



The mission of the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council is to preserve Grizzly Flats' natural and manmade resources by informing, educating and mobilizing all residents and landowners to make their homes, properties, neighborhoods and the community fire safe, supporting emergency response efficiency, and to provide area-wide cooperation, innovation, and action in an effort to buffer the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council's Sphere of Recognition from catastrophic wildfire.

Approved Minutes– February 1, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87253297893?pwd=ieY60fd5cOhTRRc6qcaWKzKA7Y2KNa.1>

Meeting ID: 872 5329 7893

Passcode: 924061

1 669 900 9128 US

**1) Call to Order**– Please make sure your comments and discussion are appropriate to the particular agenda item that we're discussing. Anything not related to a specific agenda item should be brought up during Council Member Comments, if it's related to Council business. If it's not related to Council business, it needs to be brought up during Public Comment. Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes and there will not be any discussion or interaction following each comment. –The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chairman Mark Almer.

**2) Flag Salute**– The flag salute was led by Secretary Deirdre Girardi.

**3) Roll Call**– The attendance was taken by Chairman Mark Almer.

**4) Timekeeper Volunteer**– Timekeeper was David Manske.

**5) Approval of the February 1, 2025 Agenda**– A motion was made by Kelly Krohn to approve the agenda. A second was made by David Maske. The motion passed unanimously.

**6) Approval of the January 4, 2025 Minutes**– A motion was made by Kelly Krohn to approve the minutes as submitted. A second was made by Roy Rodgers. The motion passed unanimously.

**7) Treasurer's Report**– Treasurer Mark Almer reported that the current balance in the council checking account is \$28,707.23 after a Verizon phone bill of \$22.96 and a \$75 receipt for three reflective address sign transactions. Mark Almer provided an update on the EDCFSC audit.

Report linked here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uTcqtoT-mxvJlrKLBcOI\\_UqSMC7ZLQdvyHeXZBauuDY/edit?usp=drive\\_link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uTcqtoT-mxvJlrKLBcOI_UqSMC7ZLQdvyHeXZBauuDY/edit?usp=drive_link)

## **8) Agency Reports**

- A. Pioneer Fire Protection District– PFPD Chief Dave Whitt / Fire Marshal Ken Earle– not present
- B. Report Information from Pioneer FPD meeting/GFFSC Information to be shared at PFPD Board Meeting– not present
- C. El Dorado County Sheriff's Office / OES– Deputy Scott Bare / Deputy Greg Almos / Deputy Kris Kersmarki– not present
- D. El Dorado County Fire Safe Council–Ernie Lory– Ernie Lory and Mark Almer provided updates from the January 15, 2025 El Dorado County Fire Safe Council meeting.
  - a. Jennifer Turner was hired as an Executive coordinator.
  - b. The Cal Fire grant season was delayed to July.
  - c. A concept paper for the Eldorado West slope rural water drafting resources was submitted for consideration.
  - d. The County Fire Safe Council has a new website, and the Grizzly Flat Fire Safe Council's website will be integrated into it.
  - e. Cord Wagner, who worked with Team Rubicon, started a new associate Fire Safe Council called Heritage, catering to senior citizens in the Latrobe area.
  - f. The El Dorado County, Western Slope Community Wildfire Protection Plan is still in draft form, and a proposal for Post Office To Post Office Fuel Reduction Project is being considered.
  - g. David Manske informed the team about the defensible space and home hardening assessor training.

- h. Due to questions about the volunteer liability waiver form brought up at the January 2025 Council meeting, Ernie Lory clarified that the volunteer liability waiver is valid until one no longer does volunteer work for the council.
- E. California Highway Patrol– Public Information Officer Andrew Brown– not present
- F. El Dorado Resource Conservation District– Mark Egbert– not present
- G. U.S. Forest Service– Placerville Dist. Ranger Andrew Mishler– not present
- H. CALFIRE, Amador-El Dorado Unit–Battalion Chief Josh Vickers / Public Information Officer Wendy Oaks– not present
- I. Community Services District– Mel Kelley– In Mel Kelley’s absence, David Manske provided an update of the district's recent business including an update on the district’s projects including the fact that the water district's new tank is finished and waiting for the liner to dry.

**9) Neighboring Fire Safe Councils**

- A. Aukum/Fairplay– Mark Almer welcomed John Hess from AFFSC. John Hess reported on their ongoing planning work and the imminent start of their multi-fire safe council grant for roadway vegetation. Mark Almer mentioned the adjustment of GFFSC sphere of recognition boundaries with AFFSC and GFFSC’s offer to cost-share the mailing and printing of letters to affected people.
- B. Sand Ridge– not present
- C. Omo Ranch– not present
  - a. South County Fire Defense Coalition - Shiela Triebull– not present

**10) Old Business**

- A. Time Sheet Submittal– David Manske– Discussion/Action– David Manske reminded the team to submit their timesheets and discuss with neighbors and contractors the importance of everyone submitting an accounting of fire mitigation work they do on their properties on the timesheets.
- B. CWPP Update– Ernie Lory– Ernie Lory provided a brief update including that the draft of the CWPP has not been released yet for review.

