

MINUTES (Draft)
The Greater Glenshire FireWise Community
FireWise Committee Meeting
November 22, 2024 5:30 PM
Glenshire Clubhouse and Video Meeting

Greetings/Call to Order/Roll Call 5:30pm

Present: Truckee Fire RPF- Dylan Sheedy. Firewise Community Captains: Glenshire-Bill Houdyschell, Adrian Juncosa, Lori Kelley. Sierra Bluffs-Jake Hudson, Paul Hoban. Buckhorn Ridge-Scott Carino, Cambridge-Ross Collins, The Meadows-Neal Mielke, Kent Drive-Matt Ledna, Judy Williams, Chad, SF Fly Casting-Bob Lew.
Absent: Buckhorn Ridge - Scott Carino, Elkhorn Ridge - Kelly Welch

Public or committee member comments – limited to 3 minutes per person None

Approval of Minutes October 21, 2024 APPROVED

New Business

a. Fuels Reduction Management Plans

Bill Houdyschell, GDRA RPF presented:

1. This meeting is to:
 - Start planning for a future grant proposal
 - Get the whole group together, people to meet
 - Find talented people to help run things in this group – not just Glenshire; there is plenty to be done
2. Bill prepared a report that included properties that have property owned in common, not just private properties. Kent Drive isn't included. They have same vegetation and forest types, same as Meadows.
3. To be successful in a grant, we need to:
 - Show collaboration
 - Join our different parcels that abutt one another
 - Prepare a budget
 - Look at what we want to do and how
 - Thinks there is a possibility for part of someone's privately owned parcel adjacent to a commonly owned parcel to get addressed at the same time but feels not entire 5+ acre parcel done for free
4. Wants to start planning acreage and budgets:
 - Dylan can talk to what the grants/projects possibilities are
 - Allstate has provided grants up to \$20k
 - We have Measure T to help with dumpster days, etc.

Dylan Sheedy, TFPD RPF presented:

1. Government funding is not the entire answer, but we have a lot of good opportunities out there.
2. Where to start in each community:
 - Establish a forest management plan which could cost a lot of money. Everyone here is fortunate to have Bill Houdyschell living in this community and served as forester in Truckee for approx. 30 years, helping us put together a plan.
 - Number one for me is for everyone to read Bills plans. He's got some treatment areas in there and some ideas on where to go.
 - I want to make sure it's clear that a plan is a plan until everybody signs and agrees and goes in on the plan as collaborators together and unless everybody here thinks otherwise, I think that the first

step for a lot of people is to get board approval signatures on the plan because we're all influenced by this plan, whether we live in the Meadows or upper Glenhshire, Boca, wherever we're at.

3. Communities next steps/considerations:

- Start having the conversation about budgeting for this type of work as well within our HOAs. It's expensive work, \$3k to \$5k an acre for initial entry and then we hope as we go into maintenance phases that cost goes down.
- Think about maintenance over time. If you don't come back in 5 to 10 years and redo it, manicure it and kind of retreat the area maybe at a lighter intensity with some hand crews or whatever, we're going to lose that treatment's efficacy over time.
- It's going to convert back to brush, which is good for wildlife habitat and biodiversity and we need to think about a maintenance plan every 5 to 10 years and that's where the HOA budgets and money comes in to really support that effort.
- If Truckee Fire or grantee is going to come in and throw down \$200k or whatever it's going to be to do an initial treatment, we need to know that this community is organized, having a forest management plan written by a registered professional forester and some budgets to maintain this treatment over time.

4. Grants/Projects:

- There is a great local Community Wildfire Protection grant funded by Measure T and meant to be community benefit projects, not meant to benefit individual landowners.
- We want large projects incorporating open spaces and multiple neighbors.
- 5 acres is the minimum project size, but to be competitive as Bill was getting to, we really need to show collaboration and show treatments either, planned out over time, contiguous really, but to be competitive in these grant programs.
- We need to see matches from the HOAs, 10% - 20% match.
- Programs are not guaranteed and they're frustrating sometimes to apply to because you spend a bunch of time on the application and the funding is not guaranteed.
- We've got a lot of open space and large parcels in our community where Bill is the perfect guy to piece together a plan. If we want to pay Bill to write a grant application to Truckee Fire, he can check off treatments he wants to do and has support to do.
- Truckee Fire as the administering agency of the grant is looking at: Is this community organized? Are they working with a forester? Do they have a forest management plan?
- This is the biggest local grant and the easiest to apply for. Have tried to adapt this local program to get through the application quickly. You are already halfway there with Bill writing forest management plans.
- TTCF Forest Futures program just got a \$10million donation and are obligated to match this over 10 years. (CEQA not required)
- As Truckee Fire continues to build Measure T program they will continue to apply for programs over time and incorporate projects from Bill's plans and community that we want to see implemented. TFPD will apply for federal and state grants.
- Would love to see an application from Glenhshire for Local Measure T grant, open in February.
- There are state level grants, looking bleak with state budget. Might be more for Meadows, Royal Crest extension.
- Collaboration important: Firewise Community, HOA signing and implementing a plan, HOA match and budget.
- Tahoe Donner is a model to look at in terms of what it means to invest community dollars to reduce risk. It's shown in our most recent community wildfire protection plan update, TD, after Bill's career of many forestry projects, they really have reduced their risk.
- We really need to start building a budget to reduce risk.

