

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

**Approved Minutes**  
November 28, 2005  
**6:00 pm, Woodfords Fire Station**

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:06 pm at the Woodfords Fire Station, Woodfords, CA 96120.

**Present:**

David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Nancy Thornburg (by phone)	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administration	Woodfords Resident
Mark Demaio	Public Works	
Al Moss	Interested Citizen	Mesa Vista Resident
Clint Celio (6:30 p.m.)		Woodfords Resident

**Absent:**

Stacey James	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Don Jardine	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident

**I. Approve minutes of October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Nancy Thornburg*

*Second: Kim Chatfield*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

**II. Administrative Committee**

- a. Recommendation and possible action to authorize David Griffith to sign a contract for the services of Jeff Brees as Fire Safe Coordinator effective October 24, 2005 and expiring October 31, 2006.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Kim Chatfield*

*Second: Nancy Thornburg*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

firesafe  
COUNCIL

**III. Education Committee**

Kim Chatfield questioned the status of the presentations at the Historical Society regarding fire history to get more interest on the East Slope. Nancy Thornburg stated that there had not been anything done to date. The tapes will need to be taken to a professional to do a composite with a possible May meeting. It was agreed that some funding could be made available if necessary.

**IV. Government Committee**

**V. Treasury and Audit Committee**

**VI. Old Business**

- a. Randy Gibson presentation on the new state regulations regarding the urban/wildland interface.

This item was continued to next meeting as Gibson was not in attendance.

- b. Update on the status of Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan and the citizens' committee to push for implementation. Recommendation and possible action to provide up to \$1000 in administrative support for this citizen's committee.

David Griffith stated that he had spoken with various people to get recommendations for 4-5 individuals from the East Slope to serve on the citizen's committee to build public support to implement the Fire Services Plan. Griffith would like to get one person from each of the supervisorial districts. Al Moss has shown interest from Gunter Kaiser's district, Steve Martin from Don Jardine's district, and there have been suggestions for Dave Zellmer in Skip Veatch's district. Griffith contacted Mahlon Machado from Hung-Lel-Tei to see if he or another respected community member would serve on the committee. Machado will speak with his Council and get back to Griffith with a recommendation for the committee. Shirley Taylor queried whether the committee would move forward if they did not get 4-5 individuals from each of the supervisorial districts. Griffith stated that if we cannot find individuals from each district they will find other interested citizens to serve on the committee. Taylor asked when the committee will begin meeting. Griffith stated they will begin meeting at the latest in January. Griffith asked for a motion to approve \$1000 to go towards administrative support for this committee.

*Motion to approve*

*Motion: Nancy Thornburg*

*Second: Shirley Taylor*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

- c. Update on the Hot Springs Road Fuels Reduction Project and possible action to allocate \$3500 from the RAC 2005 Coordinator grant for administration of the project.

David Griffith stated that we had not allocated the \$3500 for the Hot Springs Road Project so a motion was needed to approve the budget.

*Motion to approve*

*Motion: Kim Chatfield*

*Second: Nancy Thornburg*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

Celio updated the Council on the project stating that Edney Tree Service is willing to work with the Council once the landowners are on board with the project. A transmittal letter to the landowners with their landowner agreements has been drafted by Celio asking landowners to sign the agreement or get in touch with Council. Celio has not heard back from any of the landowners at this time. David Griffith stated that Celio sent out the two bids for this via email and Edny was agreed upon by a majority of the Council.

- d. Update on the Mesa Vista/River Ranch fire water supply study and recommendation and possible action to authorize David Griffith to sign a contract with Nick Zaninovich to conduct the Mesa Vista/River Ranch fire water supply study. Setting of the time and place of the first community meeting.

David Griffith reported that the Council advertised and contacted several firms interested in the water supply study. David Griffith, Shirley Taylor, and Kim Chatfield agreed that Zaninovich Engineering be selected for the project, pending reference checks. Jeff Brees verified Zaninovich's license and checked his references. Zaninovich suggested meeting in December to begin the process and estimates 2-3 months to complete the project. Griffith stated that Zaninovich's bid was not a fixed cost bid and he will warn the Council if he's going over budget. An additional \$1000 from the Coordinator's grant will be needed for miscellaneous expenses on the project. Griffith asked for suggestions on time and place for the kick-off community meeting to refresh Mesa Vista/River Ranch residents on the project and let Zaninovich speak and answer questions. After the draft report is completed there will be another community meeting to discuss the results. Kim Chatfield questioned why a kick-off meeting was necessary as the residents had already been notified of the project at the first meeting and there was nothing to report at this time. Shirley Taylor suggested a mailing to notify residents that the project was starting and a meeting will be held at the completion of the project. The Council agreed to send a mailing rather than hold a kick-off community meeting. It was agreed that Jeff Brees would coordinate with Kerry Radelfinger to send out the mailing. A motion was needed to authorize David Griffith to sign a contract with Zaninovich Engineering to complete the study.

