

The Network Advisory Board Holds Its First Meeting

The first meeting of The Network's Advisory Board was held on January 29, 2015 at the Bartley Ranch Regional Park facility in Reno. All Board members were present for this meeting and participated in person or via telephone. Elwood Miller, The Network Coordinator opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their willingness to serve on the Board and assisting in advancing the mission of The Network.

Ed Smith provided the Board with the history of the Network's formation and background information regarding current membership, funding and staff support. He pointed out that staff support currently accumulates to the equivalent of one full-time person and is totally dependent on grant funds that end December 31, 2015.

Mr. Steve Lewis, Extension Educator for Douglas County, facilitated a lively and very productive "Strategic Doing" session focused on creating a vision for a Fire Adapted Community. Creatively consolidating and merging a flurry of thoughts and ideas, Steve helped the group refine their vision into the following five elements or characteristics:

1. The presence of effective partnerships
2. Strong, effective community leadership
3. An educated and organized community of people
4. Fully informed residents taking action
5. Enforcement of sensible, practical codes, rules, and regulations

The identification of these critically important vision elements was followed by a discussion of methodologies to measure progress toward their achievement. Action items were then identified with each Board member volunteering to begin working on one or more of the items listed.



During lunch each board member was furnished with examples of proposed logos for The Network and asked to express their preference. The logo with the greatest support is shown here and will appear on all future Network related publications and correspondence.

As final notes, Fire Chief Mike Brown, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, informed the Board that the former Fire Chief in Ventura County California, Mr. Bob Roper has recently been named as Nevada's next State Forester/Fire Warden. Chief Brown's suggestion that Mr. Roper be invited to the Board's next meeting to be held on March 23, 2015 was enthusiastically

endorsed by the Board. Sara Anderson, Nevada Landscape Association also remarked that the continuing concern about Nevada's worsening drought provides an excellent opening for intensified public education on the threat of wildfire.

As a follow-up, Ann Grant representing the Lake Tahoe Basin remarked that the Board meeting was one of the best strategic planning and thinking meetings she has ever attended.