

Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group
General Members Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 20, 2021
10:00am-12:00pm

Zoom Video Conference:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87434643360?pwd=QU1Ga3ltaXNJV2N4NkdmcjQ0UVRmQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 3464 3360 | Passcode: 556583

Or Phone Conference:

Dial (669) 900-6833, and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 874 3464 3360 and when prompted, enter the Passcode: 556583. You can mute and unmute yourself by pressing *6 on your phone.

Facilitator: Dee Swanhuysen (Fred Euphrat as backup)

- I. **Check in on Funding Opportunities:** All (15 min)
 - a. CAL FIRE CCI grants (All), PG&E Settlement Funding for Vegetation Management (Kim), Fledgling Fund (Dee), Catalyst Fund (Adriana), Community Foundation (Fred), Rebuild North Bay Foundation (Dee), North Coast Resource Partnership (Susan Haydon)
 - b. Do we want to do grant funding break out rooms in June for networking/collaborating?

- II. **General Updates:** All (30 min)
 - a. Updates from each attendee. Please be brief. Maximum 5 minutes per attendee; longer items will be scheduled for next month's agenda
 - b. Identify opportunities for Forest Working Group to provide support

- III. **Steering Committee Report:** Steering Committee (5 min)

- IV. **2021-2022 Two-Year Work Plan Activities:** Kim Batchelder (10 min)
 - a. Create a short-term committee to establish Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work plan
 - i. Identify committee members, meeting dates, and tasks. Report back to membership. Bring in advisor to guide our work.
 - b. Opportunities to support local forestry and fire fuels workforce development (June)
 - i. Any action to take in the near term?
 - c. Opportunities to increase local forestland conservation (July)
 - i. Any action to take in the near term?

- V. **Outreach Activities Updates:** All (20 min)

Hear updates and provide support to those developing the event or program.

 - a. Recap of tour of Bear Flat Forest salvage logging operation (Fred Euphrat)

 - b. Forest Landowner Bootcamp with SRJC Shone Farm (Jill Butler, Briana Boaz, Fred Euphrat)
 - i. 2-day workshops series discussing hands-on, in-field instruction on forest ecology, management, diseases/pests, fire safety, fuels reduction, chainsaw use and safety. Waiting for pandemic situation to improve. SRJC may have in-person classes this fall. Potentially could launch the Bootcamp this fall, but spring may be more likely.

- c. Living with Fire: Pre-Fire Forest Management Project Tours (various hosts)
 - i. A series of site tours to showcase pre-fire forest management
 1. Multiple treatment types at Pacific Union College (June date?)
 2. Shaded fuel breaks at Calabazas Preserve walking tour hosted by AOSD: describe planning and implementation w/ Fred Euphrat + Leslie Lew (Kim can reach out)
 3. State Parks coastal parks fuels management projects with Brendan O’Neil (Kim can reach out)
 4. Regional Parks post-fire recovery, possibly at Sonoma Valley Regional Park (contact Lulu Waks or Melanie Parker. Kim/Adriana can reach out)
 5. Pepperwood Preserve post-fire, pre-fire, monitoring and recovery (Devyn)
 6. Permaculture Artisans pre-fire work on private properties (Matt Banchemo can connect, Adriana can reach out to Eric Olsen)
 7. What is a site that can showcase biochar and other utilizations of forest debris? Maybe Occidental Arts and Ecology Center?
 8. Kashaya Forest Lands (contact RPF Matt Greene)
 9. Showcase a variety of landscapes and ownership types. Fred has put together a compendium of different forest ecological areas, could review for ideas about where to go.
- d. Agriculture and Forestry (Dee)
 - i. What needs or questions do farmers, ranchers, vineyard managers have regarding forest management that we can help with? Tawny Tesconi from Sonoma County Farm Bureau could be a partner.
- e. Ecological fuels management in various habitat types (Ellie Insley)
 - i. Determined that we would like to make a subcommittee for this topic to continue learning, outreaching and supporting the work happening in this space.
 1. Mark Newhouser, Jason Mills, Adriana, Devyn Friedfel (when available), Steven Swain (when available).
 2. Note that Spanish language materials are key
- f. Update to Sonoma County Tree Ordinance (Robert Aguero)
 - i. Early June is a good time to meet with FWG to review existing ordinances and take FWG input/questions.

VI. **Future Agenda Items:** All (5 min)

- a. Presentation: Ag & Open Space, “Vital Lands Initiative,” Allison Schichtel + Misti Arias, June 17, 2021
- b. Breakout rooms in June for grant program discussion/networking?
- c. Suggestions for presenters for July, August, Sept?
 - i. Consider the [existing list of potential speakers and topics](#)

VII. **Presentation: Wildfire Fuel Mapper:** Tosha Comendant, Pepperwood Preserve (30 min)

Upcoming Forest Working Group Meetings:

- General Membership Meeting, June 17, 2021, 10am-12pm on Zoom
- General Membership Meeting, July 15, 2021, 10am-12pm on Zoom
- General Membership Meeting, August 19, 2021, 10am-12pm on Zoom