

FireSafe Marin Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2005

Call to Order:

9:07 a.m. by President Julin

In attendance:

Anita Tyrrell-Brown	Bolinas FPD
Lynne Osgood	FireSafe Marin
Emily Johnson	Marinwood FD
Paul Smith	Kentfield FPD
Casey May	MMWD
Mike Meszaros	Inverness PUD/FPD
Alex Naar	NPS/GGNRA
Roger Meagor	Ross Valley FD
Kent Julin	MCFD/FireSafe Marin
Wendy Poinsot	NPS-GGNRA/PRNS
Roger Sprehn	Corte Madera FD
Matt Carbon	Dominican/FireSafe Marin Treasurer
Chris Bramham	MCOSD
Frank Egger	Town of Fairfax

Item 1.) Review and Approve Agenda - Naar/May (unan) to approve.

Item 2.) Review and Approve August 12, 2005 meeting minutes - Naar/May (unan) to approve.

At this point in the meeting Frank Egger introduced himself and asked to address the members regarding water pressure concerns in areas of Fairfax. Pres. Julin asked if Mr. Egger would also address the herbicide policy in Fairfax. Mr. Egger agreed. This item will be added after the treasurer's report.

Item 3.) Treasurer Carbon presented the treasurer's report. The budget will reflect a change in the coordinator's line item. It was decided that follow up phone calls will be placed to all recipients of the June letter requesting funding.

Frank Egger explained Fairfax's position on pesticide spraying. He described himself as a long time opponent to the use of pesticides. He explained the RoundUp has been thought to be quite benign but sited recent studies linking the product to ground water contamination. Fairfax understands the need to clear vegetation from the watershed but feels that it should be done mechanically without the use of pesticides. Fairfax wrote MMWD about 1 year ago to express their concern that spraying was ongoing.

Alex Naar asked if Mr. Egger would forward the two studies sited to Lynne.

Chris Bramham asked if there was a safe chemical to use, what would it take to prove this to Fairfax.

Mr. Egger replied that there is a complete ban on the use of pesticides and he has never come across anything that is safe to use.

Chris Bramham asked that if a bio product has a certification of organic, can it be used?

Mr. Egger replied that if Marin Organic's sign off on a control method that the town of Fairfax would be happy to consider it.

Mr. Egger then addressed Fairfax water pressure concerns. It has come to the town's attention that parts of Fairfax, namely the Hillside and Crest area, had been left out of the Fire flow plan. They would like this area added to the plan.

Casey May explained to Mr. Egger that, in conjunction with the Marin County Fire Chief's Assoc., all Chief's participated and identified area's of need. All funding for the project has been allocated. There is a \$75.00 charge on water bills that was initiated around 1997-98 that funds the plan. The plan is budgeted through 2010-2011.

Roger Meagor stated that they are in the process of identifying a cost to upgrade the water supply system in area's of Fairfax.

Mr. Egger also spoke about his proposal for Fairfax to purchase a chipper. It came to his attention that FireSafe Marin has a chipper and he would like to know the process for borrowing it. Pres. Julin responded that he should contact Chief Massucco. The only requirements is that qualified Personnel must run it.

Mike Meszaros spoke about Inverness's chipper program. Their chipper is used primarily by the Utilities District. About 5 years ago, they started a Chipper Day with help from FSM and others.

Item 4.) California Living Fire Safe DVD was shown.

Item 6.) Discussion on New Orleans Disaster and Lessons Learned was tabled until next meeting.

Item 7.) Once Around the Table

Alex Naar - PRNS will be holding Rx burns on the next several Wednesday's and GGNRA will be burning on Wednesdays in October.

Emily Johnson - attended the DISCO meeting. The number one problem reported from responders in Hurricane Katrina was communications.

Chris Bramham - was pleased to hear Frank Egger speak on Fairfax's herbicide policy.

Lynne Osgood - She has filed an extension on task agreements. If anyone has pictures of jobs completed this year, please send to Lynne ASAP.

Roger Sprehn - The Self Extinguishing Cigarette Bill, SB 178, is waiting to be signed by the Governor.

Item 8.) Other Business - None

Item 9.) Meeting Adjourned at 11:12 a.m.