

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

**Approved Minutes**  
May 29, 2006  
**6:00 pm, Woodfords Fire Station**

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:05 pm at the Woodfords Fire Station, Woodfords, CA 96120.

**Present:**

David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Buck McClelland (6:08 pm)	Fire Chief	Woodfords Fire Department

**Absent:**

Don Jardine	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident

**I. Call to order**

**II. Introductions**

**III. Approve minutes of April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Steve Yonker*

*Second: Al Moss*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

**IV. Administrative Committee**

**V. Education Committee**

**VI. Government Committee**

**VII. Treasury and Audit Committee**

Jeff Brees reported that the 2005 taxes had been filed and a copy was available for the Board to view.



**VIII. Old Business**

- a. Update on Hot Springs Road Fuels Reduction Project.  
Jeff Brees reported that he met with Ted Bacon, SPPCO, CDF, and Edney Contracting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. There was not much accomplished at the meeting and the project was currently in salvage mode. Brees will meet with Mike Gilbert and follow-up with CDF to restructure the project.
- b. Update on Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) revision and adoption process.  
Brees spoke with Steve Harcourt, Registered Professional Forester, and he will be starting the project soon. Brees also spoke with Mary Huggins of CDF to clarify the issues of the maps on the Draft Community Fire Plan. The issue was resolved and things can move forward.
- c. Update on Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan.  
Brees provided the Council with samples of evacuation plans. Brees suggested creating one sheet that would provide a map for the East Slope and one sheet that would be specific to Markleevillage and Hot Springs Road area. David Griffith questioned whether Brees had met with Emergency Services Council. Brees reported that he was on the agenda for their June meeting and he hoped to meet with Sheriff John Crawford and Rob Levy before that meeting. He will also contact State Parks to discuss the matter.
- d. Update on Chipping Program 2006.  
Jeff Brees spoke with Martin Goldberg, Lake Valley Fire District, and set tentative dates of July 31-August 4 for the chipping program. Brees has drafted a flyer and will email it to the Council for review. There are two crew options available, a larger hand crew with a couple chippers or a smaller crew with one chipper. Brees requested the smaller crew, until he can evaluate the participation level in the area. Griffith suggested sending out two mailings, one to give notice and a reminder closer to the date. There was some discussion on rules to be outlined on the flyer to residents.
- e. Follow-up to Mesa Vista/River Ranch Water Study presentation.  
Brees reported that 23 people attended the Mesa Vista/River Ranch Water Study Presentation. Griffith stated that everyone understood there is a problem in the area and they want to see the Council do what is necessary to get funding before asking home owners for additional money. The maximum amount home owners are willing to pay is \$500 per year, with most people willing to pay \$250 per year. The consensus was to start with a tank at River Ranch Road and Hwy. 88. If there are extra funds then a well should be put in, followed by a substation for the Fire Department.

Any additional funding would be used to put in pipes up the hill to the Mesa. Al Moss reported that he had spoken with Gunter Kaiser regarding using the \$90,000 from Molines as matching funds to get grants to help fund the project. Kaiser will put Moss in touch with the County's grant writer and he will follow-up on the matter. Another community meeting for the water study will be held June 24<sup>th</sup> for further discussion and review of progress to date. A flyer will be mailed out to residents.

- f. Update on progress towards the creation of a County Fire Marshal position.

Brees distributed a letter that Randy Gibson sent to the Board of Supervisors, Alpine Fire Safe Council, and CDF regarding the progress on the creation of a Fire Marshal position. Griffith stated that there has been some discussion with Amador County which has personnel who could do the fire inspections. Alpine County could contract with Amador County to get the work done. After some discussion on the issue, it was agreed that Griffith would draft another letter to the Board of Supervisors stressing the importance of creating a Fire Marshal position.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Al Moss*

*Second: Steve Yonker*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

- g. Update on local USFS fuels projects.

This item will be continued to the next meeting as Brees was waiting on additional information.

- h. Update on committee to promote adoption of Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan.

Moss discussed the monetary impact of the Mesa Vista/Ranch water project coupled with the Benefit Assessment District impact on property owners. Research and information on additional funding opportunities, specifically tax revenues, should be explored before asking the tax payers for more money. Moss requested 2000-2005 tax revenues from Carol McElroy, who is putting the information together.

- i. Discussion and possible action on the inability of the RAC to have a meeting with a quorum and make a decision on the AFSC grant applications.

Brees reported that RAC is scheduled to meet July 20<sup>th</sup>. The current RAC grant has been extended to the end of the year. Griffith stated that Rob Levy and RAC Board members need to be contacted to get their commitment to attend the meeting.

Moss questioned the ability to apply to RAC for \$45,000 for the water tank for Mesa Vista and River Ranch areas. Griffith stated that the Mesa Vista group could apply to RAC possibly through Public Works. Moss

will meet with Dennis Cardoza, Public Works Director to discuss the issue. Moss will also speak with Brian Peters in the Planning Department and Hal Byrd at STPUD to determine if the tank can be placed at the parcel located on River Ranch Road and Hwy. 88.

**IX. New Business**

- a. Discussion and possible action to authorize a donation of blank DVDs to Nancy Thornburg for creation of local fire DVDs.  
It was agreed that Brees would purchase blank DVDs to donate to Nancy Thornburg.
- b. Discussion and possible action to include the Coordinator under the AFSC liability insurance policy, increase the amount of coverage, and make whatever changes may be appropriate to the contract with the Coordinator. Griffith reported that the AFSC has liability coverage of \$1,000,000. Contractors have always been required to hold a \$1,000,000 policy as well, naming the AFSC as an additional insured. Brees, as Coordinator, is not able to get liability coverage at a reasonable cost. Brees can be listed under the AFSC liability policy as an additional insured. Kerry Radelfinger is waiting on quotes to double amount of coverage, which would give the AFSC another level of protection with the Coordinator added to the policy. This item will be discussed further once there is more information.
- c. View new DVD "California Living: Fire Safe" (25 minutes)  
The DVD will be shown at the next meeting.
- d. Staff Reports

Brees reported that the Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department burned the burn pile last Monday night. Last weekend was the end of the burn pile until the fall.

Brees reported there is a Biomass Workshop at the Reno Hilton the end of June. All of the local biomass companies will be in attendance. Local biomass contacts will be important for the future of the burn pile.

Shirley Taylor stated that she had met with the STPUD Contract Commission and they had queried whether the AFSC would be interested in exploring the use of the C-Line water for fire fighting purposes in Mesa Vista. Griffith stated that they had been through this issue in the past. When the effluent line was first set up it was classified as tertiary and it was permissible to be used on fires. There was a change with STPUD and it is now legally classified as secondary. Lake Valley Fire Department does have permission to use the C-line water. It required an act of the California Legislature and Lake Valley Fire Department had to get special

equipment and training for the use of this water. The Forest Service has jurisdiction and Incident Command responsibilities in the case of a wildfire and they will not use the C-line water. One possibility in the use of the water is to set up a treatment plant to treat the water for use in fire fighting, but this is a very costly option. Taylor stated she will get documentation from Lake Valley Fire Department to take back to the Commission on the issue.

**X. Adjournment**

- a. Set next meeting at Markleeville Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday June 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Al Moss*

*Second: Kim Chatfield*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*