

FireSafe Marin Meeting Minutes July 7, 2005

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

In attendance:

Scott Alber	MCFD/Fire Safe Marin
Chris Bramham	Open Space
Matt Carbone	Fire Safe Marin
Roger Sprehn	Corte Madera
Bill Tyler	Novato
Mike Meszaros	Inverness PUD
Mary Ellen Irwin	San Rafael Fire
Dick Sadler	Dominican Neighborhood
Kent Julin	Fire Safe Marin/ MCFD
Lynne Osgood	Fire Safe Marin
Casey May	MMWD

Review and Approve the Agenda: Dick Sadler wanted to add the subject of “Non-traditional water source” to the agenda. President Julin indicated that would be Item 6 b. Mike Meszaros wanted to add “Funding of maintenance of previously treated fuel breaks” to the agenda, as well. President Julin indicated that would be Item 6c. M/S Mary Ellen Irwin/Casey May to approve the agenda as amended. Approved.

Approval of June 10, 2005 Minutes: M/S Casey May/Matt Carbone to approve The May meeting minutes. Approved as amended.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Matt Carbone indicated that we did receive portions of the \$10000 Homeland Security grant. Lynne Osgood indicated that we did not get the entire grant at once, but that she applies for funding as projects occur. In response from a question by Matt, she indicated that chipper days are not part of the Homeland Security Grant but funding for her position is.

Matt indicated that we are in decent shape based on the account balance and that we brought projects in at the appropriate rate. Lynne indicated that in regard to the letter campaign, she received \$50 from Goodman’s, as well receiving about 100 letters back with insufficient addresses, concluding that we need to update our databases. Many of the businesses that received letters are interested in specific projects. Lynne is going to do approximately 10 calls per week to follow-up on the letters and give them the opportunity of sponsoring up coming events. She is also planning on a follow-up letter for next year detailing projects sponsored by various businesses.

Roger Sprehn mentioned Fireman’s Fund has re-started up their “Heritage Fund” program. He will follow-up with Kent and Lynne before the next meeting in regard to

the status of this program. President Julin indicated that \$2000 from the Board of Supervisors did not get included in the financial statement. Check detail was filed for audit. Kent also mentioned that he signed a task agreement for the Homestead Valley fuel reduction project (\$40,000) to cut eucalyptus and pine trees at Four Corners in Mill Valley. The trees are on National Park Service property.

Item 4: Chipper day request for \$400 for Novato Heights. After discussion there was a M/S Mary Ellen Irwin/Matt Carbone to provide funding for this project. It was suggested that Lynne send return envelopes for donations on future chipper day projects.

Fire Squirts: Bill Tyler did a presentation on the Fire Squirts program. M/S Matt Carbone/Casey May to approve \$1000 donation by Fire Safe Marin for the Fire Squirts program. Motion approved. Discussion in regard to making this a line item in future budgets. Tabled for future meeting. Bill indicated that the event would happen at Station 2, Atherton Ave. next week (July 15th). The presentation begins at 11:00 and lunch will follow.

Fire Safe Marin Membership: President Julin indicated that two people recently left FSM as Board of Directors and/or officers of the group (Carl Sanders – Board of Directors and VP; Mike Groshong – Board of Directors). Casey May offered to fill the vacancy of Vice President for the next five months. M/S Mary Ellen Irwin/Chris Branham to appoint Casey May as Vice President. Motion approved.

Non-traditional Water sources: Dick Sadler brought up the Beth Ashley column in the IJ from a few weeks ago regarding the number of pools in Marin County, and spoke about a previous program initiated by FSM to identify pools and spas that would be available in the event of a fire. It turns out that San Rafael was pretty much alone in maintaining this program. It fell by the wayside due to maintenance problems and lack of attention. It was decided that Secretary Alber and Bill Tyler would bring the item up for discussion with the County FPO's meeting.

IJ Fireworks Ad: Bill Tyler led the discussion of the fireworks ad that ran in the Independent Journal prior to the 4th of July holiday. He asked for FSM to support 1/3 of the funding for this ad. M/S Casey May/Mary Ellen Irwin to support this ad. Motion approved.

Maintenance of completed WUI fuel break projects: Mike Meszaros brought up that funding for the maintenance of completed fuel break projects is a hole in the WUI program. There has been many projects that have been completed, and within the next few years will be back to their natural state as if no work was ever done. President Julin suggested two approaches to this problem, the first being to include additional funding for maintenance in the original request, and the second including some of these projects in the county database for maintenance.

Coordinators Report: Lynne indicated that the brochures that she has been working on would be coming out soon, with a proof coming within the next week. She also brought

several copies “Out of the Flames” article/insert that appeared in Bay Nature magazine. She indicated that she is giving two talks next month; one to San Anselmo HOA and another one to the Valley Planning Group. She was also at the Marin County Fair. She noted that they used all the brochures that she had brought.

Map of Fire Plan: President Julin passed out a copy of the fuel-break map in the Marin County Fire Plan and discussed the changes of the Fire Plan; i.e. the five-prong attack that we are taking to address the WUI interface.

Chris Branham of the Open Space District brought in a map of what the Open Space District is doing in terms of vegetation management. He indicated that it was presented to the Fire Chief’s in March.

Mary Ellen Irwin indicated that with Bruce Martin leaving San Rafael, they have hired as interim Fire Chief John Montinero. She also indicated that a couple of the Fire Department buildings are being renovated by firefighters, including the Headquarters and what used to be Cuthbert’s Blue Print Supplies, adjacent to the HQ building.

Adjournment: M/S Casey May/Matt Carbone 11:10 a.m. Motion approved.