

Tuolumne County FireSafe Council

March 24, 2026, Meeting Minutes

14993 Camage Ave

Sonora, California 95370

Present: Officers: Caldwell, Sanchez, Sloan. Directors: Carlen, Milani, Sloan, McGowan. ED Alt

Vistors present:

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

*President Caldwell opened the meeting at 9:14 AM and requested introductions.

*On 3/17, Karen attended the Climate and Wildfire Institute 2026 Annual Convening in Jamestown. Sponsored by Western Fire and Forest Resilience Collaborative, to unite fire experts, Tribal leaders, policymakers, researchers, and industry partners to accelerate wildfire solutions.

*On 3/19, Karen, Christal Aceves, Chuck Sloan, Eileen Carlen, and Stephen Johnson attended the Sierra Nevada Task Force Regional Meeting at the Chicken Ranch Casino Resort in Tuolumne County. This was a two-day conference that included California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. The conference was well attended, with nearly 500 registered in person and over 300 attending online. Karen states that UC Davis is developing solutions to the growing wildfire threats facing our communities. More people are complying due to awareness education, marketing, branding, and the Living with Fire Program.

*President Karen requested that AI and Chrystal maintain a Decision Log for the TCFSC.

*Living With Fire Series was successful with great reviews. Three sessions over two weeks that focused on 1, Fire Risk – How did we get here? What now? And how did we get here? 2, Reducing Risk and Building Resilience. 3, Community Prevention and Individual Responsibility. Gratitude was expressed for the volunteer work by Chrystal Aceves, Chuck Sloan, Eileen Carlen, Robin King, and Stephen Johnson. The TCFSC needs to have better representation in educational forums at these events.

* We received a small (amount?) Fuel reduction grant for Firewise communities.

Treasurers Report

Chrystal will provide the Treasurers report. Wells Fargo account currently stands at \$326,900.31. There are outstanding checks of \$123,011.79. Checking will have a remaining balance of \$203,888.52 and savings has a balance of \$135,308.85.

Executive Director's Report

* Albert Alt provided the meeting with a written status of projects as follows: 175- Big Hill Fuel Maintenance, 176- Summerville High Fuel Reduction, 177- Fire Wise Communities, 180- Groveland Area Maintenance, 182- Dragoon Gulch, 183- Kewin Mill Belleview, and 184- Tuolumne Area Project.

* ED Alt expressed concern about high treatment cost per acre for Defensible Space and suggested he would investigate lower-cost options/proposals.

* ED Alt reported the County was applying for the County Coordinator Grant through California Fire Safe Council and our council had been invited to participate in the process with the County.

* After months of work and review by the ED and BOD, Al presented the final draft of the policies to be adopted by the board.

Motion:

Director Sloan moved to approve the minutes of the 2/24 FSC meeting, Director Carlen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Director Chuck Sloan moved to adopt the policies as presented by Al Alt. Eileen Carlen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

* Al Alt presented the final draft of the Treasurer's Role and Responsibilities.

Motion:

President Karen moved to adopt the Treasurer's Role and Responsibilities as presented by ED Alt, Director Carlen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Motion:

Director Sanchez moved to allow Jerry McGown to continue as a board member and project manager for as long as he remains on the TCFSC Board. Future board members will not be allowed to serve as project managers and a board member simultaneously. Director Milani seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

* Meeting guest Jamie Wolfe expressed interest in becoming a project manager for the FSC. She stated she has management experience, design work, passion, and motivation! The board expressed interest, and President Karen offered to discuss this further.

Members and Guests present

Albert Alt, Alec Lane, Chrystal Aceves, Chuck Sloan, Eileen Carlen, Frank Lewicki, Gary Sanchez, Jamie Wolfe, Jerry Usery, Jeff Cox, Joe Milianni, Karen Caldwell, Nate?, Roger Peterson. Two guys came and left early, and I don't have their names.

Board Members Present: Chrystal Aceves, Chuck Sloan, Eileen Carlen, Gary Sanchez, Joe Milianni, and Karen Caldwell.

Adjournment 1:04 PM