

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

Meeting Minutes October 13, 2003

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chairman at 6:20 p.m. at the Woodfords Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96210.

<b>Present:</b>		<b>Attended:</b>	
David Griffith	FSC Board	10/13,10/14	Woodfords Resident
Nancy Thornburg	FSC Board	10/13,10/14	Markleeville Resident
Pete Spansail	FSC Board	10/13,10/14	Woodfords Resident
Stacey James	FSC Board	10/13,10/14	Woodfords Resident
Don Jardine	FSC Board	10/13	Supervisor, District 1
Josh Kelly	FSC Board	10/13,10/14	Woodfords Resident
Clint Celio	Lead Council	10/13,10/14	Woodfords Resident
	Coordinator		
Jennifer Celio	Council Coordinator	10/13,10/14	Woodfords Resident
Gunter Kaiser	Citizen	10/13	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Citizen	10/13	Markleeville Resident

## **I. Approve minutes of September meeting**

*Motion to approve September minutes with David's correction.*

First: Pete                      Second: Josh

All ayes

## **II. Administrative Committee Report**

Jennifer quickly updated the Council on the status of the liability insurance. The insurance premium has been paid and the binder has been received. David would review the binder and insurance limits.

Additionally, Jennifer noted the Council has been granted an advance ruling of 501(c)(3) status. A final determination will be made 5 years out.

## **III. Education Committee Report-**

Pete will provide an overview of the slash bundler demonstration later in the meeting. (Later in meeting) Nancy stated we were short on supplies and would get with Clint on what is needed.

## **IV. Government Committee Report**

Update of Planning Commission Meeting- Clint and David attended the September Planning Commission meeting. They briefed the Commission on the background and goals of the Fire Safe Council. Additionally, Clint reviewed with the Commission the 1991 Implementation Plan, the Ad Hoc Findings of 1990, the safety element of the General Plan and its corresponding regulation in the county code.

Update of County fire plan and fire element of the General Plan- Stacy has contacted agencies adjoining Alpine County and is in the process of receiving fire plan copies from the

BLM, BIA (draft), Toiyabe Forest Service, South Lake Tahoe Basin Fire, and Kirkwood Fire. Additionally, she had a working template of the Monterey Fire Plan.

*Nancy Arrive*

*Don Arrive*

David inquired on the approach to creating the fire plan. The Council felt that the Monterey template and the current implementation plans were good starting points, although noticeable that a document the size of the Monterey template would not be useful. The Council considered approaching the fire departments and Sheriff's office to address aspects of the plan including evacuation plans. Although it may be difficult for the fire departments to find the resources to commit to creating the plan, the fire departments may like the opportunity to review and comment on the plan.

In addressing evacuation plans, Clint mentioned the Sheriff's office will place one in the Emergency Operations Plan, but due to its grant deadline, it may lack community involvement. Jeff Brees envisioned the fire plan as an opportunity for good detailed neighborhood evacuation plans. He stated good communications initiated by a block leader would assist the fire departments and Sheriff's in the event of an evacuation.

Overall, the Council felt the fire plan would prioritize aspects such as the need to update the General Plan and create neighborhood evacuation plans. It was stated that some of the new administrator grant money could possibly assist in writing the plan, thus relieving some of the volunteer time. Stacey suggested starting the new fire plan by creating a revision of the current implementation plan and adding relevant aspects from the Monterey template. In agreement with Stacey, the Council requested copies of the implementation plan and Monterey template for everyone and to dedicate a single meeting to hash out the details of the plan creation. Stacey agreed to take the lead in the plan process.

## **V. Old Business**

Community Fire Safe Review Program Discussion- David and Clint attended meeting in mid-September with Forest Service. Contrary to what the FS indicated at the community meeting in May, the FS would not coordinate the fire safe reviews but would try to assist in fire reviews in Markleevillage. Clint asked the Council if they desired to move forward and coordinate the reviews. Nancy and Jeff stated in doing the reviews they found it hard to provide solutions to the residents. Jennifer noted an opportunity existed for gathering background information that could be used in grant applications. Clint and David indicated the reviews help give the Council an identity in the community and after making it an issue with FS, the Council cannot drop the ball. Stacey stated the reviews would help the Council find who needs help so by spring we can bring solutions. The Council decided to hold reviews on October 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> in Markleevillage and notice in post office.

