

**FIRE SAFE
COUNCIL**



Board of Directors' Meeting

February 26, 2026



Fire Safe Council
P.O. Box 1112
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone (530) 446-1224
www.areyoufiresafe.com

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday February 26, 2026

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**FIRE SAFE COUNCIL OF NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
PUBLIC NOTICE & AGENDA**

Notice is now given that a regular meeting of the Board of Directors has been called and will be held on **Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the Gene Albaugh Community Room at the Madelyn Helling Nevada County Library.

MISSION

The Fire Safe Council is a local non-profit organization dedicated to making Nevada County safer from destructive wildfires through fire safety projects, partnerships, and education.

Board of Directors:

(PW) Pete Williams, Chair
(SE) Steve Eubanks, Vice-Chair
(SW) Susan Williams, Interim Treasurer
(SE) Steve Eubanks, Secretary
(EDJ) Jamie Jones, Executive Director
(AD) Alan Doerr, Director
(JM) Jeff McEvoy, Director

Associate Directors:

(JW) Jecobie Waters

Staff:

(OCW) Chris Wackerly, Director of Operations
(SB) Shannon Banks, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS:
 - a. Approval of Agenda and Order of Business **Action**
3. MEETING MINUTES:
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 2025 Board Meeting **Action**
4. PUBLIC COMMENT: This time is set aside for people wishing to address the Board on any matter of interest that is not on the agenda. The Board invites comments on agenda items after discussion by Board Members. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes, unless extended by the Board Chair. The Board Chair reserves the right to further limit or exclude repetitious or irrelevant presentations. If written material is included, 20 copies of all information to be distributed to Board members should be given to the Secretary prior to the meeting. Action will not be taken at this meeting on citizen comments. The Board, however, after hearing from interested citizens, may place items under new business on a future agenda so proper notice may be given to all interested parties. If no one wishes to comment, the next scheduled agenda item will be considered.
5. AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS – (Please limit to 3-5 minutes)
6. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – Treasurer Williams
 - a. ERC Update
 - b. Audit Update

Next Exec/Finance Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 1:00 pm

7. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD – Pete Williams
 - a. DSAV Update
 - b. Update on changes made to FSC Charter to reflect Associate Director Positions
 - c. Appointment of new Associate Directors

8. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Jamie Jones
 - a. Organizational Update
 - b. Grants Update
 - c. Funding/Membership Update
 - d. Partnership Update
 - e. Operations Update
 - f. District Attorney Investigation and Return of Property Update
 - g. D&O Insurance Policy Claim Update
 - h. Legal Update

9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS – Information
10. **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION (If necessary)**
11. **ADJOURN (OUT OF CLOSED SESSION)**
12. **Adjournment**

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Gene Albaugh Community Room at the Madelyn Helling Nevada County Library

Times stated are approximate and subject to change. The agenda order is tentative and may be changed by Board action without prior notice. Agenda discussions and report items are subject to action being taken on them during the meeting by the Board at its discretion. The Board provides the public with the opportunity at meetings to address each agenda item during the Board's discussion or consideration of the item. Total time allocated for public comment on particular issues is limited. The meeting is accessible to the physically disabled. A person who needs disability-related accommodations or modifications to participate in the meeting shall make a request no later than five (5) working days before the meeting to the Board to (530) 446-1224 or by email to info@areyoufiresafe.com.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89239809501?pwd=c0UyOVUvWThrQVpWODliUkpta1grQT09>

Meeting Notice/Agenda of this Fire Safe Council of Nevada County Board Meeting was posted at the following locations: Fire Safe Council Administrative Office, 590 Searls Ave. Ste.4, Nevada City, CA www.areyoufiresafe.com



**Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Fire Safe Council

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 10:00 AM

In Attendance:

Directors:

(PW) Pete Williams, Chair
(SE) Steve Eubanks, Vice-Chair
(SW) Susan Williams, Interim Treasurer
(SE) Steve Eubanks, Secretary
(EDJ) Jamie Jones, Executive Director
(AD) Alan Doerr, Director
(JM) Jeff McEvoy, Director

Associate Directors:

(JW) Jacobie Waters

Staff:

(OCW) Chris Wackerly, Director of Operations
(SB) Shannon Banks, Administrative Assistant

Others:

(AW) Ann Westling, interested person.
(BH) Bob Hanna, DSAV adviser

1. CALL TO ORDER

- PW called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

2. ROLL CALL

- As indicated above.

