

FIRESafe Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, 12 March 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
Mariko Roberts	Caltrans
Jim Kasper	Muir Meadows HOA (Tam Valley)
Max Korten	Conservation Corps North Bay
Scott Barnes	Mill Valley Fire
Jimi Scheid	Cal Fire
Paul Smith	Kentfield Fire
Kent Julin	Marin County Fire

1. **Call to Order:** 0914 hours by President Dan Kida in the second floor conference room of the Kentfield Fire Department, Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Kentfield, California, 94904. *There was a quorum.* Dan thanked Chief Paul Smith for the use of his beautiful conference room for this council meeting.

2. **Agenda reviewed and approved with no additions or corrections:**
(M/S Julin/Korten)

3. **Minutes of the March 12, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved with two corrections and no additions:**

- to page #2, Item #5, sub section #4, change Inverness PUD to "Bollinas PUD."
- to page #3, Ari Golan, change CCNB to "Open Space worked on burning piles."

(M/S Smith/Korten)

4. **Treasurer's Report (Osgood):** referring to the FSM Balance Sheet as of 3/10/2010:

- The Haas Family contributed \$1,000 to FSM through the Marin Community Foundation. Kent Julin offered to send the Haas family a thank you letter. This is the second private donation received (first was \$1,500 from a Novato family).
- We have not yet received the \$55,000 owed from County Fire.
- Under Current Liabilities, Lynne explained that she is still waiting for invoices but that the money has already been set aside for the task agreements and chipper days listed.
- Checks were disbursed (but no check detail). Lynne read the list of checks.
- Cal Fire is now paying FSM \$450 per month for office space rental at Northgate Drive.

- o Checks were filed for audit (total \$46,382.96).

5. **Chipper Day Grant Requests:**

1. **Homestead Valley** submitted a chipper day request for \$1,000; they have matching funds.
2. **Indian Valley HOA** will submit their request this week; they are very active with their chipping program. Lori Jessell from Novato FD told Lynne that this year Novato Fire will only donate \$500 meaning that the HOA will have to come up with another thousand dollars
3. Lynne says that she will start putting ads in the Marin IJ to advertise the FSM chipper day program. *Motion was proposed and passed to approve the chipper day request from Homestead Valley for \$1,000.*

(M/S Smith/Meagor)

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

6. **Once Around the Table:**

- a. **Mariko Roberts.** Said the Adopt a Highway program has many back logged applications to cull through so applicants please be patient. Mariko learned at this meeting that there is someone named Bob Bratton who is willing to cut down eucalyptus for free because he will keep the logs. Dan Kida will give Bratton's contact info to Mariko who would like to pursue this option.
- b. **Max Korten.** The Conservation Corps members have had some recent experience cutting and burning vegetation, which is great training and which they find exciting to do. Some members intend to pursue careers in fire. The Corps received donated personal protective equipment from Marinwood Fire, Corte Madera Fire, Southern Marin Fire and National Parks. Max asked that if any other department has older gear that is not being used, the Corps would be very grateful to receive it. Scott Barnes said that Mill Valley has old inch-and-a-half that they can donate. Max said that the Corps has almost completed the fire break in Tiburon that they have been working on. Soon they will do broom removal of MMWD on Shaver Grade and Deer Park. Another future project will occur off of Andersen Drive in San Rafael where they will help Central Marin Sanitary control a broom forest. Next month the Corps will go to Angel Island where the big fire was and work on thistle, an invasive species which has become a problem since the fire. The fire germinated the thistle seed banks. They will also remove pine trees and broom on the island. Finally, the Corps is applying for a grant for eucalyptus thinning to take place off Mesa Road in Bolinas.
- c. **Eva D. Baker.** The next round of homeland security grant funding (FY-2010) will most likely get started in April with funding requests due in May.

The county received \$613,000, which is slightly less than the usual \$630,000. As in prior years funding will purchase equipment and training. Stakeholders will have to compete with the rest of the Op Area for approval of their requests.