Various discussions and Q&A occurred:

1. Discussions:

- Group discussion occurred with Dillon and Kent Drive representatives regarding budget, grants, matching and collaborative projects with Glenshire, without being an HOA.
- Discussion occurred regarding it can be a Road Association and not an HOA.
- Adrian mentioned we must remind residents if they want their house to be there after inevitable fire comes through, they can either join in on this kind of community effort or can do all themselves which will cost them 10x as much as joining in on collective efforts.

2. Q&A (Dillon provided most answers)

Q. Who will prioritize Glenshire proper HOA's in grant process?

A. Dillon feels it should be submitted as Glenshire Firewise Community.

Q. Is our money going to be used for other projects?

A. No, It's specific to your property. The easiest way to chop it up is specific to your property, the benefits that you're receiving from public funding on your property, and how much willing to match.

A. We will not pay for defensible space work within 100 feet of structure. That is legally the landowner's responsibility to maintain at all times.

A. We will treat HOA open space since that clause is in our defensible space ordinance to treat HOA open space within 100 feet of structures. Private owners can't get the grant.

Q. What is the Measure T grant timeline and process?

A. February 2025 is planned grant start time. Planned to close mid-April or May.

I will do grant workshops and have office hours, and have pamphlets

One of the requirements is for landowners or FW organizations is to have a Forester on consulting or staff, as long as they are willing to act as the Forester.

- Q. I understand the Measure T projects must go through CEQA process.
- A. It's called a Notice of Exemption in the CEQA world.
- Q. To plan ahead, can you provide guidance in February on what sort of environmental information you will need from us?
- A. Yes, That's why we want a Forester to be on staff or contract because we can speak the same language and I can walk Bill or anybody through our procedures.
- A. Level of review depends on level of ground disturbance proposed. If hand crews, with track chippers and low impact skid steers, we should know where archeological surveys and plants are, but don't have to do a full biological analysis. Other option is to go more commercial and can go through Cal Fire for a timber harvest exemption, when there's no other option than coming in with big equipment. Depends on scope of work and actions on the ground. Once a grant is obtained, there is 6 months to comply and should be no issue in Glenshire.
- Q. If we have 6 projects as Greater Glenshire, do you decide which projects are best to fund? Or is it all or nothing?
- A. Depends on applications, if Glenshire Community asked for .5M, and we are providing \$300K, which areas are most highest priority for you right now? It could go the opposite way, where we fund it all. Also depends on how many applications are received.
- Q. Has greater Glenshire made prioritizations? Dillon: We have a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the fire district basically prioritizing across our whole district. We did include some community priority areas in Glenshire, mainly open space areas. That is another big point scale on the grant is does this tie into the regional plans? These projects would.
- Q. Since many parcels are paying the \$179 annual Measure T tax, it seems like we already have an itemized budget and can total that up, and apply for that amount of money.
- A. Dillon: Need to play the game of how much do I ask for to get all money wanted? Or it can be by priorities that can be informed by Bill's plan?
- Q. Did you total it up?

A. Bill: I didn't total it up. If we applied for everything in that plan, we'll get turned down, too much money. The groups need to figure out a budgeting mechanism. We need to show a history. You're graded on everything: collaboration, a budget, past work. Sierra Bluffs and Glenshire has kept good records. To my knowledge, Cambridge and Elkhorn has not done anything yet. Their board needs to decide on an annual budget. We need to show a maintenance budget on a yearly basis. Important for all groups to get some kind of plan on paper.

- Q. What if we get funded for 60% of what we asked for? Who decides where the money goes, or do we decide as a group?

A. Dillon can be a part of the conversation looking at that big picture view. At the end of the day it is a community decision based on logistics of project. Maybe strategize on what is easier vs harder? Dillon stated he is completely removed from the application evaluation process.

A. Adrian mentioned Glenshire Association already has a 10 yr. open space fuel management plan, and all is prioritized based on Bill's plan. Every other entity that joins in on a grant application should also have their own internal discussion about priorities.

