

FireSafe Marin Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2006

Call to Order: 9:15 a.m. by President Julin

Roll:

Alex Naar	NPS-GGNRA
Mike Meszaros	Inverness PUD
Mary Ellen Irwin	SRFD
Scott Alber	MCFD/FireSafe Marin
Kent Julin	MCFD/FireSafe Marin
Roger Sprehn	CMFD
Lynne Osgood	FireSafe Marin
Lori Jessell	Novato FD
Paul Smith	Kentfield FD
Eva DeNegri	MCSO/OES/FireSafe Marin
Roger Wong	NPS-Pt. Reyes
Pete Martin	Retired Fire
Chris Bramham	MCOSD
Matt Carbone	FireSafe Marin
Casey May	MMWD
Roger Archey	FireWise Napa
Jeff Davidson	MVFD
Emily Johnson	MWFD

Approval of Agenda: M/S Mary Ellen Irwin/Pete Martin. Agenda approved.

Approval of December 9, 2005 Minutes: M/S Roger Sprehn/Matt Carbone. It was pointed out that there were two minor mistakes to minutes. **Minutes approved as amended.**

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Matt Carbone passed out the proposed 2006 budget sheet and balance sheet. Matt indicated that the balance sheet looks great as receivables and payables almost balance each other. There was a "strong finish" to the 2005 year in which FSM actually made money. This was due in part to the grants which came through at the end of the year. In a discussion of the income sheet FSM had a net gain last year. However, we did not do a Model Home project last year and did not spend the amount allocated for senior assistance or chipper days projects. Matt feels we were "a bit remiss in fulfilling our mission." But, we made the correct decisions fiscally. Matt made special mention of Lynne Osgood and our Accountant, Liz, for their participation in the financial process. "This is a quantum leap from ten years ago. They have made the system work perfectly so we do not have to waste

too much time.” For 2006 Matt recommends that we work on increasing our revenue because we need to return to our education mission.

- The 2006 budget was discussed as follows:
 1. FSM has an expectation of \$36K coming in this year from grants; this is not much considering that in 2005 there was over \$60K. We need to budget \$10K for new projects. Lynne has written another homeland security grant for \$25K. There is a definite need to write additional grants this year. Therefore, it is prudent to expect additional revenue of \$10K to 20K to the \$36K amount plus \$25K in Homeland Security money to make a total of \$58K to \$76K in revenue.
 2. The Board decided not to increase community outreach budget (e.g., tradeshows).
 3. They chose to increase the budget by \$1,000 to the Senior Assistance project. Lynne has identified a Tam Valley senior citizen. Mike Meszaros indicated that West Marin seniors may put in a request as well.
 4. M/S Casey May/Mary Ellen Irwin. **Motion passed to approve the 2006 budget.**
- 2006 Outreach projects:
 1. **Chipper Days.** Matt would like to see us promoting a couple new Chipper Days. Last year we fulfilled only half the requested amounts. Chief Paul Smith returned \$500 to FSM for unused Chipper Days funding. Chief Roger Sprehn reminded the Board that last year FSM promised Corte Madera Fire the other half of their Chipper Day request of \$1,250. **M/S Scott Albers/Matt Carbone. Motion approved to fund Corte Madera Chipper Days project for \$1,250.** For future chipper days, Matt Carbone suggested that Board limit funding to \$1,000 for each project.
 2. **Model Home.** Did not do a Model Home last year. Members agreed that the Model Home should remain in the budget for 2006, but we need to select a very visible site (e.g., Marin View, Tiburon Blvd., and Blithedale). Chris Bramham suggested we offer an award program for homes which need clearing; homeowners can submit application with photo of house to FireSafe Marin; the winner would get up to \$5,000 in landscaping. Kent asked for committee to help Lynne launch this Model Home project (committee to give report at the April 06 meeting). Chris Brahman and Emily Johnson volunteered. Chris and Emily will draft the press release for the Marin IJ (to be publicized after the April 06 meeting) and be the point persons for collecting applications. Also advertised in the IJ will be Before and After photos of the selected home. FireWise Napa member Roger Archey told FSM of a similar project in Napa that was successful from a publicity standpoint. He offered to meet with the committee to offer suggestions. He also may be willing to share in the \$5,000 prize.
 3. **Fundraising Letter to Local Businesses.** There was discussion surrounding the fundraising letter campaign begun last year with a letter still in draft form. Matt Carbone suggested that a committee be formed to get the letter finalized and then follow up with the local businesses. Follow up can be on the telephone with the medium sized companies;

with larger companies such as Fireman's Fund and Autodesk, an in person follow up is appropriate. The Committee formed will last through the summer and includes Matt Carbone, Kent Julin, Pete Martin and Paul Smith. Note that Chief Smith has offered to help on the businesses end but has no time for any follow-up.

