

FIRESafe Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Friday, October 13, 2006

Attendance:

Lynne Osgood	FSM Coordinator
Kent Julin	Marin County Fire / FSM President
Roger Sprehn	Corte Madera Fire
Eva DeNegri	Sheriff OES/FSM Secretary
Lori Jessell	Novato Fire
Dick Sadler	Black Canyon Neighborhood
Phil Gibbons	Davey Tree
Paul Smith	Kentfield Fire
Chris Bramham	Marin Open Space
Gary Miltimore	Marin Conservation Corps
Emily Johnson	MWFD
Pete Martin	
Casey May	MMWD
Mike Meszaros	IPUD-Fire
Ken Massucco	MCFD

1. **Call to order:** 9:06 AM by President Kent Julin.
 2. **Agenda reviewed and approved with no changes:**
(DeNegri/Martin)
 3. **Minutes of September 8, 2006 meeting reviewed and approved as submitted with one change.**
(Sprehn/Johnson)
 - a. Change item #f to "Muir Beach", not Stinson, in Once Around the Table.
 4. **Treasurer's Report:**
Coordinator Lynne Osgood reported the following.
 - Matt Carbone has decided to resign as Treasurer next year.
 - Regarding the new NPS grants, Amber does not know when the money will be coming in.
 - Liz Ford, the FSM Accountant, has prepared our tax returns for State and Federal and the paperwork for non profit certification. An audit is needed because FSM passed over the \$500,000 mark recently. Lynne is working with OEM, but it is moving very slowly. An audit normally costs about \$7,500.
- Checks were reviewed and filed for audit.**
5. **Request for \$1,000 for fuel removal – Almonte District Improvement Club:**

This is an area between Tam Junction and Tam High School that has ivy, blackberries, plum trees, and other vegetation. Kent reported that the foot paths through the neighborhood have become overgrown. Houses have encroached on the paths. This district would like to clear four or five of these paths. Chief Massucco has offered the fire crew to do at least one major path. They are requesting money to pay for dumpsters. Lynne Osgood said that we have \$450 remaining in chipper days money. She thinks she can come up with the other \$50 from somewhere else.

Decision to give Almonte District \$500 for road clearing.
(Sprehn/Martin)

6. Video Project Update:

Kent reported that we have raised \$29,636.00 so far; the goal is \$44,000. Four scripts have been created. Kent and John Van Dam met at Phoenix Lake to shoot controlled burning. John also went up to shoot film in a CDF helicopter. Peter Coyote will narrate the video. Carlo Santana will be asked if we can use his music. The target date is the end of the year for all four videos to be done. The final product will have one CD with four videos and special features. A title for the CD has not yet been chosen, but they are thinking of tying it to the Mt. Tamalpais theme.

As far as sponsors, Lynne reported the following: that she is working with Bank of Marin; that International Fire Systems will donate \$1,000 and would like to donate more in the future; that PG&E, Tree Masters and the Park Service are supporting the project; that we are still negotiating with CSAA who will donate \$5000 with an additional \$5000 in January, but they want to be the only sponsoring insurance company.

Chris Bramham thought we should have the movie theatres show the FSM videos before their films; FSM will look into this suggestion, but it is expensive. Casey May thought we should ask for support back from the local agencies that FSM has helped out a lot, for example, Novato Fire.

7. Model Home Project Update:

Roger Sprehn reported that he and Lynne met with one homeowner in Corte Madera at her property; he passed out photographs to the group. There are many hazards on the property, including wasps, broken windows, rust, etc. The homeowner's intention is to fix just one section of the property, focusing on the corner areas. Roger feels that the other sides of the property are far more hazardous. The group agreed that this method really does not fit with the true model home concept. Therefore, this is not the best way to spend the grant; group will select another home; Lynne will drive by other homes. One suggestion from Gary Miltimore knows of a candidate in Tiburon with an ideal property. The group agreed that Lynne should work with Gary on this.

