

**FIRESafe Marin**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**Friday, 13, February 2009**

**Attendance:**

Eva Baker	Marin County OES/FSM Secretary
Scott Alber	Marin County Fire
Kent Julin	Marin County Fire
Lynne Osgood	FSM Coordinator
Dan Kida	PG&E/ FSM President
Dick Sadler	Black Canyon Neighborhood
Roger Sprehn	Corte Madera Fire
Ari Golan	Marin County Open Space District
Tina Torresan	Marin County Open Space District
Mike Meszaros	Inverness Public Utilities District/Fire
Mike Swezy	Marin Municipal Water District
Max Korten	Conservation Corps of North Bay
Rob Bastianon	Ross Valley Fire
Bradley Mark	San Rafael Fire
Mark Heine	Novato Fire
Jim Kasper	Muir Meadows HOA
Tim Walsh	Marin County Fire
Amy Blakeney	Private Citizen/Champion of Eucalyptus Removal

1. **Call to Order:** 0903 hours by President Dan Kida in the downstairs conference room at the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership, 555 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, California 94903.
2. **Agenda reviewed and approved with the addition of three reports to be given by Mike Swezy, Tina Torresan and Tim Walsh.** (M/S Sprehn/Korten)
3. **Minutes of the January 9, 2009 meeting were reviewed and *approved with no corrections and no additions.***  
(M/S Julin/Alber)
  3. a **Protocol for Meeting Minutes:**  
Roger Sprehn and Eva Baker explained to the Council about how things said during council meetings end up recorded in the minutes. They asked that members let the secretary know when something said should not be included in the minutes. They also said that a member cannot correct the minutes at the following meeting because they contain something they wish had not been recorded; corrections are only meant to correct secretary caused inaccuracies.
4. **Treasurer's Report (Roger Sprehn):**  
Roger referred the Council to the income & expenses handout for January 1 through February 10, 2009. There was a \$1,000 donation made from the Marin Community

Foundation. Neither of these donations has yet been deposited. There is no “check detail” report this month. Roger also referred to the profit and loss statement, in which the income and expenses do not balance. He expressed concern that with this not balanced, we are showing a profit, and this will not look good to the Supervisors who gave us funding. Kent also suggested that we use a different word to describe the reserves. Roger suggested “carryover.” Max Korten suggested that perhaps it be called, “project funding.” Max offered to ask the CCNB accountant about this and let Lynne and Roger know. Mike Swezy pointed out the fact that there is nothing wrong with having a reserve at the beginning of the year.

**4. a Report by Mount Tam Fuel Crew Captain Tim Walsh (MCFD):**

Tim introduced his fuel crew to the council members and told them about several fuel projects performed by the Mount Tam Fuel Crew in the last year – 1) *Luiz Ranch Fire Road*, 2) *Chicken Shack Fire Road*, 3) *Panoramic Highway at Four Corners* and 4) *Skywalker*. He thanked FIRESafe Marin for helping to fund the Panoramic project.

**5. Chipper Day Application Procedures**

Lynne presented to the Council a new grant application process (in draft), which is intended for anyone applying for chipper day funding. The projected date for applications will be April. In May or June the Council will review and decide on the applications. Projects will be ranked and there will be criteria to meet. One important thing that Lynne says applicants will have to follow is the requirement of *one hundred feet of defensible space*. Also required will be a *project completion report* to be submitted at the close to FSM with photos. Lynne will get the word out to the Marin IJ, Pacific Sun, The Citizen and the Marin Scope as media outlets, and to the fire departments, homeowner management organizations and San Rafael Chamber of Commerce.

**5. a Muir Meadows/FSM Partnership**

Mike Swezy reported to the Council about three MMWD projects which have been done in partnership with FSM. He passed around maps of the affected areas. They are as follows:

- *Double Bowknot*: \$240,000 project; chaparral and five acres of old pines; ties in with Fern Canyon work; good place to do fuel work; numerous “sap sproutlets” due to SOD activity. This is the last bit of perimeter work to be done on the fuel break.
- *Deer Park*: \$165,000 project; 28 acres in Fairfax around the school grounds; fair amount of SOD. The proposal is to build vehicle access around the area, which will help to solve some conflicts between the users (cyclists and people on foot).
- *Bolinas Ridge*: \$240,000 project; located from Peters Dam to where Bolinas/Fairfax Road crosses the bridge; enormous amount of SOD there; at least 80% tan oak (“incredible”); no houses, however, there is a fear of homeless population setting fires.

