



**FIRE Safe Marin**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**Friday, 11, January 2008**

**Attendance:**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Lynne Osgood   | FSM Coordinator                        |
| Scott Alber    | MCFD/FSM President                     |
| Kent Julin     | MCFD/FSM Vice President                |
| Eva DeNegri    | Sheriff OES/FSM Secretary              |
| Pete Martin    | FSM Treasurer                          |
| Brian Sanford  | Marin County Open Space District       |
| Mike Meszaros  | Inverness Public Utility District/Fire |
| Dan Kida       | PG&E                                   |
| Casey May      | Marin Municipal Water District         |
| Bradley Mark   | San Rafael Fire                        |
| Amy Blakeney   | Guest                                  |
| Roger Wong     | NPS-GGRA/PRNS                          |
| Gary Miltimore | Marin Conservation Corps               |
| Paul Smith     | Kentfield Fire                         |
| Brad Beedle    | Novato Fire Board                      |
| Roger Meagor   | Ross Valley Fire                       |
| Roger Sprehn   | Corte Madera Fire                      |
| Matt Carbone   | Dominican/Black Canyon Neighborhood    |

- 1. Call to order:** 0907 hours by President Scott Alber in the upstairs conference room at 555 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, California 94903.
- 2. Agenda reviewed and approved as submitted with no changes.**  
(May/Meagor)
- 3. Minutes of December 14, 2007 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted with the following change.**  
To page one (Call to Order) change description of what Jack Blakemore is doing for the Grand Jury; he is researching a vegetation management issue for the Grand Jury. (Martin/Julin)
- 4. Treasurer's Report – Approve 2008 Budget**  
FSM has only \$26,031 in equity and \$12,000 in liability. We have not yet paid the Coordinator fees (Lynne's position). The \$10,000 from Hal Brown has not yet arrived. In the Check Details, the check for \$20,000 for California Video Productions is only a "pass through." From this amount FSM will receive \$5,000 back as the county is paying for DVDs. The check

to “MCF Property Holdings” is the office rent. The check to “Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership” is the member fee.

**Checks were reviewed and filed for audit.**

**2008 Budget Discussion:** The council reviewed the proposed 2008 Budget for the purposes of finalizing it and approving it. Highlights of the discussion include:

- US Homeland Security grant for \$77,000 has not yet been approved. This amount will help support many different projects including FSM outreach, Fire Squirts, the video production, a few chipper days and some of the salary for the FSM Coordinator. Income from Homeland Security is not 100% guaranteed.
- Matt Carbone suggested we “put the fear of God” in the county supervisors. We need to focus more time on getting funding.
- Group agreed to change line item “Local Funding” under the Income section of the budget as follows: change number from \$77,000 to \$50,000 just to be safe (we are not guaranteed money from Homeland Security).
- Matt brought up the idea of asking the FSM Council members if they could donate money to FSM as a type of membership dues. We need to investigate whether the fire agencies, for example, could pay dues to FSM.
- Group agreed to change line item “Chipper Days” under the Expenses section of the budget as follows: change number from \$1,000 to **\$10,000**.
- Group agreed to change line item “Community Outreach” from \$1,000 to **\$5,000**. Community outreach includes brochures, publishing and shows.
- Group agreed to change line item “Miscellaneous Expense” from \$500 to **\$650**.
- Discussion regarding changing the description of the line item “Coordinator” in the Expenses budget. Concern is that people will see this just as a coordinator position and not as the person doing all the work of outreach, public education, etc. For example, we could break down the description into “administrative” and “community outreach.” First we need to speak with our accountant about the rules of how you describe items in a budget.
- Group agreed to keep for now the \$50,000 budgeted for the Coordinator line item.

The proposed 2008 FSM budget was reviewed and approved with the changes noted above by the Council. (Martin/Smith)

## **BREAK 0950 to 1000 hours.**

### **5. Vote and approve Board of Directors for 2008**

There can be a maximum of sixteen board members. Matt Carbone agreed to be Treasurer for 2008 with Pete Martin available to step in when Matt is not available. Roger Wong said that he must first seek approval to be on the Board. FSM will take him off the list for the time being but revisit

it. We are going into this election with three vacancies: Emily Johnson, Mary Ellen Irwin and Alex Naar. A motion was presented and passed (Sprehn/Martin) to approve the following members for 2008:

### **2008 FSM Executive Committee**

President – Kent Julin  
Vice President – Dan Kida  
Treasurer – Matt Carbone  
Secretary – Eva Denegri

