



## Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

[www.AmadorFireSafe.org](http://www.AmadorFireSafe.org)



April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

3:00-5:00

Virtual & In-Person Meeting

Attend In-Person	Attend Virtually
19888 Church Street, Pine Grove (Behind to the Pine Grove Park) Volcano Communications Tech Center	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2674846542">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2674846542</a> Meeting ID: 267 484 6542 Call-In Number: 1(669)900-6833 Code: 2674846542#

### AGENDA

1. Approve/Modify Agenda\*
2. Approve/Modify March Minutes\*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)\*
5. Coordinator Report (Amanda)
  - a. Project Updates
  - b. Outreach/Coordination Plan Presentation
6. Website Discussion (Frank/Amanda)
7. FireWise Community Groups Update (Dick)
  - a. FireWise Support Planning - Assistance Requirements/Forum\*
8. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee (Connie)
9. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update (Frank)
10. Public Comment
11. Other items/adjourn

\*Action items  
Meeting will be recorded.



## Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

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March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Volcano Communications Tech Center

Virtually via Zoom

3:00-5:00



### MINUTES

Present: Richard Yarnell, Connie Gonsalves, Susan Peters, Frank Leschinsky, Pat Minyard, Jay Francis, John Heissenbittel & Dick Stamm

Staff: Amanda Watson via Zoom, Dana Simpson and Ed Struffenegger

Public: Cindy Engel, Kayla Dale, Megan Watts, Steve DeBenedet, David Wood, Lance Allen, Mike Blankenheim, Scott Smith, Barbara Biernacki, Sherry Curtis, Kerri Gonzales, Cindy Grandbois, Ree McLaughlin Brown, Lori Mayfield, Kathleen Robbiano, Tom Ellison, Ralph Meier, Robert Deakin, Paul Robbiano, Steve Ogburn, Gary Reinoehl in person. Nell Raymond, Jackie Vaughn, Mike DeLasaux, & Patrick McDaniel via Zoom

1. Approve/Modify Agenda – Pat called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. The proposed Agenda was approved unanimously.
2. Approve/Modify January Minutes – The February 2022 minutes were approved unanimously after Supervisor noted a correction to them – only 30 truckloads of material has been collected at the Pioneer Park green waste site instead of the reported 80 loads.
3. Introductions – Board members and the public in attendance introduced themselves as well as those attending via Zoom.
4. Treasurers Report – John reported that as of **2/28/22** we had an account balance of **\$592,555**. However, there are several outstanding invoices for approximately \$270,000 for fuelbreak work that still need to be paid. John also still needs to reduce the double counting of the \$35,000 donation.
5. Lockwood Neighborhood Radio Watch Update - Jackie Vaughn gave a report on the Lockwood Neighborhood Radio Watch. Of their \$10,000 budget, \$7,000 has been received to date. The first radio antenna tower is up and running on upper Shaker Ridge Road. The second tower still needs to be constructed but a site for that tower has not yet been identified. There will be a major rollout of the program on March 26 where residents can purchase radios and hear an explanation of how the radio watch program works. They will also have a presence at the Smokechasers event. The cost to get set up is approximately \$75 for a refurbished radio (at cost) plus a \$70 sign-up fee for an FCC license that is valid for 10 years. Connie asked about the possibility of installing sirens on towers but since the radio watch group is not an emergency service responsible for notifications, the sirens probably will not work.
6. Coordinator Report – see attached Coordinator Report for specifics.
  - a. Project Updates –
  - b. Ingress/Egress Project Presentation – Amanda gave an update on the ingress/egress projects. These projects are necessary for improving public evacuation routes and emergency vehicle response access. As AFSC is not an emergency service but only a preparatory organization, we provide pre-

fire information to assist the public and produce maps for evacuation alternatives that the public should become familiar with prior to an emergency situation. The ingress/egress work is done on 20 feet either side of the road or to the nearest fence whichever is closest. Smaller vegetation is cleared and trees are limbed up to 10 feet to help provide improved sight-distance on these roads. Ed Struffenegger then gave an overview of the process to receive the approved environmental documentation required for the CAL-FIRE grants. There are 276 miles of private roads in Amador County from Highway 49 east to the Omo Ranch/ Highway 88 intersection. Ed worked with the state clearinghouse to do an archaeological records search. There were many historical and pre-historical sites that needed to be addressed. Patrick McDaniel of CAL-FIRE assisted by running a California Natural Diversity Database query that turned up 43 sensitive species of plants and animals. Mitigation measures to ensure protection were developed and the Exemption was submitted to CAL-FIRE. Comments were received and edits made. CAL-FIRE then determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration would be required instead of the standard THP Exemption. Eighteen Native American groups were then required to be contacted, a geology report was conducted and newspaper public notification was submitted. This process has been long and arduous. In the future, AFSC will use the local Resource Conservation District as the lead agency in developing the required paperwork.