- d. **Ari Golan.** Shared details of a planned three-year joint project between County Fire, Open Space and Kentfield Fire to do maintenance work and manage exotics on one of the existing fuel breaks above the Kent Woodlands on Open Space land. Ari hopes that at the next FSM meeting someone from Open Space will present on this project.
- e. **Paul Smith.** Referred to the three-year fuel break project in the Open Space District. See *Ari Golan*.
- f. **Scott Barnes.** Mill Valley Fire continues to do vegetation management on all city streets working block by block. Scott plans to attend the Firewise Conference in Reno.
- g. **Dan Kida.** PG&E is working with Novato Fire Department on the demonstration garden project. PG&E is planting trees in the garden that are from their "power line approved" list. Novato will help PG&E in return by advertising PG&E's power line approved list.
- h. **Mike Swezy (reported by Lynne Osgood).** The public draft of the Water District's vegetation management plan will be out on the street next month. MMWD staff is working with Forester Julin for VMP Rx Fire projects for the next few years. MMWD will put out a contract for \$180,000 to \$200,000 for a fuel break construction project, which will also include maintenance and weed management work. The contract will run two to three years with options to extend and must be done by a California licensed contractor.
- i. **Jim Kasper.** Reported on several issues:
 - o Thanked Dan Kida & PG&E for the work done to supplement the Muir Meadows/Trillium Lane Fire Safe grant project.
 - o A free class is available on April 21 and May 12 at UC Berkeley to be conducted by Dr. Matteo Garbaletto, UCCE Specialist in forest pathology and mycology. Also on May 1st a "SOD Blitz" will be conducted in Marin County sponsored by Dr. Garbaletto and Dominican University. A press release will be available soon. The focus will be on how to take SOD (Sudden Oak Death) samples.
 - o Was recently informed that a federal grant application was approved, which he submitted on behalf of the Tamalpais Community Services District. The funds will help survey and document SOD within Tam Valley.
 - o For more information on SOD and the events mentioned, go to these websites: www.matteolab.org, www.dominican.edu/norsduc, and www.suddenoakdeath.org.
 - o A "walk about" has been scheduled for Thursday, March 18 in Tam Valley from 1PM to 4PM led by the National Park Service--GGNRA. The tour will educate participants on eucalyptus removal and thinning projects being done by NPS/GGNRA at the top of Marin Drive and west of Eastwood Park. For more information contact Jennifer Chapman (415-464-5133).

- o Jim handed out a flyer on the Southern Marin Fire District's Fire and I.C.E. Ball to be held April 3, 2010 in Sausalito (see www.southernmarinfire.org).
 - o A regional education and demonstration garden is being planned in Tam Valley to show the design and implementation of a fire safe, low-water-usage and environmentally-friendly garden. The organizing committee includes TCSD, Mill Valley School District, Marinview HOA and Supervisor McGlashan.
- j. **Mike Meszaros.** The West Marin roads project (which is 60% complete) has concluded for this season due to nesting birds (federal rule). The project will pick up again August 15 or just after Labor Day. The project is to be 100% complete by December 15, 2010. IPUD put in \$15,000 for a Sudden Oak Death/pine removal project in one segment of Shell Beach, which is encompassed by Tomales Bay State Park. The property owners matched with a donation of \$15,000. That segment has a lot of Bay in it and is a humid environment. The state park has had tremendous tan oak die off.
- k. **Roger Meagor.** Said that the Ross Valley School Board plans to ask the voters to pass a bond, which would fund building a new elementary school and expand a middle school. Some of the details still need to be worked out first. The hope is for this bond to appear on the November ballot.
- l. **Jimi Scheid.** Informed the Council about a new "Strategic Growth Council" formed by state agencies for the purpose of improving the overall health and well being of Californians. The growth council is looking at any and all applicable projects, for example, urban greening, air and water quality, accessible routes, urban forestry, playgrounds, safety, etc. Projects must improve areas which are for public use. The proposal period is going on right now and will continue until April 30, 2010. Go to www.sgc.ca.gov for more details.
- m. **Kent Julin.** Initiated a discussion by the council of the possible merits of supporting Supervisor Adams' reelection campaign through the use of FSM "Marin on Fire" DVDs. Kent envisions FSM giving Adams permission to duplicate and distribute copies of the DVD so she could give them to homeowners for free. FSM would not actually donate money or DVDs. Kent will find out the legality of FSM doing this. Also Kent told the council that he is in the process of updating the State Responsibility Area (SRA) maps for the county.

7. Being no further business this meeting was adjourned at 1045 hours.

(M/S Denegri Baker/Julin)

Respectfully submitted,

Eva D. Baker

Secretary, FIRESafe Marin