A. Paul: If we look at this holistically as all Glenshire, you have a 10 yr plan, but that 10 yr plan may become 15 because other communities now have prioritization over you. Someone has to make a decision your 1 and 2 are 1 and 2 and someone else is 3 and 4.

A. Dillon: Part of this is breaking down some of these borders. Fire doesn't care about HOA boundaries. We need to look at this as a community whether you live in Meadows or Glenshire, the actions that we as a FW community take benefit the entire community. If we take a step back and look at the map and decide to do a project on Flycasters property then we are benefiting Flycasters and everyone else.

A. Adrian: There are some common areas that are boundaries between GDRA and Cambridge, and it's one open space area. The sensible thing is for that to go together. If we are to prioritize our work in that open space area, the best thing is for when that grant goes in, it's the priority for that adjoining HOA is the one that makes sense from a practical implementation standpoint and from an effective fire protection standpoint.

If you do part of an open space and you leave all this fuel in the other, you get less value out of that part that you treated than if you do them together. As Dylan said, they need to make sense in terms of it's also more efficient in implementation to stage once you do the whole place.

A. Paul: I absolutely agree. The only thing I would say is I think the slippery slope at that point is funding. If you bring in two associations, you might be 100%, assuming you get the grant and you got the money, and the other association may not have the funds or be unwilling to do it. Hopefully that doesn't happen.

A. Adrian: These are internal discussions we need to figure out.

A. Bill: Yeah. That's just all that collaboration part. Once you've got the equipment there, you don't want to stop at the property line. You want to go on to the other property and do the same thing.

Q. Do we have the equipment resources locally?

A. Dillon: Yes, I had 14 contractors show up to a bid tour this summer. So, plenty of availability of contractors that want in on this work.

A. Dillon: And I think it's important to understand too as implementers and practitioners and as a district forester, we're not just speckling projects out in the environment, we are thinking about this from a suppression standpoint. We want to provide a operational advantage to suppression resources in the event of a fire. And if one treatment out in the middle of nowhere isn't going to achieve that, then we have got to refocus back into where we can have those kind of operational advantages for our firefighters. And that's exactly how we design and prioritize projects. It's pretty easy to justify when you're, putting a fuel break in next to 150 homes "I want to a fire truck right here behind these homes and hold the fire right here."

Q. So, can we have that assessment? I'm thinking of your your report Bill, which was impressive, I thought. If you look at all those pieces, is that something Truckee Fire could look at and say from

the whole community, if we could fix this first, that would be great because we think the fire is going to come up from the freeway, etc

A. Dillon: that's absolutely my role and Bill has 30 years of forestry experience doing exactly that for Tahoe Donner. So, I think you have a good resource and we can absolutely tap in and be a resource as well.

Q. So, maybe if we're going to have all sorts of internal discussions with different HOAs, maybe we have our own internal prioritization first, right? I represent the Meadows and I'm perfectly happy if the answer is we're only not worried about the Meadows completely aside that the higher priorities are over here then the Meadows won't worry about it for a while.

A. Dillon: Great segue if I may. I want to take this opportunity to talk about some projects that we have on the docket.

Martis Peak Projects Summary by Dillon

-If you've driven up or walked Martis Peak road, you'll see we just put in a 50ft fuel break either side of Martis Peak Road. A great benefit to the Glenshire community, Anything coming up out of the canyon, we hope we can hold on that fuel break on that road system.

-The next project that I'm currently planning and I want to start the communication that now is below the Meadows from Glenshire Drive to Hirschdale, that whole hill slope - our main egress evacuation route. I am currently planning a project about 300 acres on that entire area. It's one landowner. If we're talking about a project that would benefit the Meadows the most, it's that.

-And we're already doing that as a fire district. We're identifying these areas that we need to go in and address. and I've reached out to Scott Carino, I think, from the Meadows (*buckhorn?*). I need to have a conversation with the HOA because one of the only ways I can make this project work is if I can haul some material out private roads using the road system in the meadows as a haul route. I want to start this conversation now.

-I want to get this group here informed that it's a major project and to the untrained eye and to the lay person it's going to look like a bomb went off for a year; we're talking big equipment timber harvest plan commercial project removing half of the trees, masticating 75% of the brush. This is a type of project that when people see it, you get some pretty denigrating comments pretty quickly because it's hard to understand what the final product's going to look like.

-This is going to be a visual project that I'm sure I'm going to take a lot of heat on as people drive out there and see large equipment.

