



Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

www.AmadorFireSafe.org



March 18th, 2021
3:00-5:00

Due to concerns about health and the need to maintain social distance, this meeting will be held remotely.

If interested, please call +1 413-961-2154 PIN: 546 838 024#

If you choose to attend via video conference, go to: meet.google.com/wcw-sbmt-bkz

If using the video conference link please copy and paste in to the web browser.

AGENDA

1. Approve/Modify Agenda*
2. Approve/Modify February Minutes*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)*
5. Coordinator Report (Amanda)
 - a. Project Updates
 - i. Mitchell Mine Fuel Break
 - ii. Tiger Creek Fuel Break
 - iii. Amador County Stewardship – Mokelumne Community Forest
 - iv. Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress, and Education Project
6. Grants Committee Report (John/Amanda)
7. Amador Defensible Space for Seniors Program (Pat)
8. Outreach/Virtual Townhall Updates (Connie)
9. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee (Connie)
10. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update (Frank)
11. Amador County 5 year Economic Development Plan (Frank)
12. FireWise Community Groups Update (Dick Stamm)
13. Public Comment
14. Other items/adjourn

*Action items



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February 17th, 2021

Via Conference Call/Google Meet due to COVID-19

3:00-5:00



MINUTES

Present: Pat Minyard, Connie Gonsalves, John Heissenbuttel, Frank Leschinsky, Susan Peters, & Jay Francis

Staff: Amanda Watson,

Public: Dick Stamm, Cindy Engel, Tom Ellison, Robert Dominick, Sue Wilson

1. Approve/Modify Agenda – Pat called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. The proposed Agenda was approved unanimously.
2. Approve/Modify August Minutes – The January 2021 minutes as distributed were approved unanimously.
3. Introductions – Amanda introduced everyone on the call/Google video conference.
4. Board Member Appointment – Amador Water Agency District 4 Director, Susan Peters has graciously agreed to succeed Gary Thomas as an AFSC Director. Susan has been the City of Jackson Planner for the past 26 years so is well acquainted with County issues. Welcome Susan!
5. Treasurers Report – John stated that as of **1/31/21** we had an account balance of roughly **\$632,000** in the bank. Fuelbreak activity is been picking up so outgoing payments will reduce the account soon.
6. Coordinator Report – see attached Coordinator Report for specifics. Amanda stated that we are applying for a \$227,000 grant to help pay for a Vegetation Management Study. This study will seek to compare the effectiveness and costs of traditional herbicides, organic herbicides and animal use (goats) in controlling vegetation in the fuelbreaks once the initial work has been completed.
 - a. Project Updates
 - i. Mitchell Mine Fuel Break
 - ii. Tiger Creek Fuel Break – Goal is to tie into the existing and expanding Lily Gap Fuelbreak across the river in Calaveras County. John will submit a request to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for approval.
 - iii. Amador County Stewardship – Mokelumne Community Forest
 - iv. Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress, and Education Project
 - v. General AFSC Outreach
 - vi. Grant Opportunities
7. Strategic Planning Discussion – There was a fair amount of discussion on what areas of interest the AFSC Board should be focusing on. Pat suggested that our elderly population is our most vulnerable and should be prioritized. Frank raised the idea of an audible warning system such as the old town fire sirens. Not sure this would work with our dispersed populations. Susan stated that some agencies are looking to use the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) for emergency communications. John suggested we continue to focus on our core missions to identify potential strategic fuelbreak areas, seek funding to construct & maintain these fuelbreaks and develop evacuation routes.