*Motion adjourn meeting due to power outage and continue meeting tomorrow, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.*

First: Nancy

Second: Don

All Ayes

*David called continuation of October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at 2:06.*

Community Fire Safe Review Program Discussion (Continuation)- Clint has recruited Jeff to coordinate with Markleeville VFD and help conduct the fire safe reviews for the 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Clint will coordinate with the Forest Service. He stated there would be 4 sessions start at 9 and 1 each day, with about 10 people.

Manzanita Lane Fuels Reduction Project- Clint has worked to get landowner agreements signed and contractor contracts finalized. He has received comments from Zellmers, Clark, Halling, Nelson, and Blakely. Regarding Blakely's property, Pemberton had Clint meet up with Steve Harcourt. Steve will write Blakely's prescription, adding forestry expertise and positive landowner cooperation to the project.

Discuss and Determine Process for Contractor Selection- Clint suggested including either Steve Harcourt or Dave Early in the project design. Since the amount of project contractors in the local vicinity is limited, the Council recommended that Clint solicit at least two bids for the project. It was determined that Clint would solicit the bids and the Council could quickly review the bids at a regular meeting.

Neighborhood Meeting- Clint suggested having a meeting for Manzanita Lane in early November to update the landowners on the project. The Council agreed that the participants in the program and those neighbors that attended the last neighborhood meeting should be invited.

Environment Compliance- Clint stated the Council has received the notice of environmental compliance from the BLM based on the pending cultural survey and proper buffering of the riparian corridor. Clint inquired if the Council desired further agency notification of compliance. The Council strongly desired to be in environmental compliance and felt they could achieve it through proper project management.

## **VI. New Business**

Project priorities (other than Manzanita Lane)- Mesa Vista and Lower Manzanita were suggested for future fuels projects. Clint viewed future projects as not only fuels reduction projects but possibly work on the Fire Plan, more fire safe reviews, etc. Overall, the Council stressed the fire plan was a priority along with a complete contractor/solutions list. Nancy would like to see the "solutions" incorporated into County recycling program. In discussing priorities the Council felt it was crucial they are a catalyst for solutions, from stressing fire code enforcement to the board to creating a fire plan that is more community based than an agency plan. Stacey felt it was necessary to keep projects in mind for future grant applications. Although Mesa Vista was mentioned, the Council idealized a project that could fund "solutions" would be ideal. Clint suggested the possibility of transporting fuels to STPUD property.

Job's Peak Project- Dave Early approached Clint in having the Council apply for fuels reduction grants for the California side of the Jobs Peak project. In a brief discussion, the Council could possibly foresee a joint project with them, but felt this community was capable of funding their fuels project.

Address Signs- The Council discussed the possible advent of visibly standardized address signs. Due to the limited resources of volunteers, the FSC thought they could provide an information packet for the sign.

Update from Pete on slash bundler demonstration- Pete presented a video of a demonstration, showing a centralized logging landing with slash that is bundled in 3meter bundles. The automated machine was being tested throughout the west in various fuels types and densities.

Regional coordinators meeting report- Clint attended the regional coordinators meeting in Placerville regarding continuation of coordinator positions. Grants were providing for fuels

projects but not coordinators. Ironically, Clint announced that the Council received \$25,000 additional funding for the coordinator position. Clint found the best part of the meeting was Frank Stewart, of the Quincy Library Group. He stated Fire Safe Council's needed to "court" the federal agencies and help them realize we are their advocate and a conduit for them to accomplish their tasks.

Central Sierra RC&D meeting- Clint briefly updated the Council on the CS RC&D, and stated they could be future partners with the Council.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting to discuss the fire plan was set for Nov 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. The next regular meeting was not set, but tentatively scheduled for either Oct 27<sup>th</sup> or Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Before adjournment, Clint requested signature authority for signing the landowner agreements.

*Pete left*

*Motion: Authorize Clint Celio to have Alpine Fire Safe Council signature authority for the Manzanita Lane Project landowner agreements.*

First: Nancy

Second: Josh

All Ayes

*Motion: Adjourn and set special fire plan meeting for Nov 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at Markleeville Fire Station.*

First: Nancy

Second: Stacy

All Ayes