-I just want to bring it to your attention now that we're completing that project at Martis Peak Road. That was 130 acres, 50 ft either side of the road. I think it looks fantastic. That's what we want Glenshire Drive to Hirschdale to look so we're hoping to implement this project this coming summer if I can get everything together in time. This is where exactly is that project? That's Hirschdale from the Meadows Gate downhill to Hirschdale, that entire hill slope all the way to Hirschdale and down to you talking about Hirschdale that whole hill slope to the community too. I'm bringing it to you're going on the of Hirschdale Road or other side of Glenshire Drive. Yes. That open space towards Hirschdale. all the way to Hirschdale Rd. It'll be 300 acres the entire hill slope. Everything from the Meadows boundary all the way down to Hirschdale where the structures are.

I get a budget and I'm looking at these areas where do I need to go with my capacity and my resources to implement projects that benefit the community and then you all apply to us for projects that are kind of inside that community that further benefit and that's how we kind of tie all this together. I just wanted to get that out before I forgot.

-We're going to have a major project down there and some people are going to be upset. I think most people are going to be pretty happy as it's a critical evacuation route for this community and we got to get that saved.

-Comment: So when that's done, you'll have somewhat of a break the entire length of Martis road and all the artillery roads, 50 ft each side plus the road itself which is say 50 ft. It's a 120 foot break and also safe access for equipment and personnel. And then Martis Peak Road ends at that intersection with the access to the Meadows. So we're talking about that whole slope down. So basically, we'll have somewhat of a fire break for anything coming from the east over a huge distance. Dillon: Yes, 13 miles.

-No other projects now for Glenshire region. This is the big one right now for us is we're going from Glenshire to Hirschdale egress project and that's consuming a lot of my time right now because it's a very high level of review from an environmental standpoint. It's a lot of work.

Bill: that's when the forester has to start looking at the ground instead of up at the trees.

Dillon: I have to do the arc survey, and state is the lead agency, so looking at hopefully an August timeline.

More Q & A

Q: What has been done up on Royal Way/Land Trust/Airport property?

A: Dillon: We have the Glenshire Brockway fuel break which goes from the end of Royal Way. A 20 mile fuel break.

A. Dillon: We're really lucky to have Waddel Ranch and the active management that goes on there. You guys saw the smoke a couple weeks ago with some prescribed burning going on down there. So, they're finally at a stage where they're putting some ecological disturbances that good fire on the ground out there and a lot of great work happening out there.

A. Dillon: I think the Glenshire Brockway fuel break is a great feature on the map and it's done. It needs to be probably revisited in 5 years to do a retreatment. You have a fuel break going all the way to Brockway Summit. Anything coming from the airport towards Glenshire has a fuel break in front of it, then our goal is to have a fuel break in front of anything coming from the freeway or the river canyon this way.

A. Dillon: This is a Measure T funded project.

Q. Cambridge: Why would Flycasters be treated any differently than that property. It's still a surrounding property with risk that would come up and impact Glenshire. Why can't it be classified there? Because I think putting them in this group as a homeowner's association is incorrect. Or it's not identical to us. They don't have multiple properties owned under multiple entities.

A. Dillon: I understand that. I think the reason that we pushed for having Flycasters property in the Firewise community is because they are actively managing. Bob's here, he's kind of the president and they've done a lot of great work for as long as they've owned that property. The area around their structure looks great. There's a piece that they need to address and that was kind of part of it was to bring those because geographically it made sense, maybe not in the sense that you're talking about, but from a wildfire protection standpoint, including that group into this community, I think brings a lot to the table that brings some funding. They're active managers in that they're going to manage their land appropriately. They have been for a long time. And I think again breaking down those borders from a fire perspective what they do influences the safety and the protection of Glenshire. And so that's why we kind of argued to have fly casters be part of this firewise community.

A. Flycasters: I think what you just said was why aren't we being treated like the big landowner? If we were, then we wouldn't be contributing money. We wouldn't be active. We would basically be depending on measure T money to provide fire mitigation. But we are trying to be active and we spend thousands of dollars every year to remove fuel and we'd like to continue to do that. As an

organization, we would like to be part of this group rather than depend on a designation that measure T should cover us completely.

Various Discussions

- Discussion occurred around a fuels break project on Flycaster's property.
- Discussion occurred about communities collaborating on projects, i.e. GDRA/Cambridge/Elkhorn and Sierra Bluffs/Flycasters.
- It was discussed that Truckee Fire would likely be reaching to the Land Trust re: work on their properties.
- It was discussed that all communities would meet before our next Firewise Committee meeting to create a draft 10 year Fuels Management plan.
- Lori will update the draft GDRA 10 year Fuels Management plan with Bill, then send to all of the communities so they can use the same template.
- The communities agreed on retaining the current Firewise name: "The Greater Glenshire Firewise Community".
- Further discussion occurred, including many side conversations; therefore, detailed minutes minutes.

Revised MOU: It was agreed that GDRA will work on a modified version of the existing.

Adjournment: 7:07pm