8. Amador Defensible Space for Seniors Program – Pat stated this is wrapping up and he will develop a report letter.
9. Outreach/Virtual Townhall – Connie reported that she will be in touch with Chief Withrow (CALFIRE). They are shooting for in-person meetings beginning in April but dependent upon COVID-19 status.
10. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee – Connie reported that the draft ordinance is now stuck on a couple of the County Supervisor's desks. John will make some phone calls to see if can help nudge the process.
11. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update – Frank has had several conversations with Dr. Kent from UNR in the past month. The camera team is coming up to Amador in 1-2 months and will be installing an additional camera at Mt. Zion Lookout. It appears that there are now two cameras up on Mt. Aukum.
12. Amador County 5 year Economic Development Plan – Frank attended a 2-hour virtual meeting on February 11 to consider funding requests.
13. Fiddletown Firewise Group Update – Dick reported that the Rollingwood Estates Mobile Home Park with 220 units off New York Ranch Road is now seeking the Firewise community designation. Sue reported that the Fiddletown group was arranging to have chipper come in to help encourage residents to trim their excess vegetation around their homes.
14. Public Comment - Tom gave an update on efforts to improve the evacuation route on Old Giannini Ranch Road near Volcano. This area encompasses 30 square miles. Cindy stated she would like to have a meeting with the county Public Works department to discuss evacuation routes and maps.
15. Other items/adjourn - None

Meeting Adjourned at 4:27 pm

**Amador Fire Safe Council
Coordinator Monthly Report
Mar-21**

Date Range: February 17th 2021-March 17th 2021

Project	Update	Future Planned Actions
Mitchell Mine	Mastication completed on Phase 3	Need to plan for herbicide treatment/additional CEQA documentation for maintenance work. Also contact landowners interested in herbicide application. Plan for handwork in Phase 4.
	Working with ARCD to develop plan for herbicide treatment and funding. ARCD will be submitted an interagency agreement for MMFB maintenance.	
Tiger Creek Fuel Break	Work Completed.	Plan for Phase 2 of Mastication work/handwork
	Working to expand work South, BLM property in Calaveras County.	
AmCo Stewardship - Mokelumne Community Forest	Contracts for Arch. and Biology have been fully executed. Working on getting Owl/Goshawk Surveys added to contract.	Reporting/Advance funding request
Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan	Developing maps/road selection for Phase 1 RFP. 1/2 done with driving roads to prioritize.	Work with landowners to collect ROEs.
	RPF completed paperwork for CEQA development for private roads, edits back from CALFIRE.	Plan phase 1 of projects.
General AFSC Outreach	Planning for Amador/Calaveras Cooperators Meeting	
Grant Opportunities	Interagency Agreement: Working with ARCD on agreement with CalFire \$230,000 for MMFB CEQA/maintenance.	
	Possible upcoming grants from SNC for fuel break maintenance, need to work to get CEQA completed for MMFB maintenance.	

Grant Committee Meeting Summary

March 15th 2021

Meeting Objectives: Identify/prioritize AFSC projects and upcoming funding sources for the next 6 months.

Ingress/Egress (1st Priority)-

Potential Funding Source: CALFIRE Fire Prevention, PG&E

Apply for a second grant to continue work on the Ingress/Egress Program. The current grant will pay to apply for additional funding. The current grant will treat ~60 miles of road there are over ~400 miles of roads.

CalFire has indicated that they are supportive and that this would be a good project.

Grant will include a component for Education which will broadly cover fire prevention and awareness topics: Firewise Community Support/Development, Defensible Space, Home hardening, evacuation.

AW will work on developing this grant application.

Potential to combine CWPP/Education within the Ingress/Egress grant request.

Fuel Break Maintenance (2nd Priority)-

Potential Funding Source: CALFIRE Fire Prevention, SNC

Handwork and Mastication work on existing fuel breaks. CalAm Team is looking at the Amador/Calaveras fuel breaks and prioritizing these for continuity and connectivity. Pine Acres and MMFB are a priority for maintenance.

John and CalAm team will take the lead on developing this grant application.

Education: (3rd Priority)

Education will be included as a component in all grant applications and not as a standalone grant. This would include materials for outreach, participating in other organization outreach events., and supporting Firewise Communities.

CWPP Updating: (4th Priority)-

Potential Funding Source: CALFIRE Fire Prevention, CAFSC, Title 3

Community Wildfire Protection plans act as good anchor points of grant requests and should be updated every ~5 years. This project would update the 2005 County-wide CWPP.

