as provide some admin time to continue funding planning discussions with NRCS. RCPD funding has still not been accessed and CRCD hopes to work with NRCS and CARCD to find a pathway to spending those funds and being reimbursed in a timely manner. These discussions are ongoing

#### **Fork Fire Post Fire Rehab:**

CRCD was able to schedule two properties in the fire scar for some assistance from the Americorps crews. These projects helped defensible space around homes and driveways. The material will be pile burned by the home owners or removed by chipping once we get the contractual portion of the grant moving.

#### **WCB Pollinator Block Grant:**

Kelly and the Americorps crew planted Thrapp homestead last month. The Thrapp's live in the Creek Fire Scar and CRCD and NF school planted a few hundred Pine trees on the property in spring. About half of those receive regular water from the homeowner and that is where the crew planted the pollinator plants. They should have a good success rate, and it will be years before the trees are large enough to provide any shade, so both plants will thrive. I worked with Keving from Madera Chowchilla RCD to plant a small habitat down at Hillside Elementary in their existing planter boxes. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students had a blast planting with us. Some of them even mentioned that they had never planted before or weren't allowed to get this dirty at home. It was a great experience.

Oak Woodlands – We were also invited to work on updating our Oak woodlands grant that was tabled at the beginning of the year due to the State budget. The Wildlife Conservation Board gave the green light to resubmit. This grant would allow for some minor fuel reduction around planting sites but is mainly focused on replanting oaks. This funding would start funding the acorn nursery at North Fork and multiple other school sites, providing habitat improvement and education. The total may be adjusted, so CARCD and WCB are in talks and we should know more next month.





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## **RFFCP**

EMCFSC has received the first advance funds for the RFFCP program. CRCD and EMCFSC have executed the subaward agreement. Melanie is using 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. We will discuss this funding for staffing later under new business.

## **Old Business**

### **Americorps**

**Red Team Six has done an amazing job improving habitats and helping folks with defensible space. CRCD thanks them for doing such important work in Eastern Madera County. They have prepared a presentation for the board.**

**Succession Planning – As I’ve mentioned, I am stepping down from the position of Executive Director of CRCD. This will be my last board meeting as Executive Director. I have enjoyed my time in the position and feel I am leaving the organization moving in the right direction. But I am not looking to cut and run. I hope to make myself available as a part time consultant to help the new Director get established and continue to support the Firewise and Pollinator programs. When I am not needed in that capacity, I’ll be around as a volunteer because I like the organization so much. I appreciate the years I have spent with CRCD and hope to continue, albeit in a different capacity. So I am looking for a motion to move myself into a part time consultant role at the first of the year.**

**Chrisi has accepted our invitation to join the board. Julie and Whitney were working on drawing up the paperwork to start the process with the county. Perhaps they could give a further update on that process.**

**New Business – Jack’s fellowship is ending in March. We have appreciated the time together, but Jack is looking for employment closer to home, so he will not be staying on with CRCD. However, we will still need this additional employee. So I reached out to Sierra Nevada Alliance regarding a new fellow for 2025. Sierra Nevada Conservancy was willing to do a budget adjustment to pay for an additional fellow out of the RFFCP funding. Taylor at SNA found an opening and has sent an MOU to provide CRCD another fellowship for 2025 with Kai Hanson. Can I have a motion to sign the MOU and secure a new SNA fellow for 2025 to work on Forestry and fuel reduction projects?**

**Workshops - The annual CARCD conference was great. Whitney, Jack, and I attended workshops on reforestation, fuel reduction, tribal relations, and collaborative planning. Also, in Speak Off news Emma, who represented CRCD at the CARCD speak off, won first place in the competition. Way to go Emma. I have no workshops scheduled in the coming weeks.**

## **Adjourn**

## **Executive Session.**



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