## **\*SOCIAL OCCURRED BETWEEN 0950 AND 1004 HOURS\***

### **5. b Introduction of Tina Torresan, Marin Parks & Open Space**

The Council welcomed Tina Torresan who will now be working on grant administration for the County Parks & Open Space department.

### **5. c Miscellaneous Projects**

Kent Julin reported on seven projects that he is submitting proposals for and which will go through FIRESafe Marin:

- *Wolfback Ridge*
- *Mountain Theatre*
- *Nicasio, Olema and Muir Beach chipper days*
- *Amaranth*
- *Double Bow Knot*
- *Deer Park*
- *Bolinas Ridge*

He also mentioned a sudden oak death grant, which is due in a next week and is a slush fund for tree removal for homeowners.

Amy Blakeney told the Council that she will submit two grants to the California Fire Alliance for eucalyptus removal including in Marin City. Amy went door-to-door to speak to Marin City homeowners with eucalyptus and discovered that there is 100% agreement that the trees must be removed. From Southern Marin moving north, Amy's project will pay for computer based inventory of the eucalyptus trees in Marin County. Kent added that Muir Beach will be submitting a proposal to remove hundreds of pine trees, which are either dead or dying. Max Korten added that this project will also remove eucalyptus.

### **6. Muir Meadows/FIRESafe Marin Partnership Ideas**

Jim Kasper from the (unofficial) Muir Meadows Homeowners Association presented some ideas on partnering with FIRESafe Marin. FSM would donate to a neighborhood fund which would support fire defense activities, and which would function as a sub account under FSM. People could make donations to the fund (for example, homeowners). FSM would write checks to contractors to get the work done. The Council voiced its support of the concept but also stressed the need for guidance/approval from their accountant, Liz, who could address the legality of such a fund. Another concern raised was how much of Lynne's time would be needed. Ken added that FSM would have to charge an administrator fee. Mr. Kasper said that \$75,000 has already been funded by the federal government but has not been received.

### **7. Once Around the Table.**

- a. **Scott Alber (MCFD).** MCFD is going through a budget review. There is much discussion by the California Fire Chiefs about the need to fund public education and to get pilot programs going to educate homeowners.

- b. **Mike Meszaros (IPUD)**. Spoke of the status of US Forest Service grant, which came recently as a surprise. It will be used to maintain existing WUI projects in West Marin (fuel breaks and SOD). He also said that the Inverness PUD is exploring the possibility of using funds from their fire tax (created without a sunset clause in 1980) to attack SOD. They can be applied anywhere from \$ 0.00 to \$0.06 per square foot of property.
- c. **Bradley Mark (SRFD)**. Is working with MMWD to host a “firescape” workshop in east San Rafael.
- d. **Max Korten (CCNB)**. Went to a meeting in Washington D.C. about future funding for vegetation management, which will be received by the Conservation Corps. Max expressed appreciation for MMWD giving them work and would appreciate any new projects as well.
- e. **Ari Golan (MCOSD)**. Next week CCNB will begin work weeding broom. Thanked Mill Valley Fire for the hose used during the burning of piles in Mill Valley.
- f. **Mark Heine (Novato Fire)**. Novato Fire had a major update of its Strategic Plan. They are working with the Tam Fuel Crew on breaks, and with North Marin Water District to implement water conservation measures.
- g. **Mike Swezy (MMWD)**. The Water District’s update of the vegetation management plan is ongoing. Next public meeting will be March 5<sup>th</sup>. By April 1<sup>st</sup> there may be 10 to 25% mandatory water rationing.
- h. **Dan Kida**. Anticipates big storm this weekend.

**8. Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1051 hours.  
(Alber/Baker)**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Eva D. Baker*

**Eva Denegri Baker  
Secretary, FIRESafe Marin**