



## **Amador Fire Safe Council**

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

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



August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

3:00-5:00

Jackson City Hall – Civic Center  
33 Broadway, Jackson CA

### **AGENDA**

1. Approve/Modify Agenda\*
2. Approve/Modify July 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 Update (John/Amanda)
  - a. CAFSC County Coordination Grant\*
7. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee (Connie)
8. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update (Frank)
9. Amador County 5-year Economic Development Plan (Frank)
10. FireWise Community Groups Update (Dick Stamm)
11. Public Comment
12. Other items/adjourn

\*Action items



## Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

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

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Jackson Civic Center

3:00-5:00



### MINUTES

Present: John Heissenbuttel, Frank Leschinsky, Dick Stamm, Connie Gonzales & Jay Francis

Staff: Amanda Watson,

Public:

1. Approve/Modify Agenda – In Pat's absence, Connie called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The proposed Agenda was approved unanimously after an addition to discuss future meeting locations at the end.
2. Approve/Modify August Minutes – The June 2021 minutes as distributed were approved unanimously.
3. Introductions – Board members and public introduced themselves.
4. Treasurers Report – John stated that as of **6/30/21** we had an account balance of **\$124,629** in the bank and we continue to be in good shape financially, although the requirements to spend all grant monies prior to requesting additional funding really makes for a cash-flow headache. Amanda concurred with the cash-flow dilemma and stated SNC requires expenditure of 3% over the grant amount. John and the bookkeeper have also discussed that the budget format should be changed to reflect actual income vs. anticipated income as the anticipated grants do not always materialize.
5. Coordinator Report – see attached Coordinator Report for specifics.
  - a. Project Updates
    - i. Mitchell Mine Fuel Break – Ed Struffenegger has supplied priority tasks to get done. Scott Oneto from the Resource Conservation District (RCD) will also be working on this project conducting a vegetation control alternatives study. The CEQA permitting is taking a little extra work because of these new projects.
    - ii. Tiger Creek Fuel Break
    - iii. Amador County Stewardship – This includes the nine Bureau of Land Management parcels.
    - iv. Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress, and Education Project – Amanda will be advertising for the new assistant position this week and hopes to have this person. She also reported there is a backlog of emails that were delayed from delivery by our web site. We may need to look into a service such as Constant Contact.
6. Amador County Fair 7/29 – 8/1 – Amanda has ordered outreach supplies for the fair and they should be here next week. Susan has suggested we get video loops of the Tahoe Fire Cameras showing time-lapse of recent fires in the area. Frank will check with UNR staff to see if these are available for us to play on a screen at the fair. There was considerable discussion about the display of the 13 county evacuation maps that Cindy has developed. It was agreed to accept the offer from the Ledger Dispatch to help generate QR codes for each map to aid in public distribution. The maps can be displayed at the fair after the "draft" watermark is removed.

- 5
7. Grants Committee Report – Amanda reported on the opportunity for a California FSC grant for up to \$170,000 that could cover a County Coordinator for up to 18 months. The BOS will write a letter of support for this one as only one entity per county is eligible.
  8. Amador Defensible Space for Seniors Program – Completed several months ago
  9. Fire Safe Ordinance Committee – The draft ordinance came back from review by the local Fire Chiefs with very little comment. We now just need to get the BOS and County Counsel to vote on it. John will make some phone calls. Connie talked about Home Hardening and the new “protection zones” that have been developed with input from the Insurance Industry.
  10. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update –Frank reported that there are now 16 cameras up in Amador County with 4 more still on tap. A new one on Kirkwood Chair 10 should be installed soon. The cameras are receiving a lot of use as more people are learning of them and watching local fire progression.
  11. Amador County 5-year Economic Development Plan – Frank reported to the public audience that Amador County received a generous grant to help update the EDP and they have asked AFSC to take part in that process and Frank has graciously agreed to serve in this capacity.
  12. Firewise Communities Groups – Dick reported that after a lot of work and pulling information together, he has identified 54 potential Firewise USA® Communities in the county. Four have already attained the Firewise status and six more have expressed an interest and have begun working towards that end. The Ledger Dispatch ran the first of a series of stories about the Firewise USA® efforts on July 10.
  13. Public Comment – There was a question about whether or not the county was applying herbicide to help maintain the clearing that occurred on Ridge Road last year. The county road department does use herbicide where necessary but no one could confirm if this was the case on Ridge Road.  
  
Another member of the public wanted to thank AFSC for their efforts in getting the fuels reduction work completed near his home.
  14. Other items/adjourn – Amanda confirmed the county building on Airport Road would not be available as a meeting location for the foreseeable future. Connie said the Jackson City Civic Center was available but we may not be able to provide remote access for a month or two until we could figure out the technical details. The group agreed this was a good meeting location.

*Meeting Adjourned at 4:50 pm*

Amador Fire Safe Council  
Coordinator Monthly Report  
Aug-21

Date Range: July 19th 2021-August 13 2021

Project	Update	Future Planned Actions
Mitchell Mine	Completed Invoicing, requesting final advance. Developing RFP for final phase. Maintenance Agreement Signed	Writing RFP for Phase 4 handwork
Tiger Creek Fuel Break	Phase 1 Work Completed.	Writing RFP for Phase 2 of Mastication work/handwork
	Working to expand work South, BLM property in Calaveras County. Selected Contractor.	
	Invoicing/2nd advance submitted.	Writing Contract for Tiger Creek South
	Tiger Creek Expansion approved	
AmCo Stewardship - Mokelumne Community Forest	NEPA/Biological/Botany Surveys submitted to BLM for review.	Work with BLM and RPF to complete NEPA, submit to SNC.
		Write Implementation grant
Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan	Developing maps/road selection for Phase 1 RFP.	Plan phase 1 of projects. Start sending out ROEs
	Working with Cindy to plan an upcoming Evac Committee Mtg.	
	RPF completed paperwork for CEQA development for private roads, submitted to CalFire	Host Evac. Committee Meeting
Grant Opportunities	Interagency Agreement: awarded to ARCD from CalFire \$330,000 for MMFB CEQA/maintenance.	John is drafting/AW will submit the CAFSC grant
	Tiger Creek Expansion grant application approved for funding	
	CAFSC/PG&E Grant Available- Need someone to volunteer taking the lead on the grant. AW will help review and submit.	
	AFSC received approval to apply. CAFSC County Coordinator Grant, 18 months ~\$170,000. Only one can be submitted per county, enough funding for 24 counties.	