*Motion to approve*

*Motion: Shirley Taylor*

*Second: Kim Chatfield*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

- e. Update on the 2006 Calendar project.

Nancy Thornburg reported that she has had positive comments from neighbors about the calendars. Kerry Radelfinger stated that 600 of the calendars were sent out to Markleeville and Woodfords residents and there were extra calendars available for distribution. Shirley Taylor suggested since they were dated material they should be distributed now instead of being stored. Thornburg suggested putting them out with the Council's educational materials in the Building Department, County Clerk's office, and Library. Taylor will also distribute some to Woodford's Station.

- f. Update on the 2005 Burn Pile project.

Jeff Brees reported that the burn pile had been burned. Nancy Thornburg suggested Brees discuss the burn pile history, importance, and management with the new Public Works director to garner his support. Griffith also wanted them to know we will support them in getting the funding as it is the most successful fuels reduction program in the county and the County should manage the program. Kerry Radelfinger stated that she had received the invoicing for the total cost of the burn pile. Brees will talk to the Public Works director to determine what portion of the bill is owed by the Council.

- g. Discussion and possible action on projects and grant applications for 2006.

David Griffith reported that the Council needs to decide what grants they would like to apply for so Jeff Brees can be prepared with the applications when RAC meets. Funds will be needed for the Coordinator and Administration positions. Previously we have received \$40,000 from RAC. This year the Council has received \$20,000 from the County and can apply for the remaining \$20,000 from RAC. Griffith questioned whether we want to apply for the Burn Pile again, but since we will not use up the funds from this year it may not be necessary. Griffith queried Council members as to ideas for grants for 2006. Kim Chatfield stated that there is a 20 acre parcel of land owned by the County and South Lake Tahoe Public Utilities District that he would like to see designated for a fire substation or something related to fire protection. Nancy Thornburg and Shirley Taylor agreed that this would be an ideal location for a fire substation. Thornburg suggested writing a letter to the Board of Supervisors suggesting that the land be designated as a future site for a fire substation. Celio recommended writing the letter to the Planning Commission instead as the General Plan is going through an update. It was decided that Brees would write the letter to the Planning Commission jointly with Woodfords and Markleeville Fire Departments.

*Motion to Approve*

*Motion: Kim Chatfield*

*Second: Shirley Taylor*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

Kim Chatfield questioned the chipper program mentioned at the previous meeting for a 2006 project. Jeff Brees stated that a long term goal should be to have a fuels crew in Alpine County. Brees reported that he is still researching chipper programs and acquiring resources for contractors. It was agreed that the Council would like to try a chipper program if the grant funding is available.

Jeff Brees stated that the BLM will be working on 268 acres of mastication in the spring. There will be a contractor with mastication equipment in the area and Lower Manzanita could use the same treatment as Upper Manzanita. David Griffith stated the Community Fire Plan lists Lower Manzanita and Diamond Valley as areas of priority. Brees will contact the contractor once the bid is awarded by BLM to get pricing.

Shirley Taylor questioned the status of the funds the Board of Supervisors would be getting for the West Fork Estates Subdivision water system. David Griffith stated that they probably do not have the funds yet as the subdivision was not finalized. It was agreed that the Council needs to keep an eye on the issue and make sure the money it set aside in a reserved fund for a water system for that subdivision. After much discussion on the issue it was decided that the water supply study should be tied into the placement of the water tank and the Molines money should be used as matching funds to serve the water needs in the entire area, with the priority given to West Fork Estates Subdivision if excess funds do not become available. . Kim Chatfield stated that there is some resistance in the homeowner's association of having a large water tank in the area due to aesthetic value. Griffith stated that visibility will be taken into consideration in the environmental review. Clint Celio suggested getting the homeowners involved in the beginning of the process to discuss their concerns and suggestions on the project.

h. Current status of water system in Morrison subdivision.

