



MEETING MINUTES

Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting – February 26, 2025

A [Humboldt County Fire Safe Council \(HCFSC\)](#) meeting was held on November 13, 2025, at the UC Cooperative Extension Office in Eureka. [Members of the HCFSC](#) are appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to guide maintenance and implementation of the [Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(CWPP\)](#).

The HCFSC is coordinated by the County Coordination Team, composed of staff from Humboldt County Public Works and the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District. **Team Contact:** Cybelle Immitt, Lead County Coordinator | cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us

Fire Safe Council Members Attending:

Members listed as follows: name, member seat, additional affiliation.

Ali Freedlund, Supervisorial District 1 Appointee, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council/Mattole Restoration Council

Anna Rogers, Supervisorial District 2 Appointee, Sanctuary Forest

Chris Emmons, Supervisorial District 3 Appointee, Arcata Fire Protection District

****Jill Demers**, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Kathy Weber, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Lenya Quinn-Davidson, UC Cooperative Extension, Humboldt-Del Norte UCCE

****Olivia Lopes**, Local FSC/Firewise Community, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council

Rod Mendes, Tribal Representative, Yurok Tribe/Yurok Fire Department

Manny Mello, Supervisorial District 4 Appointee, George Petersen/Northwest Insurance

Fire Safe Council Alternates Attending:

Allan Wiegman, California State Parks, North Coast Redwoods District

Eric Darragh, Supervisorial District 5 Appointee, Mid Klamath Watershed Council

Harry Vaughn, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council

Henri Holbrook, Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association

Mika Cook, Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council

Reid Cody, Green Diamond Resource Company

Ross Dollarhide, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Yana Valachovic, UC Cooperative Extension, Humboldt-Del Norte UCC

Jason Butcher, CAL FIRE, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Non-Voting Agency Liaisons Attending:

****Cybelle Immitt**, Humboldt County Public Works Director Designee and Board of Supervisors Liaison

****Members of the County Coordination Team**

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

****Tanner Speas**, Humboldt County Public Works

****Serena Kuczmariski**, Humboldt County Public Works

Chris Emmons, Arcata Fire Protection District Chief

Kacy Tuel, NCUAQMD

Lucia Brazner, Samoa Fire

Patrick Esh, Humboldt OES

Zoom Participation

Jesus Isidoro Diaz, Bridgeville Resident, Equipment Operator

Emily Acer

Blaine McKinnon

Zoe Ziegler, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Will Emmerson

Meeting Minutes

Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Meeting – February 24, 2026

1. Call to Order: Welcome, Zoom Orientation, Roll Call/Introductions, and Agenda Review

HCFSC Chairperson, Lenya welcomed all and convened the meeting at 1:00 pm. Quorum of 15 was confirmed, and introductions were made in-person. Zoom participants introduced themselves. The Zoom recording is available on the [Public Works – Natural Resources channel](#) and will be available until it is replaced by the next meeting's recording.

2. Approval of the meeting Agenda and Minutes from the previous HCFSC meeting

- **Action: Review and Approve Minutes from the November 2025 HCFSC Meeting**
 - **Motion: Ali Freedlund** motioned to approve the November HCFSC meeting minutes. **Allan Wiegman** seconded the motion.
 - **Vote:** All in favor.

3. Public Comments/Announcements/Correspondence

- Lenya is working on two legislative bills, Assembly bill 1699, which would make the claims fund permanent and 1891, which would create a beneficial fire grants capacity program.
- Tree School on May 2, whole day program at CR, Register with UCCE.
- Southern Humboldt Fire and Rescue Joint Powers Alliance agreement was signed and filed with the state. Board of Directors was also confirmed.
- Making Money with your Forest March 14th, with panelists giving presentations on carbon credits, forest, bio-char and other subjects.
- [CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grant](#) is open management. \$10M is available and promotes forest health objectives.
- NCRP Capacity Grants Programs solicitation closed: ~50 applicants requesting over 7 million, with 2 million available.
- CAL FIRE Forest Health grant pre-proposals due March 30. HCRCD and CCT are available for support, particularly with environmental compliance

4. HCFSC Membership

- HCFSC Membership Housekeeping
 - No new members officially appointed since last meeting.
 - Sheriff is appointing new OES primary representative, Lt. Josh McCall.
 - Jacqueline Olivera is being nominated as primary USFS rep, with Brittany (Ehny) Patterson as alternate
 - Cybelle will follow up with Chief Rod Mendaze to address questions about adding a seat for the Blue Lake Rancheria

