

**FIRESafe Marin  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Friday, 12 February 2010**

**Attendance:**

Lynne Osgood	FSM Coordinator
Eva D. Baker	County OES/FSM Secretary
Dan Kida	PG&E/ FSM President
Ari Golan	County Parks & Open Space
Roger Meagor	Ross Valley Fire
Mike Meszaros	Inverness PUD/Fire
Roger Sprehn	Corte Madera Fire
Mariko Roberts	Caltrans
Mike Swezy	MMWD
Jim Kasper	Muir Meadows HOA (Tam Valley)
Max Korten	CCNB
Scott Barnes	Mill Valley Fire
Amy Blakeney	
Bradley Mark	San Rafael Fire

1. **Call to Order:** 0910 hours by President Dan Kida in the first floor conference room of the Marin Justice Center Building, 30 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael, California, 94903. *There was a quorum.*
2. **Agenda reviewed and approved with no additions or corrections:**  
(M/S Meagor/Roberts)
3. **Minutes of the January 8, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved with no additions or corrections:**  
(M/S Meszaros/Sprehn)
4. **Treasurer's Report (Sprehn):**
  - o Lynne is currently working with the accountant on some changes to the budget. Dan would like to call a meeting soon to discuss the budget with Lynne, Roger and Liz the accountant. There are still some questions regarding residual income, and they do not know if Liabilities and Assets are accurate on the balance sheet.
  - o We have not yet received any income this year, including the \$55,000 owed from County Fire.
  - o Lynne has a new laptop for the business and new Quick Books Pro software.

- o The Marin Community Foundation solicited Lynne because they have a grant available for FSM. Lynne is researching this and will have more information to share.
- o Regarding the U.S. Forest Service grants, Lynne asked Mike Meszaros to get invoices to her, and she will get them paid quickly.
- o Cal Fire is paying rent for the Northgate Drive office space.
- o There was no check detail.

5. **Grants Clearing House Update:**

Lynne reported that there was a great turnout at the workshop on January 11, 2010 at CVNL. Attendees came from all over Northern California. Applications need to be received by February 26, 2010. The following grants and projects were discussed as part of this agenda item:

1. Lynne will be resubmitting Olema/Nicasio.
2. Mike Swezy has three MMWD projects to submit and would like FSM to be the fiscal agent:
  - o Maintenance grant for primary fuel break from Mill Valley to San Geronimo;
  - o Educational grant to focus on the Kent Woodlands area. Will involve going door-to-door talking to neighbors about defensible space and about weeds which escape from their yards into the wildland areas;
  - o Bolinas Ridge project.
3. Kent Julin will have projects.
4. Max Korten has been working with Bolinas Fire and Bolinas PUD on a Prop. 84 project to thin eucalyptus on the Mesa.
5. Amy Blakeney started working with NPS on a project to remove eucalyptus from the Waldo Tunnel, but the talks have stopped for now because of federal and state issues.

**\*\*SOCIAL 9:50 am - 10:00 am\*\***

6. **Once Around the Table:**

- a. **Lynne Osgood.** Spoke to San Geronimo Golf Club recently about ideas for a fundraiser. The idea of a Friday night beer garden came up. Also they discussed possibly holding the next golf tournament there since the location is right in the middle of the WUI.
- b. **Roger Meagor.** The January 30, 2010 Fairfax Fire Forum went extremely well. Residents learned about topics such as the new WUI requirements, building codes, and defensible space. There was good interaction between the residents and the planning commission. And, Ray Moritz tailored his presentation to the Fairfax audience, and it had a real impact on them. Roger would like to repeat this forum in San Anselmo. Roger also spoke about one of the issues the Ross Valley School Board is currently facing, namely whether to expand White Hill

Middle School and to build a new elementary school on the site of the former Deer Park Elementary School in Fairfax. Schools are seeing an increase every year in the number of students; there are too many students to fit the schools' spaces. RVFD has expressed concern over the Deer Park site because it is in the middle of the WUI and there is quite a bit of vegetation surrounding the property; there are access/egress issues on Porteous Avenue; and there are fire flow issues.

- c. **Bradley Mark.** The upper McNear/China Camp project should be completed next week; Tam Fire Crew has five hundred piles burned already. "The neighborhood is ecstatic." China Camp State Park has assured San Rafael Fire that they will continue with the maintenance work. On March 1<sup>st</sup> the Fire Prevention Bureau of the City of San Rafael will return to the Fire Department where it used to reside. It had been previously housed within the Building Department. The Fire Chief will act ex officio as the Fire Marshal as indicated by the city charters.
- d. **Mike Swezy.** The public draft of the Water District's vegetation plan will be ready in April. Gratitude was expressed to the CCNB, PG&E and the MCFD for knocking out the pine plantation on the Double Bow Knot.
- e. **Mike Meszaros.** Gave an update on the Forest Service maintenance grants, which are underway in West Marin. Three crews having been working from project to project and at the end of January were 25% complete. At the end of March they expect to be 65% complete but will have to stop for bird nesting season (primary bird is the Northern Spotted Owl). They will pick up again in mid August and be complete by the end of September. This maintenance is being done on roadside WUI projects from the 2000s and fifty acres of shaded fuel break.
- f. **Ari Golan.** Last month Open Space worked on burning piles. Currently and into next month they are mowing broom in Southern Marin along with Mill Valley and Corte Madera crews. The Open Space vegetation management program is going before the public at three public meetings, which will focus on the goals of the program. Next spring and summer 2011, vegetation management funding will be slimmed. Open Space fortunately has a huge volunteer force to do natural resource work such as exotic control and maintenance work.
- g. **Jim Kasper.** Submitting a grant request for Tam Valley to become a Firewise community.
- h. **Amy Blakeney.** Discussion ensued resulting from Amy asking the Board's opinion on the feasibility of doing another sales tax measure similar to the one proposed by County fire a couple years ago, which did not make it on to the ballot due to the Smart Train. The Board worried that since we are a nonprofit, we may be precluded from this kind of political process.
- i. **Roger Sprehn.** Fire Prevention officers are helping out on Open Space's vegetation management plan.
- j. **Mariko Roberts.** Still in discussions with Amy Blakeney on eucalyptus removal in the Cal Trans special interest areas. Also told the Council about the return of

the *Adopt a Highway* program. Any agency or individuals interested in adopting a section of the highway and volunteering to do vegetation control on it should let Mariko know. Cal Trans is looking for enthusiastic volunteers.

- k. **Max Korten.** CCNB is working on broom removal and slashing and burning in Southern Marin and Tiburon Middle Ridge.
- l. **Scott Barnes.** Introduced himself to the Council. Was recently promoted to Mill Valley Fire Department Battalion Chief and says that Mill Valley will be represented at future FSM meetings. Says the Mill Valley chipper program is ramping up this year and will start in the most hazardous structure protection groups and work their way through each group. They will advertise on their website about their chipper program and will get CERT groups involved. Mentioned an old Mill Valley municipal service tax which is dedicated to vegetation management projects and which will fund chipper days, street rehabilitation and public works projects.

**7. Being no further business this meeting was adjourned at 1040 hours at the request of Kent Julin to be in memory of Hank Waschow, formerly of Marin OES, who passed away this week. Hank was a founding member of FIRESafe Marin along with Supervisor Brown and dedicated his later life to many of the same causes that the FIRESafe Marin organization espoused.**

(M/S Denegri Baker/Sprehn)

Respectfully submitted,

*Eva D. Baker*

Eva Denegri Baker  
Secretary, FIRESafe Marin