



# Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

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



March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

3:00-5:00

Virtual & In-Person Meeting

Attend In-Person	Attend Virtually
19888 Church Street, Pine Grove (Behind Pine Grove Park) Volcano Communications Tech Center	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2674846542?pwd=VjlrL25rMGkwY2paMmxhckhKbnJSZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2674846542?pwd=VjlrL25rMGkwY2paMmxhckhKbnJSZz09</a> Meeting ID: 267 484 6542 Call-In Number: 1(669)900-6833 Code: 2674846542# Passcode: 1055

## AGENDA

1. Approve/Modify Agenda\*
2. Approve January & February Minutes\*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)\*
5. Coordinator Report (Amanda)
  - a. Project & Contractor Updates
    - i. AmCo Stewardship Bird Survey Contract\*
    - ii. Private Roads Ingress/Egress Contract Update\*
6. Sirens Alert System Committee Update (Connie)
7. FireWise Community Program Update (Dick)
  - a. Schedule/Planning for FireWise Strategic Planning Meeting
8. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update (Frank)
9. Public Comment
10. Other items/adjourn

\*Action items  
Meeting will be recorded.



## AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

February 15, 2023 3:00pm



**2/15/23: 3:00pm**

**1. Agenda:** Board approval: *CG motioned, JH seconded. All in favor (5) - Absent (2).*

**2. Minutes from December:** tabled to next meeting

**3. Attendance:** Pat Minyard, Connie Gonsalves, Dick Stamm, John Heissenbuttel, Frank Leschinsky, Amanda Watson, Dana Simpson, Megan Watts

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

**a. Review and Approval of 2023 AFSC Budget:** JH sent report as of Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Total accounts \$679,203.46. Total Unrestricted Reserve account \$138, 002.98. Board approval of final 2023 AFSC Budget draft (w/line added of 100k a year for Unrestricted Reserve Fund): *JH motions draft budget as Final, CG seconded. All in favor (5) - Absent (2)*

**b. Review and Approval of Unrestricted Reserve Fund (URF):** JH sent report as of Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. *Board approval of creation of URF and policy, with initial goal proposed over next 4 years to build 400k fund (100k per year), with the possibility of Board to change goal at any time; policy to include amended verbiage: JH motioned, FL seconded. All in favor (5) - Absent (2)*

Discussion: PM wants policy verbiage amended to include "all expenses reported to the Board on a monthly basis"

### **5. Grant Opportunities (Cal Fire grant/s)**

- a) Board approval of resolution covering Community Fuel Break project and proposed grant submission (Community Fuel Break projects- implementation of Upper Rancheria FB; Volcano Hills FB; Ohio Hill FB) JH to submit formal Community Fuel Break grant application to Cal Fire. Board to approve resolution (pro forma): *JH motions, FL seconded. All in favor (5) - Absent (2)*
- b) AW is drafting a Letter of Support template to send to county partners and Firewise Communities of Amador County on behalf of the AFSC for the Community Fuel Break grant; AW will be submitting Letter of Support from AFSC to the ARCD for Defensible Space grant (Cal Fire) for vulnerable communities/populations in Amador County.

### **6. Coordinator Report**

- Information reflected in provided report in Board Packet.
- Private Road I/E projects (13) to be implemented and completed prior to the start of fire season. ROE's still need to be submitted; options of either performing smaller projects for the specific projects missing ROE's or pushing project to expect implementation/completion by next Fall. Expected treatment of 23 miles of private roads prior to fire season. MW is working with community leads to obtain all ROE's. More projects to be reviewed by AFSC; after grant submission season is over, Project Review committee will address these potential projects to see what Fall implementation will look like.

Discussion: possible future implementation of documented buy-in prior to approving projects to assist in collection and submission of ROE's.

## **7. Website and Outreach Plan Review**

MW proposed the switching of website platforms from Word Press to Streamline, citing ease of use and increased productivity and efficiency, as well as increased communication and information sharing with the county. Board approval of website platform switch and transition: *FL motioned, CG seconded. All in favor (5) - Absent (2)*

## **8. Sirens Alert System Committee**

CG contacted Sheriff Redman and set meeting date (3/7/23) to include Sheriff Redman, Sgt. Bellotti, CG and FL. Meeting discussion to include process for implementation of Siren Alarm system to notify communities of emergency situation. More to report at next month's meeting.