Jeff Brees reported that the system had not been tested. The top hydrant in the subdivision is in service and the tank is 1/4 to 1/3 full. Nancy Thornburg questioned if it is being flushed regularly and if the well is producing water and how much. Brees will follow up on the issue.

VII. New Business

Mark Demaio stated that the Public Works has been getting multiple-unit driveway applications for Kirkwood and Bear Valley. In the past the Board of Supervisors has told Public Works to work out the details with the Fire Safe Council and come back to them. This was relative to Alpine Code, Section 1512 requirements of a county road and a 100 foot cul-de-sac. Demaio queried if the Council wanted to be involved or does the Council want Public Works to be in communication with the respective Fire Chiefs for Bear Valley and Kirkwood. David Griffith informed the Council of his meeting with Clint Celio, then acting Fire Chief in Woodfords and Wayne Thomson in

Markleeville regarding the County minimum road requirements set for fire access during times of wildland fire. At that time it was agreed that for the East Slope, the County code as it is now should be enforced. They did not talk with Ricky Stevens, Fire Chief in Bear Valley or Peter Tobacco, Fire Chief in Kirkwood. At that time the Council decided to back the Fire Chief's decision. Nancy Thornburg said that the Council should be advised of what they are planning as it can ultimately affect emergency response times. Demaio asked how the Council would see the process working if the Council does not give them blanket authorization to work with the local fire chiefs on improvement or encroachment permit applications. Griffith stated that Council's role should be towards getting a revised ordinance so there were not so many requests for variance or it's clear where variances should be permitted. He did not feel the Council was qualified to make decisions on individual variances. After much discussion, Demaio stated he would like to see a paid consultant identified on the East Slope for development and review of fire issues and they would be paid through Public Works for this service. Jeff Brees will discuss the issue with the respective fire chiefs and get back to the Council and Demaio on the issue.

- a. Dr. Harvey presentation on possible funding through Department of Homeland Security.

This item was continued to the next meeting as Dr. Harvey was not in attendance because he had not been advised it would be on the agenda.

- b. Recommendation to update the website and purchase software so that staff can maintain it.

David Griffith stated that the website is out of date and needs to be updated. Griffith is willing to update the website on a pro bono basis and the Council can purchase software for \$150 so that the staff can maintain the site. Nancy Thornburg stated that the next bulk mailing should include our website address and be posted in the library. Griffith hopes to have the website updated in rough form in January.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Nancy Thornburg*

*Second: Shirley Taylor*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

- c. Discussion on installation of emergency/fire siren at Markleeville fire house.

Nancy Thornburg questioned whether we still have the fire siren from the old firehouse and if it could be installed. Jeff Brees reported that it is at the firehouse and he will follow up on it and update the Council. David Griffith stated that we do have a \$15,000 grant for an evacuation plan. He suggested that the fire siren be included in the evacuation plan.

- d. Current status of implementation and enforcement of the new law requiring 100 feet of defensible space.

This item will be continued to next meeting.

Jeff Brees reported that he had discussed the evacuation plan with the Sheriff and the Sheriff was content with the plan they were currently using for Markleevillage and thought the money would be well spent on the alternative evacuation routes. Brees stated that a map with an evacuation plan to post on the refrigerator might be a good route. Griffith stated that other counties have some great evacuation routes and resources on the internet. Brees is gathering information on other evacuation plans and will continue working on it and propose a plan to the Sheriff.

Jeff Brees sent an email to Council members from Judy Molnar stating that she had received an estimate from another engineering firm for the fire assessment district study and it had come in at a much lower cost than the ad-hoc committee had estimated for the engineering study. David Griffith stated that he had some hesitation about the county's estimate as the engineer may not have the experience in conducting a Benefits Assessment District study and it is only a small part in an involved process in getting the Fire Services Plan approved. There was detailed discussion on whether the engineering study or basic community education on the Fire Services plan should be a priority in getting the Benefits Assessment District approved. It was agreed that public awareness needs to be addressed so the community understands what the situation is in Alpine County is in regards to fire protection and emergency services

Shirley Taylor suggested that the color of postcards sent out for Mesa Vista/River Ranch water study is changed to a more appealing blue color. Kim Chatfield suggested sending thank you letters to the emergency personnel. Chatfield will draft a letter and work with Kerry Radelfinger in getting them sent out in December.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Set next meeting at Markleeville Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday  
January 2.

*All ayes.*