

**Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition Meeting Notes
Pueblo of Tesuque Administration Building
March 22, 2018**

Meeting Notes

Ryan Swazo-Hinds called the meeting to order and led introductions.

In attendance:

Carmen Austin (NMSF-Las Vegas)	Sarah Hyden
Alan Barton (NM FWRI)	Jan-Willem Jansens (Ecotone)
Rita Bates (NMED - AQB)	Sandra Jaquez (USFS)
Anne Bradley (TNC)	Carol Johnson (NMWA)
Steve Bassett (TNC)	Erik Litzenberg (SFFD)
Hannah Bergemann (SFNF)	Ellis Margolis (USGS)
Brent Bonwell (SFFTS)	Luke McLarty (USFS)
Anne Bradley (TNC)	Rachel Meier (TNC)
Melvyn Danny Burton (SFNF)	Sarah Noss (Santa Fe Conservation Trust)
Esmé Cadiente (FSG)	Andy Otto (SFWA)
Isaac Cadiente (NMDGF)	Mar Reddy-Hjelmfelt (The Red Elm)
Andy Carey (Aspen CRM)	Susan Rich (NMSF - FWFO)
Eric Castillo (Sen. Heinrich's office)	Teresa Seamster (Sierra Club)
Porfirio Chavarria (SFFD)	Marcus Selig (NFF)
Andrew Frederick (NMSF)	Cathie Sullivan
Todd Haines (NMSF - Bernalillo)	Ryan Swazo-Hinds (Pueblo of Tesuque)
Alan Hook (City of Santa Fe Water Division)	Mark Watson (NMDGF)
Sandy Hurlocker (USFS – Espanola RD)	

Guest Presenter

Canada de los Alamos resident Sarah Hyden expressed concerns about an EQIP project implemented on a property next door to her home. Sarah provided a handout with [recommendations](#) and a [list of online references](#). Sarah described her concerns about assumptions made for the Santa Fe National Forest's Travel Management Plan and, by extension, for environmental reviews conducted for work in the Fireshed. She said she hopes for a new level of understanding even with very different perspectives.

Attendees thanked Sarah, encouraged members to read the referenced papers, and stated that Sarah's recommendations looked reasonable and for the most part do-able.

Action Item Updates

FAQs – Esmé Cadiente reported that the [FAQs](#) are nearly complete and will be posted soon.

Outreach - Esmé reported on a variety outreach events and media including:

- 2018 Seminar Series at REI. Upcoming topics include understanding NEPA, smoke impacts and mitigation, post-fire flooding.
- Publication of first of 8 Briefing Papers to be posted on website under the "Resources" tab
- Blogposts - Esmé will be asking partners to submit posts
- Scheduling mini-seminars or field exchanges in local communities

Risk Assessment Story Map - Esmé reported Sam Berry is drafting the story map.

Monitoring Team – Hannah Bergemann distributed [meeting notes](#) and reported on work of the monitoring team. The Santa Fe National Forest is developing monitoring plans for two Fireshed projects and is opening a dialogue with Rocky Mountain Research Station to work with our group.

Post-Fire Recovery Task Team – Porfirio Chavarria and Anne Bradley briefed the group on the purpose of the Task Team - to enable the Coalition to serve as a local knowledge resource for residents seeking information on who to call and what kinds of issues they can address during both fire and post-fire events. The plan will be a pilot product that can be shared beyond GSFFC.

Tesuque Village Meeting – Ryan Swazo-Hinds and Alan Barton reported the January 23rd meeting was one of the best-attended and most engaged events to date. GSFFC worked with local partners on organizing, planning and intensive, multi-pronged outreach. Alan reported that there were people outside protesting the meeting; Eytan invited them in but they declined. Members offered input:

- Mar asked that we get releases or find another way to legally post recordings of future meetings.
- Teresa indicated interest in a meeting for the 285 Community Alliance; Esmé will help coordinate.
- Ryan got a request from Acequia del Medio. Porfirio will visit during annual ditch cleaning.
- Esmé noted the website's Events page has a form for people to request meetings or field trips.
- Alan B. raised idea of having ready-made kits with displays for local events. Mar will help with photo-sharing websites.
- Other suggestions: post information on how to request getting a professional assessment done and where to find financial and technical assistance. (Note: these have been added to [Resources](#) menu)

NEPA Steering Committee – Hannah reported the topic of the first meeting was a “NEPA 101.” Two more meetings are scheduled 04/13 and 04/26. SFNF hopes to have a strategy document and proposed action by the end of April. Members noted that USFS is holding ‘Regional Roundtables’ nationwide on the topic of Environmental Analysis Decision Making to help them identify ways to streamline processes.