**11) New Business**

- A. 2025 Firewise Day– Mark Almer– Discussion/Action– Mark Almer began the discussion about the 2025 Firewise Event.
- a. John Taylor has agreed that the event be held on his property.
  - b. Mark Almer mentioned that the Burger Nights will also continue to be held on the Taylor property but will be held on Saturdays
  - c. Mark Almer requested for a motion to approve the Firewise Day that will be held on June 28, 2025 at the Taylor property. A motion was made by Kelly Krohn to approve the Firewise Day that will be held on June 28, 2025 at the Taylor property. A second was made by Roy Rodgers. The motion passed unanimously.
    - i. Mark Almer volunteered to chair the event and asked Ernie to co-chair, particularly focusing on public education.
    - ii. Deirdre Girardi and Charlene Ank agreed to coordinate the welcome table and silent auction.
    - iii. Matt Nunley agreed to coordinate with John Taylor regarding cleanup on his property
    - iv. The group also discussed the need for chairs for different sections of the event.
- B. Firewise Day/Green Waste Collection Day – Ernie Lory– Discussion/Action– Ernie Lory discussed the County Fire Safe Council's plan to organize a grant funded green waste collection event. Mark Almer provided an overview of the duties of the chairperson for any members who are willing to volunteer for this event. Currently, no one volunteered to chair this event and will be postponed due to a lack of volunteers to lead the event. Mark Almer and Ernie Lory discussed the scheduling of a compostable green waste bag distribution event. It was decided to add the compostable green waste bag distribution event as a new business item for the next meeting where the council will discuss coordinating the event with the post office.
- C. Community Service Award– Mark Almer– Discussion/Action– Mark Almer discussed that the presentation of the Community Service Award be moved from the June 25, 2025 meeting to the May 3, 2025 meeting. Mark Almer requested for a motion to approve the Community Service Award be held that will be held on May 3, 2025 at the regular council meeting– which is a one time change from the regular June meeting. A

motion was made by David Manske to approve the Community Service Award to be held on May 3, 2025 council meeting – which is a one time change from the regular June meeting. A second was made by Ernie Lory. The motion passed unanimously. The Fire Safe Council will open nominations for the Community Service Award on March 1 and close on March 15, 2025.

## **12) Committee Reports**

- A. Public Education– Mark Almer– Mark Almer gave an update about posting information on the local social media websites.
- B. Defensible Space– David Manske / Liz Lawless / Matt Nunley– David Manske gave an update about the defensible space and home hardening assessor training.
- C. Grants– Ernie Lory / David Manske– Ernie Lory provided an update. Mark Almer shared the memo that all fuel reduction grants from the federal government due to the government funding freeze; however, this freeze has been lifted. More information to follow about the funding status for our local projects that are funded by federal grants.
- D. Reflective Address Sign Sales– David Manske– David Manske shared that he had one request for a reflective address sign. It was advised that attendees and Council members check with their neighbors about the need for reflective address signs, as these are crucial for emergency responders during fog, rain, or smoke.
- E. Website– Deirdre Girardi / Kelly Krohn / Robin Kelley– Deirdre Girardi gave an update about the website with ADA-compliant changes, including alt text for images and full URLs for links on all posted documents.

**13) Public Comment**– Limited to 3 minutes for items not already on the agenda– Kevin Koroush proposed the idea of collaborating with various agencies to establish a staffed fire station in Grizzly Flats, which could potentially lead to reduced home insurance rates for residents. He suggested that the agencies could share the property and facilities, with each agency handling their own operations. Mark Almer clarified that the property across from Kevin Koroush is owned by the Forest Service, not CAL FIRE, and that the Forest Service does not respond to residential structure fires. However, Mark Almer also mentioned that the Forest Service is planning to reestablish their station in the area. David agreed to discuss this idea

further with the Pioneer Fire and discussed Pioneer's financial situation and equipment issues. He mentioned that Chief Whitt has been working hard to secure funding from FEMA and to upgrade Station 31 to a 24-hour response facility. David Maske also noted that rebuilding Station 35 was too expensive and that they are focusing on upgrading Station 31. Mark Almer added that the essential facility rules make it difficult to rebuild Station 35 and that grants could potentially help fund equipment and the station, but not personnel. Kevin Koroush agreed with the proposed plan and praised Chief Whitt's efforts.

**14) Council Member Comments**– Limited to 3 minutes for items not already on the agenda– Mark announced Robin Kelley's resignation from the Fire Safe Council and her acceptance of an honorary member position. He also mentioned that Ryan Nutall from Farmers Insurance would be attending the May 3, 2025 (that will be in person at Leoni Meadows) meeting to discuss current insurance information. Olivia Moreno shared that the Pioneer Fire District has regularly scheduled open meetings in response to the discussion led by Kevin Koroush. Olivia Moreno requested clarification of the GFFSC boundaries and expressed concern about the need for roadside fuel reduction. Mark Almer clarified the boundaries of the Fire Safe Council's sphere of recognition and the need for right of entry for fuel reduction grants.

**15) Public Announcements**– none

**16) For the Good of the Order**– none

**17) Adjourn**– Mark Almer requested for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45. A motion was made by Matt Nunley to approve adjourning the meeting at 10:45. A second was made by Kelly Krohn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Deirdre Girardi*

Deirdre Girardi

GFFSC Secretary