## **9. Firewise**

24 current registered Firewise communities in Amador; 12 in the application process. A lot of interest and activity just by word of mouth. AW proposed a Special Meeting regarding long-term goals of Amador County Firewise program and the AFSC and their roles within this program. Board agrees with scheduling a special meeting to discuss these items. Will shoot for end of March for a date.

## **10. Alert Wildfire**

Limited information available: no response from calls made by FL. Everything is still working; 2 potential sites for install; FL will continue to pursue collecting further information.

## **11. Public Comment:**

Landowners needing more information regarding potential projects and what they can expect to happen on their properties specifically - may be helpful in collecting more ROE's. Also in-depth maps provided with mailed ROE's. (possibly can be provided on the website?)

Reply - AFSC can provide physical examples of work done at specific locations. Possibility of Ed visiting specific properties and having discussion of what work the property owners approve and what they don't. Options to be discussed further among Board members and ROE process will be reviewed and possibly amended. MW may have video or information packet she can share with property owners that shows project work. FL wants to know if MW has (robust cellular connectivity?) broadband capability on her current laptop.

Suggested Application called LandGlide for property owners.

## **12. Other Items:**

FHSZ workshop with Cal Fire - CG commented from insurance perspective: SZ are not tied into insurance rates? Answer received was disappointing and vague: CF said Risk Models (insurance companies) differ from Hazard models (FHSZ). Deadline has been extended (4/4) for comment and CG encourages writing letter to Department of Insurance asking specifically to create a stand-alone wildfire policy. Megan Scheeline, Forrester II (Cal Fire representative in attendance), clarified that the FHSZ mapping is not intended to reflect fuels reduction or be used for insurance.

**Adjourned:** 4:35pm

# AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

January 18, 2023 3:00pm

**1/18/23: 3:01pm**

**1. Agenda:** motioned and approved

**2. Minutes from December:** Richard Yarnell was present (amended); John H motioned; Dick S seconded

**3. Introductions:** Connie Gonsalves, Richard Yarnell, Dick Stamm, John Heissenbuttel, Frank Leschinsky, Dick Stamm, Pat Minyard, Susan Peters, Mike Blankenheim (others I was unable to hear)

**4. Treasurer's Report:**

**a. Review and Approval of 2023 AFSC Budget:**

Year End Report 2022 (see attached) -

- Coordinator expense was a little higher than budgeted due to unpaid bills that are now paid - result of internal audit by DS
- Contracted Staff expense higher than expected - hadn't hired the 3 new staff members yet (has been adjusted);
- environment documentation was significantly less - had deferred env documentation on PA Fuel Break to 2023;
- Groundwork Contracted Labor - significantly less;
- County Coordinator grant significantly under - hadn't began Stewardship yet - will happen this year; I/E grant - env doc held us up, all clear as of early dec - will be doing lots of road clearing in 2023;
- Tiger Creek project started in Dec, little over 100k, just invoiced, will be billed in 2023, work actually happened in 2022;
- 1.2m of work in contract (I/E, Stewardship, Community Fuel Break project in RP) all to be completed prior to Fire Season. We are in a pretty good fiscal position. 4.7m contract over the next 2-3 years.

Draft Budget for 2023 - \$2.3m (see attached) -

Major Projects:

- Finish Tiger Creek Fuel Break
- I/E
- AmCo Stewardship Implementation
- Pine Acres Fuel Break maintenance
- Community Fuel Break (River Pines, Ohio Hills, Volcano Hills)
- County Coordinator (new staff)
- Evacuation Improvement (road clearance, update countywide community wildfire protection plan, etc.)
- PGE Vegetation Management grant

Susan P - recommends verbiage regarding the Reserve Fund to be provided in the AFSC Policy Binder. Also recommends moving forward with a line item budget, will work on getting this document to the Board.

