



FIRE Safe Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, 9, May 2008

Attendance:

Lynne Osgood	FSM Coordinator
Dan Kida	PG&E
Scott Alber	MCFD
Pete Martin	FSM Treasurer
Eva DeNegri	Sheriff OES/FSM Secretary
Lori Jessell	Novato Fire
Brian Sanford	Marin County Open Space District
Mike Meszaros	Inverness Public Utility District/Fire
Roger Meagor	Ross Valley Fire
Paul Smith	Kentfield Fire
Bradley Mark	San Rafael Fire
Gary Miltimore	Marin Conservation Corps
Roger Wong	NPS-GGNRA/PRNS
Casey May	MMWD-Retired
Ken Massucco	MCFD

- 1. Call to order:** 0915 hours by Vice President Dan Kida in the downstairs conference room at 555 Northgate Drive, San Rafael, California 94903.
- 2. Agenda reviewed and approved as submitted with no changes.**
(Martin/Meagor)
- 3. Minutes of March 14, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted with no changes.**
(Meagor/Casey)
- 4. Treasurer's Report (Pete Martin)**
Pete Martin reported the following:
 - The balance sheet does not include the following items which are still forthcoming: \$10,000 from County; \$2,000 from grant; \$5,000 from another grant.
 - \$35,000 arrived from the Cal Fire Alliance; \$30,000 will pay for 2007 chipper days, and \$5,000 will pay for 2008 chipper days.
 - GGNRA task agreements are closed out.
 - The yearly income of \$10,000 from the Board of Supervisors is now under Chief Massucco's budget.
 - Pete Martin, Ken Massucco and Lynne Osgood are going to meet with Lynn Woolsey to ask her for money from her earmarked budget for 2009-10.

- Pete and Lynne have a fundraising letter drafted for mail out which would ask private businesses to partner with FSM by donating money and becoming “Sustaining Members.” Lynne has meetings with Jacksons and Ace Hardware stores next week to see if they are interested. She is thinking of approaching Treemasters. Lynne will ask if the businesses would be willing to sign on for three to five years to help with FSM operating expenses. Dan Kida added that Davey Tree has indicated that they would donate again.

Checks were reviewed and filed for audit.

5. Casey May-FSM Board Resignation

The FIRESafe Council of Marin congratulated Casey on his thirty-three years of service to MMWD and wished him a good life in retirement living in Shasta City. Casey has submitted his resignation to be effective July 4, 2008. He has asked that his resignation from FIRESafe be effective June 6, 2008. FIRESafe reluctantly accepted his resignation. Casey is a charter member of FSM. In a letter to FIRESafe Marin, Casey wished that the “Santa Ana winds be forgiving, or better yet forgetful, as the fire season approaches.”

NO SOCIAL

6. FSM Events

- 5-12-08 – NPS Fire Safe landscaping workshop at the Dance Palace, Pt. Reyes
- 5-14-08 – MMWD sponsored Alternative Methods to Chemicals at Drake High School
- 5-17-08 – MCSTOPP sponsored Native Gardens Landscape Tour of Fire Safe Gardens. FSM will show a house in Novato.
- 5-29-08 – NPS evening workshop at Tam Valley Community Center ("Habitat Restoration in Tamalpais Valley")
- 6-4-08 – Master Gardeners Group
- 6-08 – Fairfax Festival – FSM will have booth.
- 7-11-08 – FSM cohosts a public outreach workshop at 555 Northgate. FSM meeting will be cancelled for that day.