- c. Review Community Projects - A request was made by the Burke Ranch FireWise Community (FWC) to help fund an award to recognize an outstanding member. AFSC has helped with startup costs for FWC in the past but each FWC should become self-sustaining. Susan suggested that a line item in the budget be created for future FWC support.
7. Website Discussion – Frank acknowledged Amanda for her work in initiating discussion on the website issues. Several members provided productive feedback for changes. We will consolidate the provided recommendations and have discussion as an agenda item at a future meeting.
8. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee – Supervisor Jeff Brown reported that after discussion with County Council and CAL-FIRE, it was determined that if the county includes language from AB38, then the county would be responsible for real estate inspection costs which is not desirable. The plan is now to eliminate the AB38 language from the county ordinance and continue to rely upon CAL-FIRE to do the inspections.
9. Alert Wildfire Cameras Project Update – Frank said there was nothing really new to report on the Alert Wildfire Camera project. The two newest cameras are at Gold Country and Buena Vista near Ione.
10. Dick reported that we now have over 20 FWC either already established or expressing significant interest. Dick has done a fantastic job in getting the word out about FWC and the fact that residents within a designated community often get a 5% discount on their insurance cost is a large incentive. There is now an information sign up at the county building. Over 1,000 brochures have been printed and are available.

11. Public Comment – Scott Smith announced that on April 22 and 23rd, Bob Fine will be displaying his fuel reduction equipment at the old cedar mill in Pioneer.

There was a question about the proposed Previtali Road fuelbreak as some residents had received Right Of Entry letters. This is an RCD sponsored project. Amanda stated that Molly or Gordon from RCD will be points of contact. This will connect Mitchell Mine, Jackson Rancheria and other projects in the area.

12. Other items/adjourn – Kayla announced she is working with the sheriff's office to develop a one-stop webpage with all pertinent emergency information on it. She also reported that the upcoming Smokechaser event on May 21-22 and has at least 12 agencies participating. Tickets are now on sale for \$5/adult. Children under 12 years are free.

*Meeting Adjourned at 4:56 pm*

**Amador Fire Safe Council  
Coordinator Monthly Report**

Apr-22

Date Range: March 18th 2022 -April 15th 2022

Project	Update	Future Planned Actions
Mitchell Mine	Work Complete on the Mitchell Mine Fuel Break	ARCD is working on UCCE contract. AW will work with ARCD to complete CEQA  Grant reporting this month
	Working with ARCD to develop the documents needed for CEQA on Mitchell Mine Maintenance Grant	
Tiger Creek Fuel Break	Tiger Creek South Project (Calaveras County) completed	Continue work on Phase 2 Implementation, Reporting.
	Tiger Creek Phase 2 winter 2022 work completed, 2 units will be finished in Fall 2022	Grant Reporting this month
AmCo Stewardship - Mokelumne Community Forest	SNC grant will be recommended to the SNC board for funding SNC proposal submitted. ~\$1.3 million	Awaiting board decision - June 2nd 2022 Final Report for Planning this month
Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan	Contractor selected for 22 miles of County Road. Forester is working to review/flag initial roadways (5 roads in	Collect ROES. Review new bids for Phase 1.
	Ed is continuing to work wot get CEQA completed. AW will approach ARCD about getting NOEs for just a few ready to go roadways.	Get CEQA either whole county MND or smaller single road NOEs
	Megan has reached out to communities, working on getting community prioritization and ROEs.	Put together RFP for non-county roads. Grant Reporting this month.
County Coordinator - CAFSC	Attending monthly meetings and training.	Start to implement Outreach Plan
	Developed draft Outreach Plan	Smokechasers Planning
	Created Draft Outreach banners	Draft Firewise Support Partnership Agreement
	First advance submitted	Amador County Fair Planning
Communications Grant	Researching software and hardware	Continue to research and purchase equipment, i.e. video editing software and drone.
	Dana and Amanda have been trained on the Owl device.	Continue to train staff and interested board members on
Grant Opportunities	PG&E grant submitted \$100,000 for Ohio Hill Fuel Break Community Fuel Break Project - Applied for funding through the CALFIRE Fire Prevention Grant, \$760k To plan and implement River Pine FB and work with 3 other FWC to plan community fuel breaks.	Need to schedule grant committee to review new projects
	Submitted Ingress/Egress Phase 2 Direct Award documentation	
	AmCo Stewardship Project - recommended for funding	



