

# Coalition of Firewise Communities

## Meeting Minutes

May 7th, 2019 – 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Our Mission: The coalition promotes fire safety through advocacy, education, and community involvement with other stakeholders interested in working toward stronger fire safety practices.

**Welcome, introduce officers, announcements** **Bob Long** 5  
minutes

- Bob welcomed the group and asked everyone to sign in.
- Does any FWC want to use the Helling Library room on same night? Kristen Cook asked if she could have until the end of the month to respond.
- Reminders –
  - May is Ready Nevada County Month! Do everything you can to get your homeowners doing their clearing this month. You will hear info tonight on Green Waste Disposal weekends at six sites, and other initiatives.
  - Update on 10 in-training communities progress toward certification
    - 5 writing plans
    - 5 surveys/work in progress
  - Update on Insurance:
    - Bob Long attended Insurance Forum:
      - People are getting insurance. It's being written: Lloyds of London, CA Fair Plan (have wrap policy to ensure you're covered). If you get denied, other brokers may be able to help you b/c they have different carriers.
      - CA Fair Plan (10% discount for new policies) will deny you if work needs to be done (deferred maintenance); or legal business on property; or single family dwelling & have multiple families living on the property
      - USAA (vet insurance) is writing policies. 5% discount for Firewise Communities.
      - There's an insurance service protection class on line.
  - Sign up for Code Red (see [mynevadacounty.com](http://mynevadacounty.com) – button on home page)
  - Complete requests for those shovel-ready projects, send to Fire Safe Council.
  - Promote the FSCouncil to your residents: \$49 membership, reflective address signs

**Speaker: County of Nevada Public Works** **Trisha Tillotson** 30  
minutes

- Trisha grew up in NC, has an engineering background and has been with county 3 years.
  - Road Maintenance: 560 miles of county roads, and 3X as many private roads not maintained by county). 38% of roads don't meet today's standards. Road maintenance funds are mainly gas tax funds and vehicle

license fees. Road Maintenance info: “mynevadacounty.com,” then click on “my neighborhood” button.

- Vegetation maintenance is on par for spending past and future years.
  - Public roads: 70 miles/year (10 feet each side of road), not including grant funding
  - County responsible for 10 feet of vegetation clearance
  - Grant funds allow more clearance: FEMA & FSC grants, but they are minor.
  - ***Property owners can maintain veg. on public road easement. Will cost county more \$ to do this. NEED property owners to Participate.***
- County Spray Program: on website, public works page. In exchange for not spraying, you sign agreement to maintain vegetation.
- Private Roads: homeowners must maintain.
  - 100 feet Defensible Space – shared by property owners
  - Adjacent parcels could have hazardous fuels abatement process @ property owner’s expense: 100% (lien on property).
  - Options for maintenance:
    - Road Maintenance Agreement
    - Road Association
    - Homeowner’s Association
    - Informal agreement, as needed.
    - Permanent Road Divisions or County Service Area
- Kent Rees: “No one wants to drive through a flaming tunnel. Veg. Maintenance needs to be a priority.”
  - Talk to Supervisors re improving veg. maintenance (via tax, etc).
  - Needs to be driven by community group
- Chris Reilly/Alta Sierra:
  - Evac routes – some on OES website. Work w/ Fire Dept on routes. Private roads = homeowners pay their fair share. Work with Public Works for county road clearance.
  - Alta Sierra working on evac signage.

**Report on Fire Safe Council Board meeting**  
Minutes

Bob Long

5

**LWW classes on Defensible Space** – Powerpoint available Virginia Gompertz  
minutes

10

10 communities interested in the PPT Virginia quickly reviewed. Individual FWCs should amend the info to fit their community, then present to their community.

**County Abatement & Lien** - contact your supervisor to support  
minutes

Susan Rogers

5

- Union Article, Tues April 30<sup>th</sup> – ongoing claim since 2016. If homeowner had done the work herself, it would have cost much less (b/c of prevailing wage work/pay).
- NC Board of Supervisors to approve lien on property owner. Contact your Supervisor to support the abatement/lien process.
- OES will have complaint form.

- See Trisha Tillotson's report/notes above on who pays for what.

### **Subcommittee and Partner Status Reports**

- **Cal Fire – Jim Mathias**
  - NC FSC honored for Cal-Fire's Partnership Award. This is for an individual or group who work tirelessly to help make the community more fire wise and safer.
  - Cal Fire is hiring next week for Training. Full staffing May 20<sup>th</sup> with at least 1 engine in each station.
  - WUI Drill May 19th. Rood Community Center. Bucket drops, helicopters. Champion Mine/Cement Hill Drill will be next.
  - Fire Inspectors are out there to educate you, first and foremost.
  - Call to make sure it's a burn day.
  - If mow, early in morning before 10am. Not on windy days. Have spark arrestors.
- **Fire Safe Council -- Donn Thane**
  - Need volunteers: phone/admin/office help
  - Need Secretary for BOD
  - Marty needs help with Fire Preparedness Guide, next year.
  - Green Waste Drop each weekend in May. HUGE success so far.
  - WUI Drill
  - July = Advanced Fire Advisory Training
  - Project Managers: Kris Mayfield is new. Looking for more PMs
  - Volunteers needed for Green Waste Drop. Add more bins to certain locations.
  - FSC recognized as Partner of the Year to Cal Fire. Jamie Jones/Donn Thane/Billy Spearing and team. CONGRATULATIONS!
- **County of Nevada – Capt. Pettitt**
  - NC "Ready NC" Guide out today. Prepare for Evacuation. Use them: Put in Go Bags and use as a resource.
  - County Defensible Space Inspectors coming on board.

**Next meeting: June 4th, 2019 -- 5:30 – 7:30 PM**  
**Circle**

**336 Crown Point**