John H motioned to discuss proposed budget and approve at next meeting: Susan P seconded

**5. Break Even Beermakers** - appreciation award presentation - postponed

**6. Coordinator Report:**

- Firewise Forum is scheduled for Jan 31<sup>st</sup>
- Megan Watts is revitalizing our outreach program, will present in February
- Town Hall for Upper Rancheria and Volcano Hills Fuel Breaks are being scheduled
- Ohio Hills Fuel Break (1.2-2m application)
- Grant Applications for Community Fuel Breaks will be submitted to Cal Fire next month (March)
- 13 current I/E private roadways in implementation
- Project Selection committee to review in late Feb, for implementation in Fall
- Tamryn is working on project map that will show all current projects

**7. Sirens Alert System:**

Nothing to report

**8. Firewise:**

20 registered Firewise community in Amador; Hale Rd. is just approved, so 21 in 2022. Additionally, another 14 communities are in various stages of the application process. Important to establish the Forum as meaningful and productive. Dick S has been communicating with other organizations regarding the structure of their Forum's (Orinda, Prescott, Hawaii, etc.). John H wants to make sure the role of the AFSC is clear and that we fully understand the communities' expectations. Susan P would like to see a survey sent to the attendees of the Forum to gather further information.

**9. Alert Wildfire:**

Not much to report. Project is still very active. One more possible camera placement upon Thunder Mountain, but has not come to fruition yet.

**10. Public Comment:**

None

**11. Other Items:**

None

**Adjourned:** 3:50pm

**Amador Fire Safe Council Grant Snapshot**  
as of Feb 28, 2023

	<b>AFSC</b>	<u>Grant Period</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>	<u>Direct Cost</u>	<u>Indirect Cost</u>	<u>Grant Funds Spent to Date</u>	<u>Remaining Advance or Advance Requested</u>	<u>Invoiced</u>	<u>Amount remaining</u>
1	Tiger Creek Implementation 1200 (SNC)	7/28/2020 - 1/1/2025	\$ 834,126.00	\$ 744,756.00	\$ 89,370.00	\$ 794,048.65	\$ -	\$ 43,265.15	\$ 40,077.35
2	Tiger Creek Enhancement 1330 (SNC)	9/13/2021 - 1/1/2025	\$ 220,200.00	\$ 200,200.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 94,637.27	\$ 37,481.73	\$ 66,060.00	\$ 125,562.73
3	Coordinator (CAFSC)	11/15/2021 - 4/30/2023	\$ 174,999.00	\$ 159,090.00	\$ 15,909.00	\$ 71,249.68	\$ -	\$ 8,518.40	\$ 103,749.32
4	Ingress/Egress (CalFire) 5GG19102	5/13/2020 - 3/1/2024	\$ 1,044,296.00	\$ 949,360.00	\$ 94,936.00	\$ 311,701.38	\$ 242,704.64	\$ -	\$ 732,594.62
5	Pine Acres (CalFire) 5GG20101	approval - 3/15/2025	\$ 515,405.00	\$ 468,550.00	\$ 46,855.00	\$ 1,549.86	\$ 127,301.39		\$ 513,855.14
6	Ingress/Egress Phase 2 5GA21119	6/2/2022 - 03/15/2025	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 545,455.00	\$ 54,545.00	\$ -			\$ 600,000.00
7	AmCo Implementation 1370 (SNC)	8/23/2022 - 1/1/2028	\$ 1,288,444.00	\$ 1,171,313.00	\$ 117,131.00	\$ 32,768.41	\$353,764.79		\$ 1,255,675.59
8	Amador County Evac Improvement (CalFire) 5GG21101	6/14/2022 - 3/15/2024	\$ 379,982.40	\$ 335,000.00	\$ 44,982.40	\$ -			\$ 379,982.40
9	Amador Community Fuel Break Develop Proj (CalFire) 5GG21201	8/4/2022 - 3/15/2026	\$ 726,000.00	\$ 660,000.00	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 106,037.92	\$ 75,410.31	\$ 181,500.00	\$ 619,962.08
10	Communicatons Grant		\$ 5,000.00			\$ 5,000.00			\$ -
11	PGE - Ohio Hill	thru 11/30/2022	\$ 25,000.00			\$ 25,000.00		\$ -	\$ -
			<b>\$ 5,813,452.40</b>	<b>\$ 5,233,724.00</b>	<b>\$ 549,728.40</b>	<b>\$ 1,441,993.17</b>	<b>\$ 836,662.81</b>	<b>\$ 299,343.55</b>	<b>\$ 4,371,459.23</b>

