

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance
March 23, 2009

1. Call to Order: George Alves called the meeting of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to order at 10:10 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; Ryan Bellanca and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer County RCD); Ed Crans, CALFIRE; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Robin Yonash, Citizen; Karina Silvas, Sierra Forest Legacy; Ben Wing and Carson Conover, Brushbusters.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes are available at <http://www.placerfirealliance.org> and all edits have been made.

3. Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as submitted.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Information/Non-Action Items:

a) Sub-committee Update: *Education:* There is no funding at the present time. George reported he is in touch with a State Farm representative and a State representative who may be presenters at a meeting in the near future. *GIS:* Ryan attended a GIS meeting in Chico. He is happy to report that he has collected project information from the Sierra to Amador County and all projects are now mapped. George applauded Ryan for his efforts in mapping fire safe projects in our area. This is a great service to everyone at all levels. Ryan noted that funding continues to be a problem but he is hopeful he will still be working with the RCD after the end of the fiscal year even though funding is a concern.

b) State and Federal Grant Availability/Status: Ed reported he will have a conference call this week on the status of his funding. The only money available seems to be for "shovel ready" projects, not for things like educational endeavors or data gathering, etc.

6. Action Items:

a) None

7. Project Updates:

a) Pending/Developing Grant Proposals- Ryan is waiting to hear about submitted grants and anticipates responses in April. One of the grants submitted is to fight the Bark Beetle and he explained the perimeters of his request. Ed said they have been receiving a lot of calls about dead trees as a result of the Bark Beetle. Many extremely large trees in the Dutch Flat area are victims of this manifestation.

b) Biomass Projects Update- There is a rumor there will be some funding for more bins this year. The group discussed some of the issues surrounding local chipping projects.

c) Legislative Update- Robin reported on two bills introduced by Senator Kehoe: SB505 relates to general plans while SCA12 will amend the constitution where only a 55% vote is required for the designation /or increase of fees for any fire district in the state. George noted that these fees fall under the "Beneficial Assessment" category on property taxes.

d) Other- No report.

8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- *California Fire Safe Council-* The next meeting will be held on May 28, 2009 in San Diego. The Alliance will meet the day before on May 27. Joanne Drummond, Robin and Tyler will be meeting today with Placer County Supervisor Montgomery to talk about the present role of the California Fire Safe Council and how it affects our local fire safe groups. The main issue to be discussed will be the seemingly lack of "public oversight" with the council and their exemption from the Brown Act. Additionally, project selection is not currently separate from the maintenance of funding as with other government funding programs.

- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council-* Tyler reported that the fuel reduction project funding has been awarded. They are just waiting for the right weather conditions. Another project

being done will be a fire break around two-thirds of Todd Valley and it will begin in about three weeks.

- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council*- This group will meet Thursday evening at 6 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Colfax.
- *The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council*- The meeting set for tonight has been changed to March 30, 2009.
- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada County*- No report.

9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- *Placer County OES*- Planning continues.
- *CDF/CALFIRE*- All projects are on hold. Ed is currently finishing projects from 2006/2007 to meet the April 15, 2009 deadline.
- *USFS*- No report.
- *BLM*- No report
- *Placer County FMC*- No other information.
- *ARWG, RCD*- Ryan reported on upcoming "Forest Stewardship In The Rural Residential Wildland Interface" workshops to be held in June in Placer, Nevada and El Dorado Counties. These are for landowners and the fee will be \$15.00 per person. A classroom session will be held in the morning and participants will go out in the field in the afternoon. Dr. Richard Harris is the contact for the event and he can be contacted at rtrharris@nature.berkeley.edu for more information. His phone number is 707-678-3504.
- *NRCS*- No report.
- *Sierra Forest Legacy*- Karina continues to work with the town of Foresthill in fire wise planning. She has already completed the plans for the Sky View and Monte Verde areas. She may also be working with the town of Lincoln on a fire wise assessment in the near future. She noted that because of the damage caused by the Bark Beetles, burning is being added into grants being applied for.
- *Other*- Ed reported attending a recent Licensed Foresters' Workshop in Sacramento. He learned that landowners in the San Bernardino area have a defensible space program in place to assist them through the U.S. Forest Service. If Federal funding is coming to them through the "Stimulus" package, this could be a perfect opportunity for landowners to get the job done in our area.

10. Roundtable: Ryan attended a workshop recently about a holistic approach to fuels reduction. It was put on by the Placer Land Trust in Nevada City and participants included representatives from the Native American Maidu Tribe.

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the same location.