7. Once Around the Table.

- Paul Smith.** Chief Smith says that the California Native Society folks believe herbicides are okay because broom is choking out the native species. Paul told the Council about a home on Crown Road that is completely fire resistant. He described it as having a fourteen car subterranean garage, a three story waterfall, fire sprinklers, a metal roof and a thermo-gel automatic system. Paul also said that due to construction at Kentfield Fire they will be moving at the end of this month to a modular building. Finally, the pilot program of Get Ready for Fifth Graders was taught at the Tiburon schools last week. There will be a rollout to all fifth graders in the fall. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is handling this project, but the Get Ready team helped with the content. A draft of the student manual is available.
- Ken Massucco.**

- i.) Chief Massucco is trying to get a helicopter ride scheduled so that the Board of Supervisors can take a look at sudden oak death and other threats.
- ii.) Ken also updated everyone on the County Initiative. He and Sharon McNamee gave a presentation to the Board of Supervisors last week on the results of the review committee. He believes that the Board is looking favorably on the initiative and will make a decision in July whether it will be put on the ballot. Unfortunately there is much competition on the November ballot (for example, from the North Bay Council and SMART). Apparently the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club are not in favor of the initiative and also have issues with the Marin on Fire DVD, which mentions hardscaping and well water irrigation. The Marin Foundation and Gary Giacomini are very much in support of the initiative. The initiative will fund a twenty person hand crew (up from thirteen), fire-prone forest removal, vegetation management, neighborhood evacuation routes, etc. The poll showed that it is the 35-45 year old females who most support this initiative. Eva queried whether the residents of non fire prone areas will feel the need to vote for this initiative if they know that it would benefit other taxpayers and not them. The poll showed most support from the Ross Valley; Mill Valley was second; West Marin was third; San Rafael was fourth; and Novato was last.
- iii.) County fire has hired sixty-six seasonal workers. These are wonderful people, says Ken, and this bodes well for the future of the fire service.
- iv.) It is looking like an early start to the fire season. This will require one extra engine to be in service.
- c. **Mike Meszaros.** Mike passed out an excellent informative article on sudden oak death published in March 2008 in "The Bag Piper" by the Inverness Association. Mike thanked Roger Wong for his support on Inverness projects. He shared IPUD's desire to get property owners to agree to cutting down dead or dying tan oaks on their properties, which would then be chipped. One property owner alone cut down thirty tan oaks last year and have more to go! He also said that the Coast Live Oaks and Valley Oaks seem to be resistant to this disease.
- d. **Bradley Mark.** Told FSM about an opportunity to pass out handouts at an upcoming San Rafael Chamber of Commerce event on May 14 (2008 Annual Business Showcase) at the Marin Center.
- e. **Scott Alber.** An article in the *Marin Voice* will be published soon on what homeowners should do to their properties to make them fire safe. Lori Jessell, Jessica Powers, Lynne Osgood and Scott all contributed. Scott also referenced the April 1, 2008 Grand Jury Report entitled, "Marin on Fire! Not if, but when."
- f. **Gary Miltimore.** MCC has been busy working with San Rafael Fire. They just completed a three acre parcel in San Rafael and created a shaded fuel break with many hazards. MCC has also been working with Open Space on a project involving ten miles of a thirty foot fuel break. The MCC's Disaster Response Team has been invited to do wildland fire training by Kent Julin, good news.
- g. **Brian Sanford.** Spoke about a letter that went out from Open Space to all neighbors who border the open space areas. It reminded them of vegetation management and defensible space issues. MCOSD has hired

their seasonal crews to work with the MCC. MCOSD has completed their grading of fire roads.

- h. **Roger Wong.** In process of reviewing ten applications submitted to the California Fire Safe Council. He recommended two grants for Marin and both have been approved. One will go to the MCC for Marin View fire mitigation (50,000), and the other, to Olema, Nicasio and Muir Beach chipper days (54,000).
- i. **Lori Jessel.** For Novato the opening of fire season was April 29. Indian Valley homeowners are doing their chipper days. Lori would like to use the empty lot on Atherton to schedule a chipper day. A number of homeowner associations have dropped out of chipper days, including Wild Horse Valley. Weed abatement in Novato is alive and well. "Residents have already been complaining about each other's dead weeds!" Lori also said that Bill Tyler is the new Acting Fire Marshall.
- j. **Roger Meager.** There was a small fire at Manor School last week. As part of their vegetation management program, Ross Valley Fire is currently out there trying to hit every parcel.

**6. Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1055 hours.
(Kida/Meagor)**

Respectfully submitted,

Eva D. Baker

**Eva Denegri Baker
Secretary, FIRESafe Marin**