



PO BOX 1306
North Fork, CA 93643
www.crcd.org
coarsegoldrcd@gmail.com

Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2026

**Oakhurst Government Center
40232 Junction Drive
Oakhurst, CA 93644**

Or join is via TEAMS: https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F%20%2F%2Fmeetup-join19%3Ameeting_MzYyMGM4MGItOWVhOC00ODM4LWE2ZGYtNzZjYTQwZDdjMzU5%40thread.v2&type=meetup-join19:meeting_MzYyMGM4MGItOWVhOC00ODM4LWE2ZGYtNzZjYTQwZDdjMzU5@thread.v2&deeplinkId=6d8b2aa6-44a5-4274-8760-0ed3933763c9&directDl=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

Meeting ID: 275 160 691 942 Passcode: bF9Jm6Vj

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.

3:15

Call to order

- Introductions David Konno, Chrsti Hansard, Melissa Cottington, Whitney LeCat, Julie Konno, Ashley Nebeker

Approval of the Agenda Christi makes the motion to approve, Melissa 2nds, motion carried

Public Comment: Please limit comments to 2 minutes

3:20

Consent Agenda

- ~~Approval of the Minutes February 13, 2026~~ Minutes not available.
- Approval of February 2026 Treasurer's Report/Financial Report Christi Makes motion to approve the Treasurer's report, David 2nds, motion carried.

3:25

CRCD Reports

- Executive Director Report – Whitney LeCat Wasuma, North Fork Mono do Earth Day, Heritage Days at Rodeo grounds is May 1 and May 2 is a YLP is doing a Fire Station 10 meeting with CalFire and Bobby Macauley, a big deal. Whit mentions this for Ashley's benefit to be included this year. Erin called about a new grant from American Water and wanted to include CRCD in this addition to the Oakhurst River Parkway cleanup project (Coarsegold Ahwahnee and Oakhurst). Erin stated at another meeting we attended that she had submitted it with us as the lead but hasn't sent it to Whitney yet. Whitney met with NACD regarding the TA grant due to funds not being able to be spent due to NRCS inability to move on contracts. They will allow us to spend the money on training as planners within the NRCS system so we can do work on the early parts of the application process. Unfortunately, we are up against some walls with this as there are only two people in the Madera office at this time sit will be difficult to get the training approved and moving forward. CFSC has now extended the Fire Prevention Coordinator grant another year and added \$150k to the funding. We will have to do a quick "application" with Tristan, but it is not a heavy lift.

For the Metamorphic workshop, we have a google doc from Joy Lujan with her summary, but it doesn't reflect the discussions we had. Whitney will summarize the flip chart pages and send it out to the group.

CalFire grant ended on March 15 so reporting and invoicing is due on April 15. New grant is now in effect. Ashley mentions that the new CEQA NOE needs an RPF to complete the document. Mariposa FSC is faced with this and did not budget for an RPF (neither did we) who charge per acre. Additionally, a Fire Safe council up north called Ashley about this as well, when the exemptions are specifically meant for defensible

space work as our grant is meant to do. We will meet with Mike Keyser to confirm all that is really required for this CEQA. We can potentially move some of our contractual \$ to fund the RPF in the CalFire grant budget so we can pay for this. AmeriCorps is back and advertising for crew placements for 26-27. Kyle and Whitney are discussing the possibility of using a crew for the greenhouse project for Pollinator and potentially sharing with EMCFSC. Applications due in April-May. New employee: interviews. Whitney will send out a couple of Friday's to choose from and we will set up the date and interview subjects.

- Program Report – Kyle Gaede – Kyle is at Wildfire training, Whitney reports 5 new potential communities, some just need some help with paperwork. Pollinators in full swing. Just did a planting at Coarsegold and Hillside elementary schools. Have reached out to NF, Wasuma and a couple of other sites to do additional plantings. This is the last year for this grant. Also picking up seedling order (998 trees) for Ponderosa and Cedars and will be picking up in the next week. If anyone has ideas on distribution or needing seedlings, let Kyle or Whitney know, including those that have had roadside or clearing work done. We will be doing tree planting with schools in April. Julie suggests tabling at the NF post office to help distribute trees.