\*matches Unearned Revenue

\*Matches Accounts Receivable



CAL FIRE Ingress/Egress	674,000.00	<sup>9</sup>	8,219.92
SNC County Steward Implementation	658,000.00	<sup>10</sup>	26,976.32
Community Fuel Break	397,000.00	<sup>11</sup>	73,172.87
CAL FIRE Pine Acres Maintenance	90,000.00	<sup>12</sup>	1,408.97
CAFSC County Coordinator	78,000.00	<sup>13</sup>	9,156.77
CalFire Evacuation Improvement	60,000.00	<sup>14</sup>	
Contributions	500.00		32.36
Indirect/Admin Revenue	228,950.00		38,492.24
Interest Income	200.00		50.52
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,475,150.00</b>		<b>385,470.70</b>

1. Assumes 80 hours/month
2. Assumes 23 hours/month
3. Assumes 40 hours/month
4. Outreach that is not directly billable to a specific grant
5. Tax preparation.
6. Assumes we receive grant.
7. Assumes 26 Acres of handwork and three miles of road clearance.
8. Assumes 20 acres of mastication.
9. Assumes 40 miles of road work.
10. Assumes 254 acres of mastication.
11. Assumes 171 acres of mastication (River Pines)
12. Environmental documentation.
13. Staff time and outreach, \$175K grant runs from 12/21 to 3/23.
14. Update Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan

<b>Amador Fire Safe Council Fund Balances</b>	<b>As of Dec 31, 2022</b>	<b>As of Feb 28, 2023</b>
3000 General Fund	153,610.19	67,100.15
4255 PG&E	288.75	288.77
4412 Tiger Creek Enhance	66,056.22	13,979.85
4420 CFSC Coordinator	6,006.35	6,006.84
4222 Tiger Creek Implementation	170,798.19	2,807.46
4651 Ingress/Egress	3,111.92	260,562.31
4834 AmCo Stewardship	386,546.97	360,539.65
4842 Community Fuel Break	100.00	100.00
4842 Pine Acres Fuel Break	100.00	128,953.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 786,618.59</b>	<b>\$ 840,338.58</b>



**Amador Fire Safe Council  
Coordinator Monthly Report**

**Mar-23**

Date Range: February 14th 2023-March 15th 2023

<b>Project</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Future Planned Actions</b>
Tiger Creek Fuel Break	Work almost complete, 1 unit (19 acres) left to completed. Weather has put work on hold.	Closeout 1 of 2 Tiger Creek Grants, completed last remaining handwork section, finalize and install signage.
AmCo Stewardship - Mokelumne Community Forest	Contractors are implementing on several units. Currently work on Rams Horn Grade Unit completed (16 acres) and La Colina Unit (90 acres completed). RFP for bird surveys received no bids, contacted local Wildlife Biologist and received a quote for work. Would like board approval for direct award of this contract to Terry Strange.	Finalize contract for Bird Surveys
Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan	<p>Contractor is finishing up work on Tiger Creek project and then will start on Surrey Junction and Running Gold.</p> <p>AFSC has a total of 13 private roadway projects that we hope to implement prior to fire season. Would like to include some of these roads in Timber Ridge's current contract and go out to bid for the remaining roads. and some will go through a public bid solicitation.</p> <p>Would like to direct Award Timber Ridge: Oak Hill Lane (0.4 miles) Sandra Lane (2.2 miles) Old Giannini Ranch Rd (1.5 miles) Gold Creek Trail (1.4 miles)</p>	Develop RFP for remaining I/E projects. Continue to collect ROEs.
County Coordinator - CAFSC	FireWise Microgrants documents are being edited after input from Cal fire regarding allowable grant funds. Planning for AFSC Firewise Assistance Program strategic planning meeting.	Facilitate strategic planning meeting. Start accepting applications for the FireWise Assistance Program.
Community Fuel Break Project	<p>Weather has put the River Pines implementation on hold.</p> <p>Volcano Hills Fuel Break Town Hall held 3/9. Phase 2 Grant application submitted to Cal Fire</p>	Implement River Pine Fuel Break, expected completion June 2023.
Pine Acres Fuel Break Maintenance	ROEs have been sent, Tamryn is collecting ROEs. Forester will be starting survey work soon. Working with CalFire to provide history on AFSC involvement on the fuel break.	Plan Town Hall Mtg.
Outreach	<p>First Newsletter completed and emailed</p> <p>AFSC new website launched</p>	