2006 Board Member Elections:

- **Proposed 2006 Executive Committee:** President Kent Julin, Vice President Scott Alber; Treasurer Matt Carbone, and Madam Secretary Eva DeNegri.
- **Board Members with Term Expiring January 2008:** Scott Alber, Greg Hollquist, Kent Julin, Peter Marin, Casey May, Alex Naar and Eva DeNegri.
- **Board Members with Term Expiring January 2007:** Mary Ellen Irwin, Roger Sprehn, Chris Bramham, Matthew Carbone and Michael Meszaros.
- **New Board Members with Term Expiring January 2007:** Roger Meagor, Paul Smith and Emily Johnson.
- **M/S Mary Ellen Irwin/Matt Carbone. Motion was passed to elect new board members, to reinstate those whose term expires January 2006, and members whose term expires January 2007.**
- **M/S Pete Martin/Alex Naar. Motion was passed to approve the Executive Committee as indicated above.**

Presentation on Goals and Projects Completed in 2005: Lynne Osgood gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board of the many projects FireSafe Marin contributed to in 2005, including but not limited to the following: Fuel breaks on Corte Madera and Blithedale Ridges; Monterey Pine removal (89 acres); 3,000 feet cleared on Worn Springs Road; distribution of literature, "Living in the Urban Wild Land Interface"; press coverage in the Marin IJ, Bay nature Magazine ("Out of Flames") and MCSWPP Calendars; Chipper Days in Corte Madera and Novato; donations to the Novato Fire Squirts and Emergency Exit Signs. The Board thanked Lynne for this presentation and suggested she put it up on the FSM website. Also suggested was sending the PPE to the FSM donors as a thank you.

Road Side Signs: Kent Julin showed the Board samples of Road Side signs that were based on initial feedback at the last meeting. The group voted to keep the Red Flag Day as part of the sign so that if flipped open it shows that a red flag warning. When closed, it shows FireSafe Marin with website. There was discussion of how the signs would be paid for. They were produced the last time by Davis Sign Company. Pete Martin offered to ask the Lion's Club to pay for it once again.

Concept Papers for California Fire Alliance: Kent and Lynne will submit seven (7) concept papers to the California Fire Alliance for seven projects by the February 3, 2006 deadline. These are WUI grant proposals for which the Alliance is acting as a clearing house. Last year we missed the deadline.

FireSafe Marin Relocation: On January 21, 2006 FireSafe will relocate to 555 Northgate Drive across from Sears. Lynne will be sending out notices. The February 2006 meeting will be held there. The rent is more but the place is much nicer.

Once Around the Table:

Lynne Osgood	The Audit for 2004 is complete. Board members need to review.
Chris Bramham Pete Martin	MCOSD has a new director. Handed out copies of FireSafe Sonoma's brochure, "Living with Fire in Sonoma County." It can be downloaded from the website.
Emily Johnson	Marinwood suffered major damage in the New Year's Eve Storm.
Lori Jessell	Lori will not be serving on the FSM Board; however, she will continue to come to the meetings. She has taken over all of Bill Tyler's projects. She met with Oakland Fire yesterday about their grants with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for senior vegetation projects.
Scott Alber	Two MCFD retirements: Frank Near, Senior Captain at Throckmorton and Ed Mestre, Battalion Chief.
Alex Naar	A few GGNRA fire roads are out of commission right now due to five major slides.
Jeff Davidson	Mill Valley City Manager announced retirement. The community will be asked to re-vote on a 125K per year municipal service tax, which is coming due. The fire department will be expanding their vegetation program.
Eva DeNegri	In response to the New Year's Storm Event, the County activated its Emergency Operations Center on December 31 and a Recovery Operations Center for two weeks following. They were staffed by employees of the County with Matthew Hymel as the Director. A public hotline was staffed during the recovery effort; this was the first of its kind. Currently OES is waiting for a Presidential Declaration so that Marin's towns/cities and special districts can recover financially from the storm as well as homeowners, renters and businesses.
Mike Meszaros	Mike spoke of the completion of a WUI project at Shallow Beach.
Roger Archey	Roger sits on the Board of FireWise Napa and is looking for collaboration on projects. He suggests the possibility of tri-county advertising, for example. Perhaps we could collaborate for chipper days projects. Napa has some funds that Marin FireSafe does not have. Mid summer FireWise will be holding another training course for defensible space inspectors and landscapers.

Adjournment: M/S to adjourn by Chris Bramham/Matt Carbone at 11:05. Motion approved.