



Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

www.AmadorFireSafe.org



February 17th, 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 January Minutes*
3. Introductions
4. Board Member Appointment*
5. Treasurers Report (John)*
6. Coordinator Report (Amanda)
7. Strategic Planning Discussion
 - a. Objectives:
 - Review current Strategic Plan/Accomplishments
 - Identify/Discuss and potential new priorities
 - Discuss current & future direction and projects
 - Update on potential funding
8. Amador Defensible Space for Seniors Program (Pat)
9. Outreach/Virtual Townhall Updates (Connie)
10. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee (Connie)
11. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update (Frank)
12. Amador County 5 year Economic Development Plan (Frank)
13. Fiddletown Fire Wise Group Update (Sue/Dick)
14. Public Comment
15. Other items/adjourn

*Action items



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January 20th, 2021

Via Conference Call/Google Meet due to COVID-19

3:00-5:00



MINUTES

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

Staff: Amanda Watson, Ed Struffenegger

Public: Dick Stamm, Cindy Engel, Tom Ellison, Susan Peters, & Don Dowell

1. Approve/Modify Agenda – Pat called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. John asked that a report on the Running Gold Firewise project be included. This amended Agenda was approved unanimously.
2. Approve/Modify August Minutes – The December 2020 minutes as distributed were approved unanimously.
3. Introductions – Everyone on the call/Google video conference introduced themselves.
4. Treasurers Report – John stated that as of **12/31/20** we had an account balance of roughly **\$370,000** in the bank and he just deposited another **\$260,000**. We finished the 2020 fiscal/calendar year under budget due mostly to reduced activities because of COVID and a longer fire season. Activity has been picking up and we hope to accelerate work on approved projects.
5. Partner Update- CALFIRE (Chief Rob Withrow)

Chief Withrow gave an update on the Pine Grove Camp. They had a major COVID-19 outbreak where more than 40 youth offenders were infected. Fortunately there were no serious illnesses. They are now back to housing 46 youth offenders. They should be back to full staffing by next week. Rob emphasized that the camp is not closing but rather being realigned. He is optimistic that the camp will continue as it has in years past.
6. Coordinator Report – see attached Coordinator Report for specifics. Amanda stated that we are planning to expand our environmental document preparation as this will help to provide for clear fuelbreak maintenance procedures including herbicide application to increase effectiveness. Generally, a Lead Agency must be a government entity so Amanda is pursuing the Amador Resource Conservation District to assume this role. Having environmental documentation already prepared will help us to have “shovel ready” projects that are more likely to receive grant funding. She also noted that the Tiger Creek Road will be repaired by PG&E so that Sierra Nevada conservancy grants money may be used for fuel break efforts in this area. Sierra Nevada Conservancy has \$30 million available for fuelbreak construction grants this year.
 - 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
 - v. PG&E Ingress/Egress

7. Amador Defensible Space for Seniors Program –
 - Pat has been working with Ann Heissenbuttel and the Senior Center to get word out about this program. There have now been 35 applications for projects. They have identified 4 high risk cases, 11 moderate risk cases and the rest are low risk. After reviewing many of the projects with Steve Wilenski of CHIPS, he hopes to have six or seven of the projects done with the available monies.
8. Outreach/Virtual Townhall – Connie reported that Townhall meetings are planned to occur although they may be virtual. Details should be worked out by late February or early March
9. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee – Connie was finally able to speak directly with Greg Gillot. He promised to have a draft ordinance completed by the end of January for the full Board to review.
10. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update – Frank was able to speak directly with Dr. Kent and received locations of all fire cameras in our area. This information will be included on all of our new maps as an additional information resource.
11. Amador County 5 year Economic Development Plan – Frank reported that the Amador County Board of Supervisors approved the Economic Development Plan and has put it out for a 30-day public comment period. After public comment, the county will submit it to the state Economic Development Commission who will review the plan and fund it if approved. Frank will continue to monitor the process to ensure funding and good public relations for AFSC
12. Fiddletown Firewise Group Update – Dick reported that the Running Gold subdivision was granted the Firewise designation they had applied for. They have also improved their participation rate from 86 to 94 residents. Eight people have volunteered to be on the administrative committee. They have developed three long-range goals: Develop a fuelbreak on the east, a fuelbreak on the west and designate an evacuation route. They have also developed seven short-range goals including writing a monthly newsletter, assisting folks with special needs in the community, getting reflective address signs installed and communication with adjacent landowners. Amanda reported that although Sue could not attend this meeting, she did report that the Amador Fire Protection District had approved a shower installation at their new facility in Mt. Aukum. They are also working on a Firewise designation in the Fiddletown area.
13. Public Comment - Tom asked a question of Connie, “Will insurance companies consider giving a refund or discount to folks in high-risk areas that work to mitigate fire risk? “ Connie responded that the answer was probably not. However, focusing on home hardening may help to get individual discounts.
14. Other items/adjourn - Pat asked the question about a subject from a prior meeting regarding USDA rural development grants. Amanda stated she got us a meeting set up this Friday to work with USDA reps to see what information we can post on our website. Tom offered to help any seniors with potential grant applications. John asked Tom about his work on the greater Volcano Road Association mapping project. Tom reported that they were reaching out to adjacent landowners and had received some positive responses. John states that our ingress/egress Grant could help to pay for work on secondary roads.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:13 pm

