

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of
THE WEST CONTRA COSTA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

The board of directors of The West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council (WCCFSC) held a videoconference meeting via Zoom on **July 1, 2024 at 7:00PM.**

The following directors were in attendance at the meeting and constituted the entire board:

Soheila Bana	[X] Present [] Absent
Marilyn Saarni	[X] Present [] Absent
Ra Criscitiello	[X] Present [] Absent
Rebecca Orona	[X] Present [] Absent

Present: Rocky, Michelle, Sue, Stewart, Volker, Susanna Thompson (Fire Commissioner, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District), Marian, Anne-Marie

AGENDA

- Contra Costa Grand Jury report - automatic enrollment of CWS recommended
 - Summary: <https://contracosta.news/2024/06/25/grand-jury-recommends-auto-enrollment-into-community-warning-system/>
 - Less than 50% of people enrolled in CWS
 - Full report: <https://www.cc-courts.org/civil/docs/grandjury/2023-2024/2402/2402-CommunityWarningSystem.pdf>
- UC Berkeley Fire Science Lab visit
 - Hosts: Prof. Michael Gellnor, Maryam Zamanialei (senior postdoc who hosted the visit, does data analysis and modeling)
 - At Chemical Engineering lab
 - Technical way to look at flame/fire intensity, look at how fuel treatments affect fire spread
 - Great Resources!
 - IFTDSS (Fuel Treatments, Risk Assessment, etc.): https://iftdss.firenet.gov/landing_page/
 - LANDFIRE (Fuel types and Topography): <https://www.landfire.gov/>
 - NFPA (Codes and standards): https://www.nfpa.org/NFPA-Solutions?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw-O6zBhASEiwAOHeGxS0RPtf4r1SLFekOf4cFbzI5U_H1Pi16cFHmhrF-vsmqH4eI9So8JhoCbQYQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds
 - FEMA (The Escape Plan): <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20230516/new-virtual-reality-experience-tests-users-fire-safety-skills>
- Firewise USA Communities - Joyce Forte stepping down as coordinator
- County Coordinator announcements- Michelle Rinehart
 - PIO today released photos of new academy graduation, 13 new recruits started this month to meet minimum staffing

- Vegetation fires have started, please share information wherever you're able to. PIO and fire investigations figure out how to respond to each fire, and you can request info on individual fires through the website.
- Fire trail maintenance recently completed in Rodeo/Hercules area through Measure X
- Michelle presented wildfire mitigation efforts at Rodeo Hercules Board
- Town hall meetings completed in May
- June 3 weed abatement deadline
- Ongoing compliance inspections
- Public outreach mitigation plan is complete and submitted to OAS team, it's now at the state level for their feedback, state will present final version to FEMA at the end of the year
- Truck on order that was paused for repairs is now complete and on the way to Antioch and Brentwood, will bolster their firefighting abilities
- Plans are under way to relocate communications staff to the current administrative building
- Resources for tree removal, since Aug/Sept/Oct is tree removal season. For instance, dying and tilting monterey pines near Valley View. Michelle advised that there's a program to remove trees that are dead. If on private property, it's up to the property owner to remove the tree. If on common or public space, it may be eligible for removal if dead and/or posing a risk to life/property, on a case-by-case basis. Michelle can help develop a narrative if desired. Go [here](#) and choose "removal of dead trees."
- Rocky asked about a jurisdiction map so that the boundaries are more clear, especially dangerous issues in areas like his with only one way in and out. Rock said that one person has been very helpful in fuel reduction in Brickyard Cove: Colin Gallagher, fuel reduction coordinator with East Bay Regional Parks District Fire Department, cgallagher@ebparks.org . Volker worked with Steve Keller SKeller@ebparks.org on goats last year
- Upcoming communications around fireworks (all fireworks are illegal in Contra Costa County). [Report fireworks](#) to 1-833-885-2021 (and report fires to 911)
 - Sam's Club in Concord is selling fireworks, and fireworks stands in Sac
 - Aside from fire danger, fireworks also cause suffering to those living with PTSD, and to animals, dogs, etc.
 - Rebecca has been trying to get help with Castro Ranch Road maps/measurements, Michelle will help offline
- Our fundraising and education event this year will be at Fire Station 64 at Bayview Ave. & Carlson near 580. Probably will be on Sun. Oct. 6th because that's the beginning of Fire Preparedness Week. Likely we will have a lower profile since it's a bit of a trek from our prime audience.
- Is anyone interested in joining officer group? We have work to do, and need more people! "Board members at large"
- Governance—our consultant has really helped us go a long ways, but more work needed
- Communications—we're launching a newsletter, but would love more contributors, help from someone who knows formatting etc.

- Michelle advised folks to pay attention to tonight's red flag warning, excessive warning from Tues-Sat, cooling stations are available
- PG&E issued a warning for brown outs and possible electrical [outages](#) coming up