# WHAT WE DO

The mission of the Amador Fire Safe Council is to protect the people of Amador County and their property from the catastrophic effects of wildfire through education, outreach, innovation and action.



Coordinated & Strategic Fire Mitigation & Preparedness Planning

Landscape Scale Fuel Break Planning & Implementation



Ingress & Egress Vegetation Removal Projects

FireWise Community Development & Assistance



## CONTACT US

Amador Fire Safe Council is a non-profit organization proudly serving Amador County, CA since 2009.

@ AmadorFSC

AmadorFireSafe.org

AmadorFireSafe@gmail.com



# WHAT YOU CAN DO

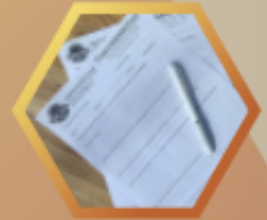
Fire preparedness starts with you. There are resources available to help you in your home and on your property.

Check out [www.AmadorFireSafe.org](http://www.AmadorFireSafe.org) for more information



Start a FireWise Community  
AFSC has resources to help!

Develop & submit a Community Project to AFSC  
AFSC applies for grants to fund projects.



Prepare for evacuation, plan and drive potential routes.  
Maps are available on AFSC website.

Maintain defensible space on your property  
Resources to help are available on the AFSC website.



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# Outreach & Coordination Planning

Presentation to the AFSC Board

April 20<sup>th</sup> 2022

# AFSC Outreach Plan



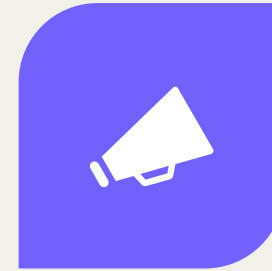
TRANSPARENCY



COORDINATION/PLANNING



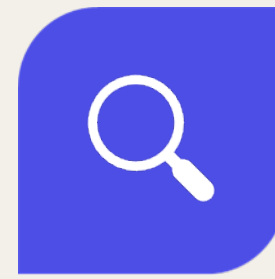
POLICY



OUTREACH/ENGAGEMENT

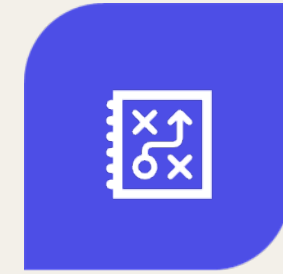


# Transparency



Transparency		
Action	Frequency	Goal
Annual Report	Annual	Promote/inform
Quarterly Newsletter	Quarterly	Promote/inform/educate
Regular Website Updates	Monthly	Promote/inform
Manage Email List	Manage	Inform/educate
Record/Post Board Meetings	Record	Inform

# Coordination/Planning



## Coordination/Planning

Action	Frequency	Goal
FireWise Forum Coordination	TBD	Assist
Attend Community/Agency Mtgs	TBD	Coordination/Assist
Develop List of Community Mtgs/timing	As needed	Coordination/Update
Fire Mitigation Working Group	Monthly/TBD	Coordinate/Assist
County-wide CWPP Update	As needed	Coordinate
Fuels Reduction Collaborative Meeting	Annually	Planning/Coordinate

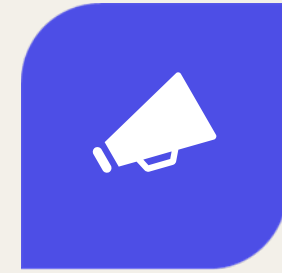
# Policy



## Policy

<b>Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Goal</b>
Hosting BOS/Legislature Project Tours	Bi-Annually	Inform
Present progress at BOS mtgs	Quarterly	Inform
Coordinate task-based working groups	As needed	Coordinate

