

**Colusa County
FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
March 11th, 2025**

**810 E. Street Williams, CA 95987
CCFSC Meeting Minutes**

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT: Derrick Ash- Chair, Allen Gobel- Vice Chair, Jim Zoller- Princeton Fire, Marijke Lauwerijssen- Colusa County Farm Bureau, Greg Hagin- Wilbur Hot Springs

STAKEHOLDERS ABSENT: Arbuckle Fire Department, Reclamation District 108, Century Ranch Residents Association, Colusa Rural Fire

OTHERS PRESENT: Eduardo Blancas- Project Coordinator, Madison Martin- Office Manager, Janice Bell- Board of Supervisors, Mike Weber- PG&E, Gerald Peters, Kelly Baucom

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees introduced themselves.

COLUSA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL ESTABLISHMENT

i. Previous Meeting Summary

Membership applications and current memberships were reviewed. The meeting schedule was determined and finalized to have 3 meetings a year.

ii. Officially Assign Chair and Vice Chair

Derrick Ash, Sacramento River Fire, has accepted the position as Chair for the Fire Safe Council.

Allen Gobel has accepted the position of Vice Chair.

iii. Adopt Bylaws

The Bylaws were created and approved by County Counsel and presented to the Fire Safe Council to be adopted. Copies of the Bylaws were available for review at the meeting.

iv. Review Current Membership List

The current memberships were recognized as the Arbuckle Fire Department, Williams Fire Department, Reclamation District 108, Century Ranch Residents Association, Wilbur Hot Springs, Colusa County Farm Bureau, Sac River Fire Department and Colusa Rural Fire. Janice Bell Supervisor for District 5 filled out a membership application to be a stakeholder. She brings a background of knowledge about Colusa County.

v. Share Project Profiles Booklet

Due to delivery delays, hard copies of the project profiles were not available. A QR code linked to the booklet was shared with the attendees.

1. Assignment- Take some time to review the Project Profiles.

This was a good resource and opportunity to look over project profiles and prioritize projects. No questions were asked and there was no discussion, it will be brought back for further discussion at our summer meeting.

vi. Share Potential Funding Opportunities Spreadsheet

Funding opportunities were shared with the Fire Safe Council, there were 4 main grants that were focused on and discussed.

1. Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant (FY 2024-25) due April 2nd, 2025

This grant is offered four times a year. Offering \$50,000 per site for solid waste cleanup and abatement. This grant was a popular discussion among the Fire Safe Council. With the deadline approaching fast, it was recommended to revisit this funding opportunity when it becomes available again in the fall.

2. Fund for Wild Nature Grant due May 5th, 2025

The Fund for Wild Nature Grant is offered two times per year on a rolling basis. The grant funds projects that defend threatened wilderness. This grant can also be used to encourage bringing public attention to ongoing nature crisis, and may be used for funding public advocacy work, and policy development.

3. CalFire Wood Product and Bioenergy – Business and Workforce Development Grant (FY24-25) due April 25th, 2025

No matching funds are required. The scope of work is within the realm of forestry and conservation. The Fire Safe Council discussed that this grant could be an opportunity to open a wood processing facility. They noted that it would be a great way to train students or be a resource for the county.

4. Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant – Due August 5th, 2025

Development initiatives focused on expanding outdoor recreational opportunities are eligible for funding. These initiatives may encompass projects within urban and rural environments, including neighborhood and city parks, as well as regional open space areas dedicated to outdoor recreation. The Fire Safe Council intends to pursue funding for projects such as the establishment of a community garden, the expansion of open space and natural recreational areas, the development of a non-motorized trail, and the creation of a botanical orchard.

vii. Partner Updates

Colusa County Resource Conservation District- Project Coordinator Eduardo Blancas discussed the community action day the RCD hosted in January. The project consisted of pulling out a wall of brush for defensible space and adding gravel. Cal Fire and an environmental science group helped out. Eduardo also discussed our forest health grants coming to an end. There are 13 landowners working with the RCD to finish up a grant to support restoration. Wycoff construction and GTS Foresters did the contracted work for us removing infested trees with bugs off of the locations.

Wilbur Hot Springs- Greg from Wilbur Hot Springs reported on how the Ridge Fire affected them last July. He discussed how they have been thinning all spring and winter. Using the materials from the thinning, to make beaver dams.

Janice Bell, Board of Supervisors- Discussed the wood processing company coming in at the old Olam and Colusa Industrial Properties. Recommended to the Fire Safe Council to reach out to Lake County to discuss with them their dead and dying trees program. Supervisor Bell also voiced her concern for the upcoming Lantern festival in East Park Reservoir on April 22nd, 2025.

COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT @ 2:40PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Madison Martin - Office Manager, Colusa County Resource Conservation District