### **2008 Board Members (Term Expires Jan 2010)**

1. Scott Alber
2. Matthew Carbone
3. Eva Denegri
4. Kent Julin
5. Brian Sanford
6. Peter Martin
7. Casey May
8. Gary Miltimore

### **2008 Board Members (Term Expires Jan 2009)**

9. Roger Meagor (Jan 2009)
10. Michael Meszaros (Jan 2009)
11. Dan Kida (Jan 2009)
12. Paul Smith (Jan 2009)
13. Roger Sprehn (Jan 2009)

### **2008 Vacancies**

14. Vacant (formerly NPS)
15. Vacant (formerly Marinwood homeowner)
16. Vacant (formerly San Rafael fire commissioner)

## **6. Once Around the Table.**

- a. **Kent Julin.** Referred to the proposed sales tax measure for the November 2008 ballot to fund countywide fire and open space projects. Kent said that it is in our best interest that this measure be passed. The county is forming an expenditure committee to solicit input from homeowners and others. Kent asked that someone represent FIRESafe Marin at two meetings; Pete Martin agreed to help.

Kent also wants to get the FSM DVDs distributed to everyone. He asked that FSM members take some today from the room for free and distribute to colleagues and community members at public meetings. Kent has fifty boxes in his office. They normally cost \$14.95 per DVD

with a bulk discount. For fire departments and county departments, they cost \$5.00 per DVD.

- b. **Casey May.** As part of the update of MMWD's vegetation management plan, the first of a series of public meetings will be held in Fairfax on January 23. Casey will distribute FSM DVDs at the meeting. **See attached flyer announcing January 23 meeting.**
- c. **Pete Martin.** He knows that Lynne Woolsey just received funds for sudden oak death. He wonders if FSM can get some of this money. Pete also expressed an interest in working on FSM fundraising. Kent swiftly made Pete the new Chair of the *Fund Development Committee!* Brad Beedle expressed interest in helping out, too.
- d. **Gary Miltimore.** Referred to the AmeriCorps program, "Corp Respond." Gary offered to the FSM members the use of his volunteers to help with any outreach projects or mitigation activities. They can do physical labor and a whole lot more. For example, fire and flood response, chipper days work, etc.
- e. **Brian Sanford.** Open Space has started burning three hundred piles in Cascade Canyon. They are also doing maintenance on Bald Hill.
- f. **Roger Wong.** Roger is the fire management officer for NPS. They are removing log decks in Tennessee Valley. The California Fire Alliance grants should be out soon.
- g. **Amy Blakeney.** Marin realtor, Amy Blakeney, Introduced herself to the council. She is a realtor who has dedicated her free time to eucalyptus and vegetation management. She has been talking to local governments such as San Rafael about developing plans to eradicate eucalyptus and working these plans into their vegetation management programs. She believes in starting on a small level, for example "trees less than ten inches in diameter." She would also like to come up with a maintenance plan. She came to FSM to ask that we do whatever we can to motivate our cities and towns to remove as much eucalyptus as possible to lower the risk of fire. Kent Julin encouraged Ms. Blakeney to come to our meetings and engage our stakeholders. **Dan Kida** added that eucalyptus, especially young eucalyptus, is the #1 tree targeted by PG&E. To remove them PG&E must obtain permission from the cities and towns. Dan will speak to Ms. Blakeney after the meeting. **See attached document, "Eucalyptus Management Plan."**
- h. **Bradley Mark.** As part of San Rafael's three year vegetation management program, Brad has completed door to door inspections. The first wave of law enforcement has been completed, and sixty "notices and orders" will be going out, which will stir the public. San Rafael contracted again with Open Space and the Marin Conservation Corps for clearing areas which touch the open space. Brad asked about chipper days funding. Matt Carbone feels that FSM should use our limited funding to help those neighborhoods who cannot afford chipper days. Brad Mark agreed to let FSM know if any such group is in need.
- i. **Roger Meagor.** Ross Valley Fire is currently advertising for a non-safety fire inspector (entry level). This is not a fire marshal position. He

- j. **Paul Smith.** District 4 has approved ordinances for fire code and WUI code. Paul and Lynne will attend the Kentfield POA meeting on February 6 and do a presentation on defensible space.
- k. **Dan Kida.** Referring to the January 5 wind storm event, Dan expressed appreciation to the fire folks for standing by to help PG&E. There were many near misses.
- l. **Mike Meszaros.** He is doing a survey of West Marin's WUI projects for the last several years with an eye towards maintenance of these projects. He also read in the paper that the State budget cuts may close Tomales Bay State Park.

**7. Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1056 hours.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Eva A. DeNegri*

Eva A. DeNegri  
Secretary, FIRESafe Marin