



CAL FIRE 2018-19 Fire Prevention Grant
Fire Safe Camp Meeker Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2018 | 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: Gold Ridge RCD, 2776 Sullivan Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472

Attendees:

Fire Safe Camp Meeker

Richard Seaman, shadow board member for FSCM

Sheila Denton, shadow board member for FSCM

Amy Lemmer, shadow board member for FSCM

Tom Austin, Writer for Camp Meeker Beat

CAL FIRE

Ben Nicholls, Grants Contact and Pre-fire Division Chief for Sonoma-Lake-Napa area

Paul Fleckenstein, Battalion Chief for Sonoma-Lake-Napa area

Fire Safe Sonoma / Sonoma County Fire & Emergency Services

Caerleon Safford, Program Manager

Gold Ridge RCD

Adriana Stagnaro, Outreach and Project Manager

Jason Hoorn, Project Manager

John Green, Lead Scientist and Project Manager

Sonoma RCD

Jeff Schreiber, Program Development Manager

Jason Wells, Registered Professional Forester

Purpose of Meeting:

1. Discuss Fire Prevention Grant eligible projects
2. Determine the applicability of the grant program to Fire Safe Camp Meeker's initiative
3. Determine next steps for moving forward with grant application

Discussion Notes:

Introduction from Fire Safe Camp Meeker (FSCM)

1. The FSCM proposal document can be found online. The proposal does not cover defensible space or home hardening, though it is a goal to include it.
<http://www.firesafecampmeeker.org/Proposal/index.html>
2. This FSCM initiative comes from within the community.
3. A defining feature of the group is the desire to improve the health of the redwood forest at the same time as preparing for fires.

Long-Term Goals of FSCM

1. Become a fire-safe and forest restoration model for other coastal redwood communities
2. Complete major forest improvement work by 2040.

Mid-Term Goals of FSCM

1. Lower fuels load within the forest and residential area
2. Create and maintain shaded fuel breaks along every internal street
3. Create and maintain fire road access for improved ingress and egress during emergencies
4. Remove dangerous, dead or dying trees

Short-Term Goals of FSCM

1. Garner community trust and engagement in FSCM
2. Educate community about fire safety and forest health
3. Create and implement a Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP)
4. Coordinate with neighboring landowners for success
5. Create and implement a standard for defensible space that works for a dense, forested community like CM

CAL FIRE 2018-19 Fire Prevention Grant Projects

1. FSCM would be most ready to apply for the Fire Prevention Grant for planning and outreach.
2. Caerleon and Ben Nicholls suggest proposing FSCM prepare a CWPP as well as outreach and education activities. FSCM is not yet ready to propose implementation work.
3. The Fire Prevention Grant proposal will be written in collaboration by FSCM, GRRCD and FSS. Applications are due December 19, 2018. Grants will be awarded in September 2019. Grants close March 2022. The grant period is 2 years and 6 months.
4. The proposal will be submitted by an eligible entity, such as GRRCD, FSS, or the County of Sonoma. Still to be determined which entity.

Writing the CWPP

1. The CWPP will be written using a template developed by FSS. Authors will include FSCM, Caerleon Safford and GRRCD. The plan will be reviewed by the local fire agency. Ben Nicholls says the document does not need to be very long (100+ pages) as some CWPPs are, and actually it should be more concise to give it a competitive edge.
2. Community meetings addressing the CWPP will be facilitated by someone with expertise in writing CWPPs, such as Caerleon Safford. These meetings are especially instrumental in deciding priority projects. A list of priority projects will be an appendix to the plan.
3. Coordinating with surrounding landowners will be essential to the success of the plan.
4. Any work that has been done before the writing of the plan should be documented with photos and in writing because it will become content for the History chapter of the CWPP. The more engagement you can document in your CWPP, the more competitive your CWPP will be when you write to the program again for implementation.
5. Jason Wells mentions that the CWPP can include the removal of marketable timber, and this could be an incentive to some landowners, though there may also be difficulty removing trees in the dense residential areas.
6. Align contents of the CWPP with the CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan

Community Outreach and Education

1. Examples of projects that we discussed:
 - a. Educational Town Hall meetings
 - b. Movie screenings
 - c. Neighborhood work days in the forest
 - d. Chipper days using County chipper
 - e. Partnering with the Good Fire Alliance

- f. Installing standardized highly-visible address signs
 - g. Trash hauling and debris bin days
 - h. Development of a C.O.P.E and other special task groups
2. Fire Prevention Grant proposal can include materials and supplies for outreach such as room rental fees, printing costs, purchase of educational materials, consultants' fees, travel costs, trainings, etc.
 3. Caerleon and GRRCD suggest that FSCM utilize partnerships with fire-related agencies in their outreach to bring in expert knowledge to outreach projects and to build trust.

Activities & Resources Immediately Available to FSCM

1. Sonoma County Chipper Program
 - a. Operates year-round. CM can participate in this program as they have in the past.
 - b. Caerleon warns against FSCM acquiring a chipper because of all the skilled labor needed to operate and maintain the equipment.
2. Volunteer Vegetative Fuels Reduction Work Days
 - a. FSCM can begin organizing landowners at any time to do light, vegetative fuels thinning work on their own property
 - b. The Good Fire Alliance is a new entity, lead by Jared Childress, Fire Ecologist at Audubon Canyon Ranch. The Alliance is a grass-roots, informal (at this time) organization that builds capacity of individual communities to address vegetative fuel loads (from a fire safety perspective). Disparate communities form an alliance and work cooperatively to help manage each other's fuel loads.
3. Volunteer Trash/Debris Removal Work Days
 - a. Help households remove trash/debris from around the home to reduce fire danger. Sonoma County Waste Management Authority will supply dumpsters for community improvement projects such as this.

Discuss Grant Program Application and Performance Timeline

Anticipated Timeline for FSCM and CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant Program

Nov. 2018	Determine grant fiscal sponsor. Write grant proposal for 1) planning and 2) community outreach and education.
Dec. 2018	Submit grant proposal by Dec. 19, 2018.
Dec. 2018 – Sept. 2019	Continue community engagement; familiarize community with FSCM; build trust; assess landowner interest in programs and develop new program concepts.
Sept. 2019	Fire Prevention grants awarded.
Sept. 2019 – Sept. 2020	If awarded, write the CWPP, perform outreach, and complete CWPP by Sept 2020. (Continue performing outreach tasks until grant closes in March 2022.)
Oct. 2020	CAL FIRE 2020-21 Fire Prevention Grant Program begins accepting proposals. Prepare a proposal for implementation of the CWPP.
Dec. 2020	Submit 20-21 Fire Prevention Grant Program proposal.
Sept. 2021	2020-21 Fire Prevention grants are awarded.
Sept. 2021 – Mar. 2024	If awarded, perform implementation work through March 2024.
Mar. 2022	18-19 Fire Prevention Grant closes.

Immediate Next Steps

1. Determine a fiscal sponsor for the grant proposal. A low indirect (administrative) cost limit on this grant program poses a challenge to fiscal sponsors that requires careful consideration.

- a. Fire Safe Sonoma will consider fiscal sponsorship on November 6 at their Board meeting.
 - b. County of Sonoma will consider fiscal sponsorship on Nov. 7 at the Watershed Collaborative meeting.
 - c. Gold Ridge RCD will consider fiscal sponsorship after receiving responses from the other entities.
2. Write proposal with contributions from FSCM, FSS, GRRCD.
 3. Submit proposal by Dec. 19, 2018.