



**FIRE Safe Marin**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**Friday, 8, February 2008**

**Attendance:**

Lynne Osgood	FSM Coordinator
Scott Alber	MCFD
Kent Julin	MCFD/FSM President
Eva DeNegri	Sheriff OES/FSM Secretary
Pete Martin	FSM
Lori Jessell	Novato Fire
Jessica Power	Tiburon Fire
Brian Sanford	Marin County Open Space District
Mike Meszaros	Inverness Public Utility District/Fire
Dan Kida	PG&E
Amy Blakeney	Guest
Roger Meagor	Ross Valley Fire
Roger Sprehn	Corte Madera Fire

- 1. Call to order:** 0911 hours by President Kent Julin in the downstairs conference room at 555 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, California 94903.
- 2. Agenda reviewed and approved as submitted with no changes.**  
(Alber/Sprehn)
- 3. Minutes of January 11, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted with no changes.**  
(Martin/Sprehn)
- 4. Treasurer's Report (Matt Carbone not present)**  
Pete Martin said that he has been working on fund development. One idea is to ask large companies and service organizations to sponsor FSM on a yearly basis with small amounts, rather than a *one-time* large amount (for example a five-year sponsorship). We have to decide what they get for sponsoring us. There is always the element of social responsibility; and perhaps we could take ads out in the newspaper listing our sponsors. The group discussed pulling together a list of Marin companies (go through chambers of commerce). Apparently the MCC is a good model to look at for sponsorships. Someone mentioned Lynn Woolsey's Sudden Oak Death money being a possibility for additional funds.

Kent mentioned that FSM is going to receive \$2,500 from National Park Service for doing some chipping in Olema. Lynne said that we have received some of the grant money from Western States and are waiting for the

remainder before updating the budget. There may be an issue with Supervisor Hal Brown's annual donation to FSM. The county may have thought that the DVD money (\$5,000) they gave us was supposed to be part of their annual supervisor's contribution of \$10,000. Kent is working on this issue.

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

**5. Once Around the Table.**

- a. **Lynne Osgood.** She was at a meeting with San Rafael Fire Department and passed out DVDs. Chief Paul Smith and Lynne attended a Kentfield POA meeting with Hal Brown in attendance. Hal introduced FSM to the POA and acknowledged our history. They gave away forty DVDs (Kentfield will reimburse). Lynne will turn in a concept paper for Olema/Nicasio chipper days. Lynne will try to double the number of chipper days. She also completed an application for the Thursday county Farmer's Market and the Home Show. MCSTOPP is doing a landscaping presentation on April 23 and asked if FSM would speak to them about the new WUI code.
- b. **Jessica Power.** Tiburon Fire is planning an event and will seek assistance from FSM.
- c. **Roger Sprehn.** Corte Madera Fire is planning a nine-day chipper days in June staffed by their volunteers. Mill Valley Refuse removes the debris for no charge. They are still working on the WUI code adoption.
- d. **Brian Sanford.** Open Space is making progress on the Cascade Canyon project. Next week the MCC will begin a vegetation management project in the ridges of Mt. Tam above Larkspur and Mill Valley. The Parks department is seeking high school and college students to work this summer doing vegetation management.
- e. **Kent Julin/Amy Blakeney.** Kent and Amy had a meeting with District Four Cal Trans. There was an attorney present. Their purpose was to try and get Cal Trans to fully appreciate the number of eucalyptus trees on Cal Trans' properties in Marin County. They believe that Cal Trans is the major contributor to the eucalyptus problem in California because they planted them. Unfortunately Cal Trans does not want to take ownership of the problem. Kent showed them aerial photos of Marin City and San Rafael to prove the point. It all boils down to money according to Cal Trans. They would be happy to cut the trees as part of their already existing contracts/projects. However, they do not want to *add* projects just to cut the eucalyptus. One of the Cal Trans representatives at this meeting came up with some suggestions: that we participate in the "adopt a highway" program; that we get a wildland encroachment permit; that we build partnerships with PG&E. For example, we can design a project where PG&E identifies Cal Trans' properties where there are existing PG&E power lines (a quasi "right-of-way"). Kent and Amy are planning to start an inventory of the trees from the Golden Gate going north with high priority on PG&E lands. Dan Kida agreed to get them a list of all eucalyptus on Cal Trans' properties. These are areas where PG&E has power lines. PG&E does trimming of eucalyptus and treats the stumps. Amy is also hoping for scheduled maintenance as treated stumps can re-sprout later. Amy is also trying to get a meeting together to get the word out to the cities

and towns that they need to inventory the trees on their lands and include eucalyptus planning as part of their local vegetation management plans.

- f. **Pete Martin.** Said that his colleague at Sonoma County Firesafe, Cara Leone Safford, has been working on funding sudden oak death and has raised \$350,000. Lynne commented that Sonoma, Napa and Marin fire safes are considering coming together. Pete also said that he and Chief Roger Meagor are going to the first of a series of meetings on the proposed tax measure. A poll of Marin County residents revealed that the public “may be interested” in a \$0.25% sales tax increase to fund fire/open space projects. Pete and Roger will keep us informed.
- g. **Roger Meagor.** Ross Valley Fire moved its offices to the Fairfax fire station while the San Anselmo location is under reconstruction.
- h. **Scott Alber.** Two agencies remain who need to ratify the new fire code.
- i. **Dan Kida.** PG&E is identifying areas in Marin who were affected by tree-caused outages. Marin City has been on the list for a long time (eucalyptus). 90% of the “long” outages during the January 5 storm were caused by trees. Sadly, PG&E lost a lineman up in the Sierras during that storm response. There was also a fatality of a tree contractor in the central coast. There were many “close calls” in Marin and Napa counties.
- j. **Mike Meszaros.** Expressed relief that no one was injured in Inverness after the storm when there were downed lines. Inverness is always the last area to get taken care of when there are outages. Mike shared some WUI projects for Inverness. Twenty-two miles and one hundred and thirty-seven acres of roadside have been inventoried as needing ten-foot clearance maintenance. If this becomes a three-year project, they are looking at about \$160,000. For removing dead tan oaks at thirty-foot clearance, the figure becomes \$450,000. Lynne said that next Friday she will submit concept papers to the California Fire Alliance, and Mike will receive some funding for this effort.
- k. **Eva Denegri.** Eva asked about the three vacancies on FSM: Roger Wong (NPS), Mary Ellen Irwin and Emily Johnson. Kent asked Amy Blakeney if she would like to take a spot, and she said she would consider it. Jessica Power was also asked, and she will ask her leadership for permission.
- l. **Kent Julin.** Said that they are working on developing a project for a one hundred foot fuel break (Highway 1 to Four Corners) for the removal of cypress trees. This is along the forty-mile fuel break identified by a map he passed around to the Council. He would like the project to begin in August and will use the fuel crew and Tree-masters to do it.

**6. Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1022 hours (Alber/Kida)**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Eva A. DeNegri*

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Secretary, FIRESafe Marin**