# Outreach/Engagement



<b>Community Outreach/Engagement</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Goal</b>
General Public Townhall Meeting	Quarterly	Educate/inform
Resource One-Pager	Annually	Educate/inform
Amador County Resource Guidebook	Annually	Educate/inform
SmokeChasers Event	May-22	Educate/inform
Amador County Fair	Jul-22	Educate/inform
Participation in Community Safety Fairs	As able	Educate/inform
Regular Press Releases Developed	Monthly	Educate/inform



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Landscape Scale Fuel Break Planning & Implementation



Ingress & Egress Vegetation Removal Projects

FireWise Community Development & Assistance



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Thank You!

Amanda Watson

[AmadorFireSafe@gmail.com](mailto:AmadorFireSafe@gmail.com)

[www.AmadorFireSafe.org](http://www.AmadorFireSafe.org)

**Amador Fire Safe Council Outreach & Coordination DRAFT Plan**

<b>Transparency</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Annual Report	Draft Template	Apr-22
	Create Annual Plan	May-22
	Publish Annual Plan	Jun-22
Quarterly Newsletter	Research/Purchase Software	May-22
	Draft template	May-22
	Publish First Newsletter	May-22
	Create and email quarterly	Ongoing
Regular Website Updates	Contract for website updates	Mar-22
	Review website/catalog changes	Apr-22
	Update website	May-June 2022
	Update website	Ongoing
Manage Email List	Research/Purchase Software	May-22
	Update website with new software	Jun-22
	Combine all emails	Jul-22
	Collect emails	Ongoing
Record/Post Board Meetings	Research/Purchase Software	May-22
	Record/Post	Monthly

<b>Coordination/Planning</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
FireWise Coalition Coordination	Review/Approve foundational documents	Apr-22
	Host First Meeting	TBD
	Host meetings quarterly	Ongoing
Develop List of Community Mtgs/timing	Research/Compile list	May-22
Attend Community/Agency Mtgs	Ongoing	starting 7/2022
	Provide updates	Ongoing
Fire Mitigation Working Group	Develop a steering committee	May-22
	Host initial steering comm. Mtg	Jun-22
	Develop a list of potential attendees	Jun-22
	Host First Meeting	Jul-22
	Develop a workplan and assistance	Jul-22
	Host Monthly/Quarterly Mtg	Ongoing
County-wide CWPP Update	TBD	TBD
Fuels Reduction Collaborative Meeting	Host Annual Meeting	Jul-22

Policy		
Action	Task	Schedule
Hosting BOS/Legislature Project Tours	Identify Projects	Jun-22
	Host a tour	Sep-22
Present progress at BOS mtgs	Develop Presentation	May-22
	Present	Ongoing
	Present	May
	Present	August
	Present	November
Coordinate task-based working groups	Track needs	Ongoing
	Develop Working Groups	As needed

Community Outreach/Engagement		
Action	Task	Schedule
General Public Townhall Meeting	Develop Schedule of Townhalls	Jul-22
Resource One-Pager	Email Blast to Service Providers	Apr-22
	Compile Resources	May-22
	Develop Template	May-22
	Finalize/Print Document	May-22
	Update	Annually
Amador Resource Guidebook	Potential project	TBD
SmokeChasers Event	Draft/Print AFSC Banners	Apr-22
	Print Tabling Material	May-22
	Develop Schedule	May-22
	Develop Table Design	May-22
Amador County Fair	Decide to Participate	Apr-22
	Partner Planning Meeting	May-22
	Finalize Tabling Design	Jun-22
	Design/Order Giveaways	Jun-22
Participation in Community Safety Fairs	Organize tabling materials	Ongoing
Regular Press Releases Developed	Develop a schedule for press releases	Jun-22
	Write/Submit Press Releases	monthly



