

Coalition of Firewise Communities

November 6, 2018 -- 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and announcements

- **Survey of “in training” FW Communities:** There is a need to survey and find out the status of in training communities. If you are a community *in training*, please contact Bob Long about your status: Boblong162@gmail.com
- The **Survey of “How Do You Communicate with your Residents”** is posted on the website.
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxjb2FsaXRpb25vZmZpcmV3aXNIY29tbXVuaXRpZXN8Z3g6NTU3ZjdkNTBhY2I4NzZIZA>
- **Homeowners Insurance Report**– Bob is gathering information, we hope to have more to share in the future. Susan spoke with Richard Harris of Harris Insurance in Grass Valley and we hope to have him as a speaker at the December meeting.
- The County included our insert in 66,000 property tax bills mailed on October 31, with a clear statement that PRC4291 is the law. Make sure that neighbors who may be renters have the CodeRED information so they can sign up.
- Next **Defensible Space Advisor** training from the Fire Safe Council will be in the spring. Susan recommended that every FWCommunity have one of their residents take this very helpful training. The NFPA website has a very good video explaining the 100ft defensible space. <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Online-learning-opportunities/Online-courses>
- **Reflective Street Address signs** – Price has gone up a bit at the FSC. Bob recommended getting a 2-sided sign, so responders can find you from either direction (even if you think they will come only one way). You can have the green signs in the city limits unless it is against your CCRs. The key is that the first responders are looking for the green signs. Call the Fire Safe Council to order your signs.

Guest Speakers on NRCS EQIP Grants: Pamela Hertzler and Evan Smith. Pamela has been with USDA for 30 years. NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service) started because of the dust bowl. The projects are funded by the farm bill. NRCS offers technical and financial help to homeowners. The minimum parcel size is about 1 acre OUTSIDE your 100-foot defensible space. NRCS has foresters, engineers and biologists on staff. Healthy Forest Initiative is of most interest to the Coalition. Fuel breaks, forest stand improvement are the most common applications. There is a process to applying, getting approved, etc. but once you are in their system, the process works well. Jeff Peach, coalition secretary, has received one of these grants. Their office is at 113 Presley Way #1, Grass Valley, CA 95945 - (530) 272-3417.

Discussion of news article re aftermath of last year’s fire” Senator Steve Gladier/Assemblyman Tom Daley had a forum in Redding because residents were concerned about insurance after the fire. Bob contacted them about the insurance, has not heard back from them yet.

Climate Change Grant – John Gulserian, County OES – Climate Grant money coming pretty regularly for the next 5 years. They look at the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan).

John has used that to guide him in the grants. He is looking for potential areas that would benefit from some fuel modification. The difference between SRA-State Responsibility Area, LRA-Local Responsibility Area, and FRA-Federal Responsibility Area was explained. Please contact John with your proposals.

Assistance to Communities in Training – We are seeking Coalition members in certified FWCommunities to mentor those “in training.” If you feel competent in helping a community get their certification, or can be available simply to answer questions and provide encouragement and support, please send Bob an email.

Grant requests to FSC - The FSC writes grant proposals all the time. Shovel Ready projects have been discussed at previous meetings. We will post on website the requirements of a shovel ready project. Write out your shovel ready projects and send to Jamie at the FSC. <https://sites.google.com/site/coalitionoffirewisecommunities/>

Fire Safe Council Report– Jamie Jones – Misprint in the Union indicated that funds are running out. We are not running out. We are working on the SNAP (Special Needs Assistance Program, for elderly and disabled), contact the office (530) 272-1122. There is no deadline for SNAP.

Subcommittee Status Reports

Evacuation – No update

Enforcement – No update

Real Estate – No update

Fire Adapted Communities - No Update

Next Coalition Meeting, Tuesday Dec 4th, 5:30 – 7:30

DATE CHANGE for JANUARY due to New Year’s Day falling on regular meeting day:

First meeting of new year is **MONDAY, Jan 7th**, 2019 Madelyn Helling Library