AFSC 2021 Calendar Year Budget

FY 2019/2020 AFSC Budget
Jan 1 – Dec 31 2021

Income and Expense Actuals
FY Jan 1 – Dec 31 2021
Jan 1 thru Jan 31, 2021

Assets/Income

Bank Balance Combined		\$632,171.70
Unrestricted Bank Balance	\$ 80,000.	37,714.15
Mitchell Mine x4206		305,442.86
PG&E x4255		37,698.32
Tiger Creek x4222		223,331.55
SNC Am Co Stwd x4230		27,984.82
PG&E CEMA Program	75,000. ⁱ	\$ 75,000.00
SNC Tiger Creek Planning	38,000. ⁱⁱ	38,000.00
SNC Tiger Creek Implementation	440,000. ⁱⁱⁱ	\$440,000.00
CAL FIRE Mitchell Mine	435,000. ^{iv}	\$176,112.36
CAL FIRE Ingress/Egress	365,900. ^v	\$365,900.00
SNC Am Co Stewardship	82,000. ^{vi}	\$ 82,000.00
Defensible Space	10,000. ^{vii}	\$ 10,000.00
Contributions	250.	\$ 250.00
A/I TOTAL	\$1,526,150.	\$1,187,262.36

Expenses

Operating:

302 Depreciation	450.	0.00
305 Service Charges	0	0.00
321 State Filing Fees	85.	0.00
324 Software Licensing	140.	0.00
330 Insurance, D&O	1,600.	0.00
335 Internet Service	0.	0.00
343 Bank Charges	100.	0.00
345 Office Supplies	1,500.	0.00
346 Postage	400.	0.00
350 Outreach	20,000. ^{viii}	0.00
356 Professional Fees	1,200. ^{ix}	0.00
365 Telephone	375.	0.00
370 Travel & Entertainment	<u>2,250.</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$26,080.	\$ 0.00

Contractual:

305 AFSC Coordinator	41,200. ¹	0.00
306 Coordinator Assistant	6,300. ²	0.00
310 RPF Professional Forester	170,000.	0.00
315 Environmental Documentation	110,000.	0.00
320 Groundwork Contracted Labor	1,043,000.	0.00
311 Bookkeeper	<u>3,000.</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$1,373,500.	\$ 0.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$1,399,580.** **1/1/22 Bank Balance \$206,570.**

¹ Assumes 80 hours/month @\$50/hour. Also includes back pay for raise approved 4/20.

² Assumes 20 hours/month @\$35/hour to financially track and report on grants.

ⁱ Assumes we receive same amount as previous year.

ⁱⁱ Assumes archeological flagging, owl surveying, AFSC oversight and RPF work.

ⁱⁱⁱ Assumes 180 acres fuel reduction, AFSC oversight and RPF work. 140 acres currently under contract

^{iv} 75 acres mastication work currently under contract which will complete all mastication under project. Complete handwork in fall 2021. Includes project oversight and RPF.

^v Assumes 20 miles of road clearance, AFSC conducting 8 town halls and RPF filing exemption.

^{vi} Assumes archeology, botany/wildlife and silvicultural work completed, AFSC oversight and RPF work.

^{vii} To be complete by 5/21

^{viii} Increased significantly to reflect outreach in Ingress/Egress grant. This includes financial assistance for organizers of Fire Wise Communities.

^{ix} We owe tax returns for 2019 and 2020.

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

Date Range: January 18th 2021- February 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	Roughly half the work is completed.	Plan for Phase 2 of Mastication work
	Working to expand work South, BLM property in Calaveras County.	
AmCo Stewardship - Mokelumne Community Forest	Contracts for Arch. and Biology have been fully executed.	Reporting/Advance funding request
Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan	Developing maps/road selection for Phase 1 RFP. Meeting with County to prioritize roads	Work with landowners to collect ROEs.
	RPF working on CEQA development for private roads.	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.	