

**Placer County Fire Safe Alliance**  
**March 24, 2008**

**1. Call to Order:** George Alves called the meeting of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to order at 10:05 a.m. at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), Bowman Station, 13760 Bowman Road, Auburn, California.

**a) Introduction of New Members:** No new members were present

**b) Self-Introductions:** George Alves, Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator, Office of Emergency Services (OES); Ryan Bellanca and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer County RCD); Ed Crans, CALFIRE; Paula Celick, Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Robin Yonash, concerned citizen; Chuck Thomas, Truckee Fire Department.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Minor changes were made to the minutes.

**3. Approval of Agenda:** The Agenda was approved as submitted with the exception of adding "Legislative Update" under Information/Non Action Items- Item D.

**4. Public Comment:** None

**5. Information/Non-Action Items:**

**a) Sub-committee Update:** George Alves reports he is currently working on developing three sub-committees: GIS Group, Public Assistance Program and a Training Committee.

**b) Information on Placer County Firewise Forum in Foresthill:** Tyler Harkness distributed the final flyer and agenda for the upcoming Placer County Firewise Workshop to be held April 10-11, 2008 in Foresthill. For more information visit [www.firesafeforesthill.org](http://www.firesafeforesthill.org) or contact Luana Dowling at (530) 367-2465/[ldowling@foresthillfiredept.org](mailto:ldowling@foresthillfiredept.org) or David Jaramillo at [david@sierraforestlegacy.org](mailto:david@sierraforestlegacy.org). The cost is \$15.00 for both days and \$20.00 if paid after March 26, 2008.

**c) CWPP Status:** George Alves announced the CWPP goes to the Placer County Board of Supervisors tomorrow, March 25, 2008. After approval, it will be posted to the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance website at: <http://www.placerfsa.org>. Also, a Biomass and Fire Strategic Plan as well as a current State Response Area (SRA) will be posted on the website also. There was a brief discussion about how fire safe projects would be prioritized and George said there is no special process to follow but immediate needs are always considered first.

**d) Legislative Update:** Robin Yonash passed out a State Wildfire/Fire Safe Legislation Summary with updates on the following: AB 1883, AB 2859, SB 1595, SB 1617 and SCR 80. George Alves passed out the full documents on AB 1595 and AB 1617. It was noted both bills are the same except on SB 1617, SEC.9. and line 36. Additional discussion revolved around the role of insurance companies vs. CDF in defensible space requirements. Other concerns expressed included the condition of unimproved parcels in proximity to maintained properties. A test case is currently in effect in the Tahoe region. Other issues raised included defensible space rules vs. landowner rights and the authority of local government.

**e) Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Block Grant to the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) Update:** George Alves met with the SNC and the CFSC representatives to discuss the block grant process. Apparently, due to a 15% cap on covering administrative costs, the CFSC will not be administering funding for the SNC.

It was announced that CFSC accepted Joanne Drummond's suggestion to meet in the Tahoe area on May 5- May 6, 2008. The first day will include visiting a project and the second day will be a half-day meeting session.

**6. Action Items:**

- a) None

**7. Project Updates:**

- a) ***I-80 Fire Safe Freeway Project***- This project continues.
  
- b) ***Pending Grant Proposals***- Luana Dowling will be assisting the Placer Sierra Fire Safe on a grant proposal.
  
- c) ***Biomass Projects Update***- George Alves attended an Ag Fair recently and spoke with farmers, letting them know we have boxes they can use for their waste instead of burning. He will meet with two other Placer County growers to assist them with their bio waste.
  
- d) ***Other***- Ryan Bellanca noted that he and Rich Gresham met with the Placer County Superintendent of Schools, last week, to talk about utilizing biomass as a cost saving measure at their schools.

**8. Fire Safe Council Reports:**

- ***California Fire Safe Council***- Robin Yonash advised the alliance that as of March 14, 2008, the CAFSC vs. Mountain Rim litigation was suspended and they will have until September 2008 to negotiate a settlement. It is hopeful they will reach an agreement to allow the use of the term "fire safe" by community groups serving in this role. George Alves suggested the CAFSC could manage "the mark" by making sure groups using it are registered to do so. After a brief discussion, some expressed their concern that this could open the door to local fire safe councils coming under the jurisdiction of the CAFSC which was never the intent of local fire safe councils.
- ***Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council***- Tyler Harkness reported they are working on a 130-145 acre fire break but need GIS input. Ryan Bellanca agreed to give him a hand.
- ***Placer County Fire Safe Council***- George Alves said they met again last month and have about 7 people now involved. They are gearing up to train on how to perform inspections.
- ***The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council***- Their next meeting will be held today at 4 p.m. at the Auburn City Hall in Room 10. Paula Celick spoke about the groups' concern about the maintenance of a shaded fuel break for Auburn. She also handed out a 2008 Schedule for local fire safe meetings. Paula also passed on information about a local church group who would like to assist the council with future projects.
- ***Fire Safe Council of Nevada County***- Joanne Drummond was unable to attend today due to a meeting conflict.

**9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:**

- ***Placer County OES***- No Report
- ***CDF/CALFIRE***- Ed Crans reported the budget is the biggest issue now. The Chipper Program continues to be a success although they applied for another grant for it but it did not receive approval. The Prop 40 funding looks promising with several projects planned including one in the Weimar area. Due to the State deficit, some positions and fire camps will be cut.
- ***USFS***- No Report
- ***BLM***- No Report
- ***Placer County FMC***- George Alves reported on attending a successful and informative American River Watershed
  
- ***RCD***- Rich Gresham is on vacation and Ryan Bellanca had no new information to report. Jane Keillor announced the California Special Districts Association will host a special event on

Thursday, April 17, 2008 at the Canyon View Community Center in Auburn from 5:30 until 7 p.m. Senator Dave Cox will speak about the State fiscal crisis. Everyone is invited.

- NRCS- No report

- Others: Chuck Thomas reports that vegetation growth is already taking place.

**10. Roundtable:** No comments from participants

**11. Adjournment and Next Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the same location.