CALFIRE indicated support for this project.

AmCo Implementation Grant (In Progress)

Potential Funding Source: SNC

Implement fuels reduction work on 9 parcels of BLM property spanning from Buckhorn Ridge to Quartz Mountain Road.

Tiger Creek Fuel Break— Phase I Amador Fire Safe Council





Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



Before



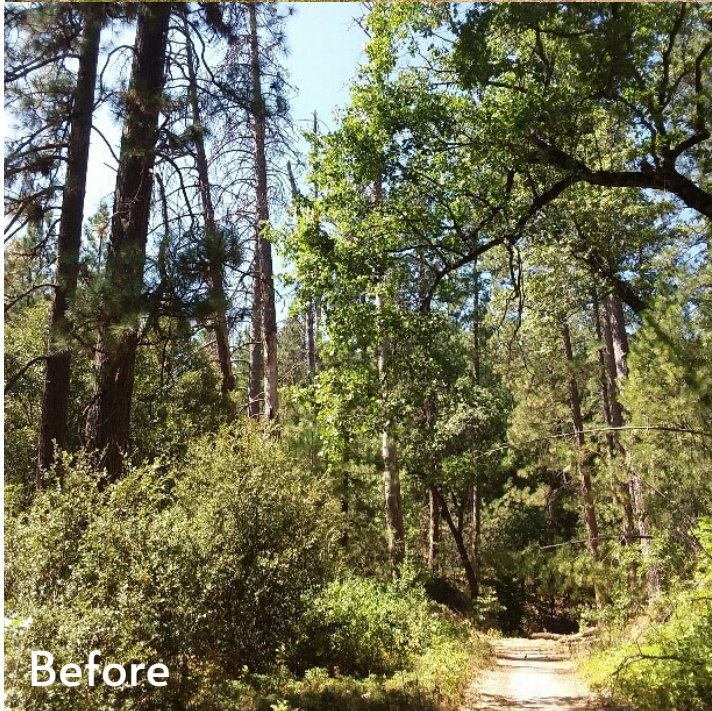
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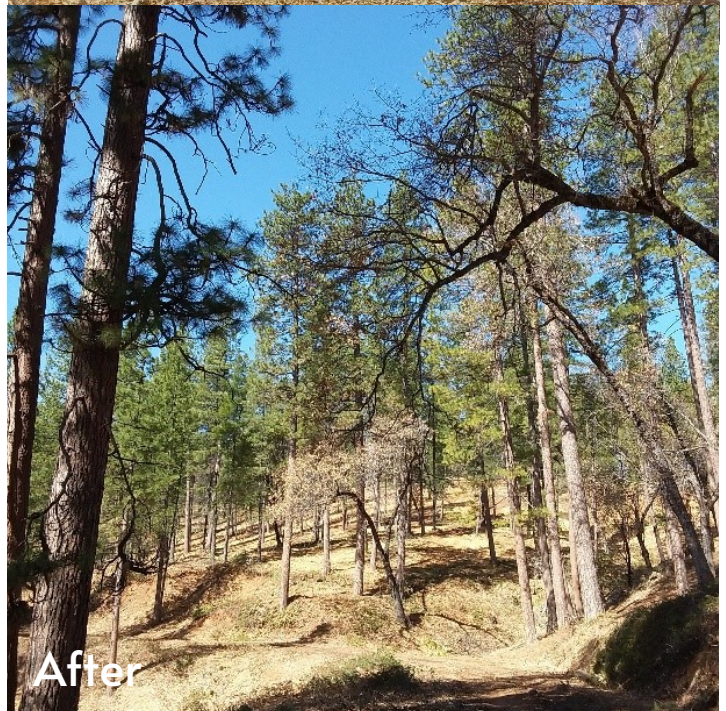
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Before



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Unit 1: Snag



Unit 3: Snag



Protected Cultural Site



Protected Watercourse



Unit 2: Log Retained



Unit 2: Log Retained