3:45

Partner Reports – Please limit reports to 5 minutes

- NCRS
- CALFIRE
- Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council – Ashley reports they are finalizing the RFP for the new project with PGE and Fireside with Arbor Works as the contractor to remove downed trees or debris anywhere on property, not just in the defensible space. This is a pilot program and Arbor Works is the required contractor. If this works, they will be able to choose their own contractor for next year. For the Listos grant, they have a \$500 youth stipend that they will use to screen the video "Lessons Learned from the LA Wildfire" webinar at Faith-based locations. Their board voted this month to create a Stop Work Policy if a contract is behind 60 days or more in payment to EMCFSC, work will stop on that project until the account is brought to current status. Otherwise EMCFSC ends up borrowing from their general funds to pay for projects that are not theirs without getting paid to do so. Whitney and Ashley will be working on the open house for the FAMCO office for a May date. Grazing project with \$3000 contractual from CRCDC will be a grazing tour (30 acres) and workshop on ruminant health, fencing, guardian dogs, negotiating costs, etc.
- Yosemite Sequoia RCDC –
- Madera Dept. of Water Resources –
- Madera County
- North Fork Rancheria –

4:10

Old Business

- Metamorphic Consulting Workshop Draft report sent to Whitney and she will send to Board members, plus she will also do a summary of the flip chart pages as they are not completely reflected in the summary.

4:30

New Business

- American Water Grant discussed in Whitney's ED report

4:35

Workshops/Events/Presentations:

4:40

Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 10, 2026, at 3:15PM, Oakhurst Government Ctr, 40232 Junction Dr. Oakhurst, CA

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 20th, 2026

General Updates:

- Heritage Day at Coarsegold Rodeo Grounds, Wasuma Earth Day, North Fork Earth Day, and YLP Station 10 Fire Safety Event all coming up in the next two months
- Erin from YSRC&DC reached out regarding having CRCD as a partner on an American Water Grant. At our monthly CFSC meeting, Erin told Tristan that she was making CRCD a lead on the project, but hasn't provided CRCD with a copy of the finalized proposal or budget info other than the grant is \$50,000.
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CALFIRE GRANT:

- 5GG21142 Ended on 3/15/2026, so we will be focusing on final reporting.
- We are able to charge on our new grant, and Whitney/Julie are figuring out the CEQA/NEPA aspect while Kyle is brainstorming contractual ideas

MADERA FIREWISE© COMMUNITIES:

- Working on Invoicing & advance requests to Darren

NACD:

- Met with Chessa from NACD to discuss grant timeline and issues with our local NRCS. Since we are unable to work on the grant due to NRCS communication and capacity issues, Chessa suggested taking the training to become a certified planner as a way to spend the grant funds.

Fork Fire Post Fire Rehab:

- Planning a tree planting day somewhere in the scar, as well as talks with Garrett Mcdaniel to provide some contractual work

WCB Pollinator Block Grant & Oak Woodlands Grant:

- Whitney and Kyle did a planting day at hillside elementary and are planning planting days at Wasuma, North Fork and Coarsegold.

CFCS Grant

- CFSC Grant has been extended until 9/2027, with the option to request and additional \$151,000! CRCD will be including EMCFSC in this extension, and will be meeting with Tristan to discuss budget and deliverables

CWDG Grant

- Whitney & Kyle will be attending the Madera County BOS meeting in April to represent CRCD as Tristan requests the board to sign the CWDG Agreement.

PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

March 20th, 2026

MADERA FIREWISE COMMUNITIES:

- We are strengthening neighborhood-wide participation as several new Firewise communities begin to form, and interest continues to grow rapidly with the arrival of spring.
- Our team will be supporting these emerging communities by conducting defensible space assessments, vegetation management planning, and home-hardening guidance as they work toward Firewise recognition.
- Following our defensible space work, we will continue roadside hazard-fuel reduction projects in two established Firewise communities to further reduce wildfire risk.
- We have multiple upcoming community meetings, each with strong potential to develop into newly recognized Firewise communities.
- A community work day is scheduled next month for the Long Hollow Firewise Community to support fuels reduction and resident engagement.
- We will be increasing community education and outreach through the upcoming FamCo office opening, which is expected to significantly expand our visibility and community support.

WCB Pollinator Block Grant & Oak Woodlands Grant:

- Distribute the new seasonal planting and maintenance schedule to all pollinator garden hosts.
- Support YHS seniors with their spring fundraiser planning as part of their senior project.
- Follow up with the U.S. Forest Service to obtain the signed landowner agreement that was previously sent to them.
- We completed our planting and seed distribution with Hillside Elementary the other day, and it went absolutely amazing. The students were fairly engaged, the teachers were enthusiastic that we were entertaining their students, and we were able to get a diverse mix of native plants and seeds established across the garden space.