3. AGENDA & ORDER OF BUSINESS

- PW asked for a motion to accept the agenda. AD moved to approve, seconded by SW; approved unanimously.

4. MEETING MINUTES

- PW asked for a motion to approve the October minutes; SE moved to approve them, seconded by AD, and approved unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None currently

6. AGENCY/PARTNER REPORTS

- None currently

7. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – Susan Williams

- SW reported that we are still waiting on ERC (Employee Retention Credit) after filing the Q3 2021 protest.
- EDJ stated that she will have more to report during her portion of the meeting.

8. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD - Pete Williams

- PW reported that he and the DSAV committee have been working on getting the finishing touches on the DSAV process and the form.
- PW stated that we currently only have voting Board members and that we might want to reinstate the Associate Director position as non-voting Board members. SE asked if anyone was opposed to the idea of opening the Associate Director role and made the motion to approve, seconded by SW; approved unanimously
- EDJ stated that in the last meeting, we voted to approve Jacobie Waters to become a full voting board member, but since we already have an agency partner representing the Tahoe National Forest and to avoid any overlap, we should vote to appoint him as an Associate Director. SE approved the motion; seconded by AD; approved unanimously

- PW and EDJ discussed reopening subcommittees for the Associate Directors – DSAV, communication and fund-raising committees.

9. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Jamie Jones

- Staffing- EDJ and SB discussed, with the Finance committee, reducing office hours to winter hours. Given that we haven't received reimbursements from Cal-OES, SB was asked not to bill any more time to Cal-OES-funded programs. We will reduce her workload, and Office hours will be 11 am to 4 pm Monday through Thursday or by appointment. Now, all staff are volunteering on unfunded programs and projects. We are not billing time for those programs until we are reimbursed, apart from billing grant administration time to be in compliance with the grants.
- EDJ reported that administratively, not much has changed; Chipping / Green Waste and South County remain delayed and will need to be closed out in March 2026. But since we are still waiting for our documents from the DA's office, those close-outs are at a standstill.
- EDJ reported that we are still waiting for responses and reimbursements from Cal-OES on our January 2025 submission. We received communication from the Cal-OES Office of Audits and Investigations, which is now holding our reimbursements; they will decide based on the DA's findings.
- EDJ stated that Cal OES has approved the Deer Creek and the Home Hardening program timeline extensions. The Deer Creek budget modification is pending due to a lack of communication with Cal-OES.
- EDJ read aloud the formal letter that was submitted to Cal-OES regarding our request for reimbursement.
- EDJ stated that it might be time to escalate the concern and ask for help from our state and federal representatives. The reimbursements are vital to the success of these grants, and the delays are impacting fire safety in our community.
- D&O update: EDJ and SB have been scanning thousands of pages of documents and uploading them to the cloud. We are waiting to hear from the insurance office about the claim.
- EDJ reported that Tri-Counties Bank has served us with a summons to appear in court on January 16th. They want access to our bank statements and our accounting information, but we don't have those documents back from the DA's office. Ally Bank has sent a court summons; they are suing us for a vehicle that they have refused to pick up since last January.
- Payroll liability; EDJ stated that we still have a few employees who are owed back pay, PTO, and benefits.
- EDJ reported that the 25/26 'slip' insurance premium has been paid thanks to an anonymous donor.
- EDJ stated that the Q3 2021 ERC protest was filed, and we received a notification that the IRS needed an additional 60 days, possibly due to the government shutdown.
- EDJ has been working with the FWC leaders to get their renewals in before the due date. New FWC registration is due December 31st. AD has been working on getting all the FWC maps updated.
- EDJ reported that regular correspondence will increase collaboration with other local Regional Coordinators and that we have been in contact with the Truckee Fire Department. Communication with them, Placer County, and Sierra County are still in good standing. However, the newly renamed Wildfire Ready Coalition still refuses to communicate with us. Better communication will avoid duplicate work.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS –

- SE asked about our request for documents – PRA (Public Records Act) requests have been uploaded to the cloud for the D&O claim. We still need to follow through with a PRA to Cal-OES and Cal-Fire.