Outreach to local government officials – Porfirio reported that the new mayor has an active interest in wildfire. There are also 3 new councilors. Porfirio has been speaking to groups and city is airing PSAs. He, Eytan and Alan have informally provided background information to individuals, but no meetings are planned yet. Patricia Dominguez and Eric Castillo volunteered to help with that when the time comes. Discussion ensued about reaching out to Washington officials as well.

Task Team Reports

Communications Task Team

Alan thanked all who helped develop logo. Alan described updates made to the following sections in the [Operating Principles](#): chair elections, manager position, participant levels, voting representatives, process for outside observer participation in meetings. Members approved all changes.

Implementation Task Team

Todd Haines distributed and reviewed data from the [project status spreadsheet](#). Members added information regarding the status of individual projects:

- Susan Rich reported that Santa Fe-Pojoaque SWCD has a list of landowner applicants and is advertising for contractors for both NFL and LSR project.

- Sandy Hurlocker reported the [decision memo](#) was signed for Hyde Park Project. The decision is not appealable and not open for objection. There will be a combination of treatments, including mechanical thinning (hand crews) followed by broadcast burning in both thinned and untreated blocks. SFNF put in a contract request for first 300 acres. This is a priority for the Region, but implementation is held up by delay in getting a FS budget.
- The Pacheco Canyon Project is moving through biological and archaeological assessments. A decision is expected soon. The main business for this coming year will be fireline prep and burning.
- Todd reported that Notice to Proceed was granted for the Aztec Springs 2 Project. Parties are meeting to work out kinks on the Aztec Springs 3 Project. Funds are available once it gets through Legal and City Finance Council.
- Sandy reported that SFNF, Carson NF, City and Los Alamos FDs conducted a collaborative burn on 755 acres in the municipal watershed two weeks ago. Spring burns are good for ventilation and air quality but require more firefighter time and effort than autumn burns. Rita Bates confirmed NMED received no complaints about smoke.
- Alan Hook pointed out that the SFNF has treated more than 5,000 acres in watershed with Rx so far.
- Jan-Willem Jansens reported the County has plans for fuel treatments on 50+/- acres in Tesuque Open Space and several hundred acres on Atalaya Hill.

Landscape Resilience Strategy Task Team

Anne Bradley reported that the Task Team will resume working on the Resilience Strategy using results from the recently completed [Risk Assessment](#). Steve Bassett has a limited number of hard copies of the Assessment. He will post it on the website and share the link via the meeting notes. The key finding is that wildfire risk is extremely high with high potential for negative impacts to homes, watersheds, infrastructure and recreation areas. Steve offered to help partners with using stacked values-at-risk for planning projects or drafting planning documents.

New Business

Santa Fe National Forest Conservation Finance Initiative – Marcus Selig, Vice President of Field Programs for the National Forest Foundation, commended the Coalition for covering all aspects of collaborative actions. Marcus spoke about conservation financing as another way to fund these efforts. NFF is working with USFS and folks in the private equity sector who are looking at this area as one of two “high capacity” forests for piloting creative financing options for getting more conservation done on the ground.

Updates from partners

Sara Noss reported that the Santa Fe Conservation Trust is interested in establishing a buffer to protect the municipal watershed. Some private landowners on the east and north sides of the forest would like to create a block of treatments with assistance or support from the GSFFC. Jan-Willem Jansens said the City also wants to work there and suggested looking into doing one joint assessment across a thousand+ acres. He will send a map to NMSF and SFNF to start the discussion.

Esmé announced that FSG is hiring trainers for its Conservation Youth Crew for the summer. If candidates have FF2 qualifications, the position could be extended into autumn.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 12, 2018, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Pueblo of Tesuque Administration Building, Tribal Council Chambers.