## **AFSC Website Comments for Discussion**

- Update all projects on 'current project page.'
- Revamp FireWise Communities page, have a map showing current Communities, contact info, and do FireWise community spotlights. Current email link doesn't work/add phone number
- Board member information needs to be updated, need updated photos
- On the "Agendas" page the titles are crowding the links to the individual meeting date links
- Hot topics needs to be updated - should include our press release about the generous donation. We can use our newsletter and press releases to keep this section updated.
- Fire Wise link should be on the home page - shouldn't have to look for it
- Can't click on the "Events & News" tab like the other headings.
- "Calendar of Events" tab should take you to the current month (not July 2019)
- "Press Releases" section should be added to the "News" page
- Add a "Get Involved" tab. Another place we can highlight Fire Wise and how to donate, suggest projects, volunteer....
- Upcoming Events needs updating
- Change to Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Tree Mortality Link not working
- Local Fire Unit link under Resources not working
- Put a link to the project request form on home page
- Questions about contractor list, need to make this easier to update
- Insurance Agency information needs to be updated
- Events and News out of date
- Add a section showing the success's we have accomplished in our fuel breaks with pictures and information showing the positive impact they will have in wildfire mitigation in Amador County.
- Add a greater presence on our web page for the Firewise Community projects as these endeavors should be showcased as soon as a search connects to our web page.

## **Suggested New Website Outline**

Home Page:

Regular meeting time & location posted (front & center)

Change main title to: "Supporting our community to be prepared and fire wise"

Change photo of good work being done.

Change the "Learn how you can prepare..." main link to a "Get Involved" link

Four Main Links would be changed to links to:

“Get Involved” Page, “Firewise Communities” Page and “Submit a Project” Page,  
Evacuation Preparation Maps” Page

#### Get Prepared (Change the title of this page)

Fire Prevention – needs to provide information on vegetation management

Before you burn

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

Firewise Communities

Contractor List

Insurance Agency Information

Tree Mortality

Home Hardening

Evacuation Preparation Maps (Add this page)

#### Get Involved

Donate Button

Events

Project Request Form

Firewise Communities (Firewise map and list of current communities with contacts  
information), Firewise Community Spotlight

#### Resources (Resources One Pager with more comprehensive list of resources)

#### Emergency Info

Evacuation Preparation & Routes

Weather

#### Event & News

Hot Topics (Will include: Press Releases, Newsletters, Annual Report

Calendar of Events (need to figure out how this can be made more useable)

#### About

Meet the Fire Safe Council

Board Agenda & Minutes

Employment

Cooperators

Projects

Propose a Project

Current Projects

In-Development Projects

Past Projects

Contact Us



2022 AFSC FireWise Support Program  
Summary/Suggestions for Program Development

**DRAFT**

**FireWise Development:** Supporting communities through the FireWise USA application process.

Lead: Dick Stamm, Kayla Dale

Status: Active

**FireWise Forum:** AFSC hosted meetings to provide long-term support to FireWise Communities. Meetings/Calls will be held quarterly/semi-annually (TBD), members of FireWise Communities will be invited to participate. This will provide an opportunity for project development, networking, idea sharing, and trainings.

Lead: Kayla Dale, Megan Watts

Status: In-development

**FireWise Startup Funds:** AFSC would like to develop a policy for continuing to support new FireWise Communities with costs associated with starting the new organization. These costs are mainly education and outreach based, such as: website, bulletin boards, and mailings. The funding is for first-year start up.

Lead: Dick Stamm, Amanda Watson

**Needs: Develop Budget & Funding Sources, Develop Requirements, Develop Application/Review Process**

## **Suggestions for Consideration:**

### Funding Requirements:

- All awards are dependent on available funding and the annual AFSC 'FireWise Support Program' budget.
- Funding is awarded on a first come first served basis.
- Application Process: must be a registered FireWise USA Community, submit an application, must have a bank account, submit a list of items that are related to actual starting costs.
- Dollar amount awarded is allocated based on the number of homes within the neighborhood's boundaries.
- Max funding amount of \$2000?
- Reporting: Two reports shall be submitted to AFSC, one after 6 months of receiving funding and one 12 months after or upon completion. Reports should be a summary of activities (brief bullet points) and expenses with backup documentation. Documentation shall include outreach documents created, photos of events, and receipts.

Budget: AFSC Board should designate a budget for this support.

Suggestion: \$20,000 annual budget

Application/Review Process: Develop a committee to review and applications and make sure they are complete and then present to the Board for approval. AFSC staff will work with communities on managing reporting.