



WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM (PST)

Location: California Department of Technology
Training and Education Center
10860 Gold Center Drive, Suite 100
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Members Present

Ilkay Altintas
Ronald Eguchi
Scott Gregory – Chair
Kendal Jarvis
Andreas “AJ” Johansson
Ashish Kakkad
Justin King (Virtual Attendance)

Members Absent

None

Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development Staff Present

Marcus Hernandez
Jose Gutierrez
Vivian Gerlach
Colin Bradley
Murtaza Rezaii

1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gregory at 1:00 PM.

A. Welcome

Chairperson Gregory made brief introductory remarks welcoming Board Members to the Advisory Board’s first meeting.

B. ROLL CALL/Determine Quorum

Roll call was held by Board Clerk Gutierrez, and a quorum was declared at 1:05 PM.

C. Posting of the Agenda

Board Clerk Gutierrez stated that the Agenda was posted in accordance with Government Code Section 11125, with the 10-day advanced public notice period.

D. Meeting Information Announcement

Board Clerk Gutierrez read the Meeting Information Announcement that covers silencing devices, webcasting via Zoom, instructions for virtual attendees, and the order and conduct for public comment.

E. Welcome Advisory Board Members

Chairperson Gregory facilitated a round of introductions of Advisory Board Members. Each Member provided a brief overview of their background related to the Advisory Board.

2) AGENDA AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES

Chairperson Gregory asked if there were amendments or changes to the Agenda. No changes were requested.

3) APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Gregory asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. A Motion was made by Member Johansson, seconded by Member Altintas. The Motion was approved.

4) NEW BUSINESS

4(a) OVERVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Chief Hernandez provided an overview of the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development, including the passage of CA Senate Bill 109 in the 2020-2021 legislative session and the addition of CA Government Code Section 8586.8, which formed the Office and Advisory Board. In addition to Office formation, the presentation included areas of focus.

Members had questions related to how the Office works with end users, the community benefits of the Office and Board, and how the Office focuses on wildfire prevention and response.

The Office works with end users to understand needs via mixed approaches of meetings, conferences, email, surveys, and collaboration with external partners, including the US Forest Service (USFS), Local Government Agencies, NASA, and others. The Office also

looks at the entire picture from prevention to recovery and maintains an awareness of a variety of CAL FIRE and other state and local programs. The Office focuses on gaps in the industry that are underserved by other programs or agencies. The Office considers the needs of the wildfire community, taking a holistic view of the needs of fire agencies and local communities.

4(b) THE OFFICE OF WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - ANNUAL REPORT

Chief Hernandez provided an update on the Annual Report, including the requirement for creation in CA Government Code 8586.8, formation of the office, areas of focus, a description of what the office is and is not, and the current status of in review by the CA Natural Resources Agency, with an expected publication date in January 2024, and the report will be distributed to Board Members once it is released to the Legislature and Governor. There were no follow-up questions from Members.

4(c) 2024 WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

Chief Hernandez proposed the following tentative dates for quarterly meetings in 2024: Wednesday, February 28th, Wednesday, May 15th, Wednesday, August 14th, and Wednesday, November 13th.

Staff will coordinate with Board members for 2024 meetings and post meeting dates and locations on the Advisory Board website when meeting details are confirmed. There were no questions or concerns from Members.

5) PUBLIC COMMENT

One online public comment was received from Paula Uniake of DBL Partners, a Venture Capital Company engaged in the Wildfire Technology industry, speaking in support of the Office and the Advisory Board.

6) AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Chairperson Gregory led a discussion among Members related to topics of interest to them and possible topics for future Advisory Board meetings.

Member Kakkad discussed that various IoT devices and sensors are being integrated into fire technology; however, there is no identified standard for the various devices. Examples of technology standards included Matter (smart home devices), WiFi, etc. It was discussed that there was a need for a technology standard so that various devices could work together with greater interoperability and increased efficiency.

Members Eguchi and Altintas expressed interest in knowing more about the scalability of emerging technology solutions from the neighborhood, community, and region perspective And what role the Advisory Board may play in identifying strategies to prioritize which technologies could help in this regard.

Member Johansson expressed interest in the topic of data transparency to the public, specifically, what data is sensitive and what is not.

Member Jarvis also expressed an interest in efficiently assessing property damage caused by fires. Data and access to it are lacking in communities as incidents are occurring. Members noted that conveying situation data on the ground with the public is very important.

Member Jarvis also expressed interest in how the Board might consider pre-qualifications or standards surrounding the technologies presented to the Advisory Board. The Chair noted that current work is focused on the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Our level of comprehension is to convey information on the ground.

Member Altintas expressed interest in technology equity and the process of identifying technology to make useful decisions. And developing a strategy for prioritizing what technology the Advisory Board is interested in.

Chairperson Gregory noted that the Advisory Board will consider electing a Vice-Chair at the next meeting. Chairperson Gregory was also interested in learning more about the ALERTCalifornia network of cameras and the integration of Artificial Intelligence into the system in 2023.

7) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Eguchi mentioned the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Conference occurring at the same time (December 11- 15, 2023) in San Francisco, CA. There are some presentations on wildfire, and awareness of those could benefit the Advisory Board.

8) MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Gregory asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Member Kakkad and seconded by Member Jarvis. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM PST.