BREAK

8. Other Business/Once Around the Table:

- a. **Ken Massucco (MCFD).** MCFD is continuing to work with the Board of Supervisors on vegetation management, removing pine forests, eucalyptus, improving access and egress, and enhancing public education. Supervisors Kinsey and Brown attended the last Fire chief's meeting. Vegetation management is one of the top five priorities of the Board. The County and districts have many great fire plans but no money. The Board approved that County Fire go out and do a public opinion poll on whether they would be willing to support a vegetation management tax. They will begin the poll after the first of the year. They are looking at a time period of November 2008 for public vote on it. They are modeling on the successful fire flow plan poll. Massucco feels we need to get this done now before a big fire hits Marin. They are looking at spending three to four million dollars per year on this.
- b. **Casey May (MMWD).** Thanked County Fire for help on prescribed burns at Phoenix Lake last week. MMWD is working on updating the Mt. Tam Area Vegetation Management Plan (VMP), ten years old.
- c. **Gary Miltimore (MCC).** MCC is working with the Tamalpais District on Marin View project and access/egress on Gold Hill in Dominican area. Also updating the emergency disaster response plan. The County will do flood control training with MCC. MCC is also working with City of San Rafael to do CERT training. In Fairfax Creek alone, MCC pulled out over eighty cubic yards of material.
- d. **Lori Jessell (NFD).** Indian Valley Chipper Days was a huge success due to a big response from the neighborhood. Gave a big thank you to FSM for \$500. According to Bartlett Tree Service, they chipped between 1.5 and 2 tons of material. Jessell announced that Chief Meston's retirement dinner will be held on October 21.
- e. **Phil Gibbons (Davey Tree Service).** Would like feedback from FSM on their Fire Plan (copies handed out).
- f. **Lynne Osgood (FSM).** Doing audit preparations. Gave presentation (including new PPT) to Wood acre improvement club; was not a good showing. Felt that the wildland fire workshop at Corte Madera was fantastic. Will work on more homeland security grants. November 8 is the call date for concept papers; looking for ideas.
- g. **Paul Smith (KFD).** Agencies worked well together clearing Phoenix Lake. They included the Water District, MCC, Open Space District, Marin Fuel Crew and Kentfield Fire. There was great homeowner participation. They completed three projects this summer. They have expanded the Ross Valley CERT program in the last three months using space from College of Marin. CERT classes are now so full that they have to turn people away. Kentfield School District called Smith about CERT; they are able to tailor a CERT program just for the kids. Kentfield's annual pancake breakfast was a huge success serving nine hundred people.
- h. **Mike Meszaros (IPUD-Fire).** Working with West Marin Senior Services to contact local fire departments to get defensible space

projects going for the elders. Inverness Chipper Days turned into a two day event in August. There was a \$30 subscription fee for a ten cubic yard pile (anything more additional charge). Meszaros has money remaining in one of the WUI projects. He noticed an increasing number of sudden oak deaths along roads. NPS will be doing a series of burns throughout West Marin. There will be a pancake breakfast fundraiser held on Sunday, October 29 at Pt. Reyes Fire Station from 0800-1100 hours. It will raise money for disaster prevention for Pt. Reyes/West Marin.

- i. **Pete Martin.** Has been on San Rafael City Fire Commission for last year. Went to a presentation by San Rafael Fire about VMP fuel break project in the WUI areas. There was a PPT about a mythical China Camp fire spreading out to 1,800 acres.
 - j. **Eva DeNegri (Sheriff OES).** Flood season is beginning soon -- big part of the OES mission. There will be a town hall meeting regarding flooding issues for Ross Valley residents on October 20 at Sir Francis Drake High School. OES would like to sponsor the January 2007 FSM meeting at the Civic Center, Room 266.
 - k. **Chris Bramham (Open Space).** The new Open Space director is working on the public opinion poll with Chief Massucco. The California Invasive Plant Council had a conference in Rohnert Park; info on exotic plant invasion into fuel breaks. Bramham passed out literature on invasive weeds of Marin and Sonoma. Largest fire this year in the Open Space took place this month – 10 acres above San Andreas Court. Novato did a great job of suppressing it.
 - l. **Dick Sadler.** Referring to the presentation put on by San Rafael Fire about the fuel break project, he complimented the planning going on by Chief Monteneros (“really outstanding”).
 - m. **Roger Sprehn (CMFD).** Corte Madera wildland workshop was a success; builders and planners attended, too. CMFD is having an open house tomorrow. All week their crews have been going out to young kids to talk about fire prevention.
8. Group agreed to skip the November meeting as it falls on Veteran’s Day holiday. Kent Julin thanked Lynne for her hard work on the budget for next year; it will have to be voted in at the next FSM meeting in December. We will also need to vote in a new President and new Treasurer. **Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1051 hours (May/Bramham).**

Respectfully submitted,

Eva A. DeNegri
Secretary, FIRESafe Marin