11. CLOSED SESSION-

- PW asked for a motion to go to closed session to discuss a few additional items; SE moved, seconded by AD, and approved by voice vote at 11:15 am.

12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

- PW returned to open session at 11:50 am.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

- PW moved to adjourn the meeting. Second, by SE: the meeting adjourned at 11:52 am.

I declare that these meeting minutes accurately reflect the actions of the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County's Board meeting held on March 26, 2026, 11:00 am and were approved by the Board of Directors.

Steve Eubanks (Secretary)

Date



Fire Safe Council of Nevada County
590 Searls Ave. Ste. 4
Nevada City, CA 95949
Phone (530) 446-1224
www.areyoufiresafe.com

October 30, 2025

Joe Purvis, Division Chief
Recovery – Hazard Mitigation Grants
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Subject: Request for Resolution of Reimbursement Delays – HMGP-DR4482-AP00825-082R & HMGP-DR4482-AP00826-083R

Dear Mr. Purvis,

On behalf of the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC), I am writing to respectfully request assistance in resolving ongoing reimbursement delays associated with the following federally funded Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) projects:

- HMGP-DR4482-AP00825-082R – Deer Creek Shaded Fuel Break Project
- HMGP-DR4482-AP00826-083R – Home Hardening Retrofit Program

Both projects represent critical wildfire mitigation initiatives that directly reduce risk to life, property, and infrastructure in Nevada County. FSCNC has a proven record of successfully managing large-scale, federally funded landscape-level projects in collaboration with CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service, and local jurisdictions.

Over the past year, our organization has experienced extensive delays in reimbursement for eligible work performed under these grants. While one reimbursement covering staff time through September 2024 was received, no subsequent reimbursements have been issued despite multiple submissions and ongoing communication with your team since October 2024. This prolonged delay has placed both projects at a standstill and created significant operational and financial strain, directly impacting our ability to retain personnel and continue critical project activities.

As discussed in prior correspondence and during the on-site visit on July 7, 2025, Cal OES representatives verbally confirmed that reimbursements for project staff Shannon Banks and Janet Shimnoski had been approved for processing. However, to date, those reimbursements remain unpaid.

As discussed in prior correspondence and during our on-site visit on July 7, 2025, Cal OES representatives verbally confirmed that reimbursements for project staff Shannon Banks and Janet Shimnoski had been approved for processing. Unfortunately, those reimbursements also remain unpaid.

While our request for a Period of Performance (POP) extension was approved by FEMA, and measurable progress has been made on Phase 1 deliverables, the projects continue to face significant challenges due to an ongoing lack of

responsiveness from the Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Division. Emails sent on July 14, July 15, August 22, and August 25, 2025, and a follow-up phone call to the Division Chief, have gone unanswered. The lack of response has created uncertainty regarding compliance documentation and next-step approvals and is now preventing further progress on project implementation.

At this stage, 74 property owners remain ready to participate in the Deer Creek Shaded Fuel Break, and 150 participants have been accepted into the Home Hardening Retrofit Program—reaching the targeted enrollment outlined in the approved scope of work. We are poised to transition to site assessments and the implementation phase immediately upon receipt of reimbursements.

We fully recognize that an investigation by the Nevada County District Attorney's Office may be contributing to procedural caution. Nonetheless, FSCNC remains fully cooperative and committed to transparency and compliance with all applicable federal and state grant requirements, including those stipulated under 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards).

We would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet with you and your team—either virtually or in Sacramento—to discuss specific steps or documentation needed to restore reimbursement flow and ensure project continuity. Our Board and staff are committed to working collaboratively to bring these matters to closure so that vital mitigation work can resume without further delay.

We remain grateful for Cal OES's partnership and oversight in advancing these projects and for your continued commitment to strengthening community wildfire resilience across California.

Sincerely,



Pete Williams

Chair, Board of Directors

Fire Safe Council of Nevada County

(916) 965-4561 | pwill4436@gmail.com