5. County Coordinator Team Update

- CWPP Update Progress
 - Outreach Survey is coming out soon, and consultant is working on refreshed risk assessment
 - Proposed new boundary for the Southern Humboldt Planning Unit, moving Salmon Creek from Avenue of the Giants to Southern Humboldt. Change will go into effect immediately and will not impact funding eligibility.
 - Mika Cook asked if there was a need to make changes to the Mad/Van Duzen Watershed Planning Unit boundary to be consistent with the Bridgeville Fire Protection District.
 - No changes have been requested and the entire Bridgeville Fire Protection District is within the Planning Unit.
 - **Action: Vote to approve updated CWPP Planning Unit Boundaries**
 - a. **Motion:** Ali Freedlund motioned to include Salmon Creek within the Southern Humboldt Planning Unit, which may include minor modifications requested from local SHFSC members or other local groups within the adjacent planning units. Jill Demers seconded the motion.
 - b. **Vote:** All in favor.
- State Capacity Grant awarded and grant agreement executed with the County as the sponsor (Federal funding administered through the California Fire Safe Council). This funding was leveraged out of and matched by the County Coordinator program and the scope is integrated with the CWPP Update and implementation and will create tools to help implementers and support an update of the Living with Wildfire magazine with matching funds from the State Coastal Conservancy (through the Humboldt RCD). Reach out to the CCT if you have anything to share about what you want updated.
- Firewise Community Support Update
 - Recently went through the renewal process; new Firewise communities were created in 2025. 13 total in Humboldt County. \$767,999 in volunteer contributions. \$651K more than required. Being documented using tracking tools. \$1.2M over the last two years.
 - Hosting Humboldt County Resident Leader Summit webinar on April 24 for resident leaders to assist with how to use tracking tools and share lessons learned and build comradery. Open to other Firewise residents.
- Make sure to fill out Form 700, ABI234 training is required once every two years (see Clerk of Board info). There is the possibility of financial repercussions if HCFSC members do not complete the form annually.

6. Feature Presentations (Use this [LINK](#) to view Presentations)

- Lessons Learned From 2025 in Wildfire Mitigation: With Yana Valachovic, Forest Advisor and County Director (Humboldt and Del Norte), UC ANR Fire Network- Community Resiliency and Built Environment
 - Fire pathway from vegetation to fence, embers to house, then house to house. Wildfire Prepared Home by IBHS makes recommendations to harden the home.
 - Wildfire Prepared Neighborhood Pilot Program - how to initiate process at the neighborhood scale
 - Resilience versus Resistance - ability to recover versus capacity to oppose
 - Data shows that more houses are burned in grasslands/shrubs (64%) than forests (33%) in the US
 - Plant flammability testing at scale - do hedges actually improve fire resistance?

- Experiment showed that both hydrated (168% fuel moisture) and dry plants (64% fuel moisture) both ignited around 2 minutes of flame exposure
- Wildfire County Coordinator Program and More: With Lara Buluc and Gaby Erazo, California Fire Safe Council Staff
 - CFCS County Coordinator Program - funding currently through July 2026, extension pending
 - County Coordinators assist in developing new FSC and Firewise communities, assist with developing and updating CWPPs
 - Funding 47 counties out of 58 counties in California
 - Tasks include working with CAL FIRE, updating GIS Networking Portal, attend QE training, host training on the CWPP toolkit, update CWPP utilizing CWPP toolkit.
 - CFSC 2025- 2030 New Strategic Plan: 4 pillars- 1st is to bolster county frameworks for wildfire resilience (3 other pillars yet to be announced)
 - California allocated \$9.5M for Wildfire County Coordinator Program - new program will allow County Coordinator teams to choose from a menu of deliverables
 - SB-973 Wildfire County Coordinator Program Bill
- Using the CAL FIRE CWPP Toolkit in Humboldt County: With Chris Ramey, Deputy Chief, Pre-Fire Planning, Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division and Cybelle Immitt, County Coordinator Team
 - CWPPs complement other local, regional, and state plans, for example the Hazard Mitigation Plan and CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan
 - The purpose of the CWPP Toolkit is to create more consistency, build local capacity, increase outreach and education, provide additional support, and implement the Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan
 - CWPP Toolkit components:
 - Guide (“The meat” of the toolkit) - minimum requirements for planning process and content, Healthy Forest Restoration Act requirements, CAL FIRE requirements
 - Best Practices - Plan alignment, leadership, project implementation and tracking, and more
 - Resources - Customizable template, outreach, CEQA compliance considerations
 - Healthy Forests Restoration Act (2023) -
 - Minimum requirements
 - a. Collaboratively developed
 - b. Identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments
 - c. Recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures
 - Enhanced requirements
 - a. Collaboration, consultation, outreach and engagement, plan review and approval, plan submission
 - CAL FIRE Unit Plan update: updating unit plan to be a living document rather than static

7. Confirm next meeting date and location and adjourn

- The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2026, 2-4 pm at UCCE Office, 5630 S Broadway St, Eureka

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.