

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
June 26, 2006
6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:09 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, 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
Don Jardine (6:40 pm)	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Markleeville Resident

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of March 29th meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Steve Yonker

Second: Shirley Taylor

All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Administrative Committee

V. Education Committee

VI. Government Committee

VII. Treasury and Audit Committee

VIII. Old Business

- a. Update on the status of the "purple" hydrants in Woodfords.



Shirley Taylor reported that she went to the Lake Valley Fire Department for information regarding the rules and regulations for use of the “purple” hydrants. The Health Department does the training for Lake Valley and the Forest Service on the use of this water. Hal Byrd directed Taylor to contact Jim Goodloe, Environmental Specialist with the Alpine County Department of Health and Human Services. She sent a letter asking what would be required for training the local Fire Departments and Forest Service for use of the “purple” hydrants. She has yet to hear back from him at this point. David Griffith suggested she also contact Mike Wilde who is in charge of fighting fire for US Forest Service, regarding whether they will attend that training. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Assemblyman Tim Leslie, who helped with the legislation to allow the Lake Valley Fire Department to use that water, will also be important contacts. Taylor will wait for a response from Mr. Goodloe and proceed from there.

- b. Update on the Hot Springs Road Fuels Project.
Jeff Brees reported that he has not yet been able to meet with Mr. Gilbert, one of the landowners of Hot Springs Road. Gilbert has had to cancel a couple meetings. Brees called Mary Huggins with CDF, to determine if the project could be done just using the road right-a-way. He is waiting to hear back from her. Brees will continue to attempt to meet with Mr. Gilbert, who appears to be willing to cooperate with the project. The contractor has moved out of the area, so there will be some lag time before the field work can start. If the project can start on Gilbert’s property, it is hoped that the other landowner, Don Hittenmiller, will see what is being done and allow the project to extend to his property as well. They will clean up the road right-a-way portion of Ted Bacon’s property. The Council was supportive of Brees continuing to move forward with this project at his discretion.
- c. Update on Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) revision.
Brees received a letter from Steve Harcourt, who checked the prescription for the CWPP. Brees will incorporate this information into the CWPP. The revised draft will need to be submitted to the agencies and the Board of Supervisors, with the hopes of it being adopted in the fall. New projects will need to be added to the plan, so Brees asked that the Council bring ideas for projects to the next meeting for discussion.
- d. Update on Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan.
Brees was not able to attend the Disaster Council meeting, but he sent them an evacuation plan brochure and asked for their comments. After some discussion, it was agreed that there needs to be a clear and concise plan that incorporated the State Park and gives residents and tourists an evacuation plan with a map and clear directions to refer to in the event of a wildfire. Brees will follow through with the Disaster Council and meet

with the Sheriff, the State Park, and property owners for possible community safety zone sites.

- e. Update on Curbside Chipping Program.
Brees reported that the chipping flyer and resource directory had been mailed out. Brees will meet with Gina Gigli, who will write an article on the Alpine Fire Safe Council for the Alpine County page of the Record Courier, to be run on July 7, 2006. The article will focus on the Curbside Chipping Program. Griffith questioned how residents can ensure their pile will be picked up. Brees stated that they will need to put it on the roadside by the date specified; it is not by appointment. The chipping crews will circulate by neighborhood. Brees will be sending out another flyer closer to the date, possibly with a survey included. Griffith stated that the most accurate degree of success will be the amount of participation in the program.
- f. Update on USFS and BLM fuels projects.
Brees stated that the Forest Service will be doing a 25 acre project in the fall. A map was distributed showing the areas being treated. BLM has finished $\frac{3}{4}$ of their mastication project. The Forest Service is doing their first stewardship project in Washoe Valley and would like to wait to see how that project goes before doing any further stewardship projects.
- g. View "California Living: Fire Safe" 25 minutes, continued from May 29 meeting.
This item will be continued to next meeting.
- h. Follow-up from Mesa Vista/River Ranch Firefighting Water Supply Study meeting.
Griffith reported that another meeting was held for the community regarding the Mesa Vista/River Ranch water supply study. There were about 20 people in attendance. Moss updated the Council on the meeting and reported that he and Griffith met with Dennis Cardoza, Public Works, and explained what they would like to do to move forward with the water supply issue in the Mesa Vista/River Ranch area. Cardoza offered for Public Works to take over the project and move forward with the plans outlined at the community meetings. After much discussion, Moss stated that they will follow up with Cardoza by sending him a letter thanking him for getting involved in the project and providing him with a copy of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the Mesa Vista/River Ranch Water Scoping Study.
- i. Update on creation of a County Fire Marshal position.
Don Jardine reported that he will be meeting with the Lake Valley Fire Chief who does inspections to query if Alpine County can contract with him for the position. Another possibility is to recruit a CDF retiree to the

position. Griffith questioned what the Board of Supervisors feels about the issue. Jardine said there is some reluctance due to the fact that Bear Valley and Kirkwood have a special assessment to pay for their Fire Chief, and feel that they should not have to pay for this position for the East Slope out of the General Fund. Jardine felt that this could be worked out. After some discussion on the special assessment, Taylor questioned whether the Lake Valley Fire Chief would be contracted for new construction or for defensible space inspections. Jardine stated that he would be responsible for defensible space regulations and inspections.

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

Griffith reported that the committee is currently trying to tie down a financial formula for the Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan. They will need roughly \$300,000 per year, with fund sources including the Hung-a-lel-ti community, a two percentage point increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax, county and government buildings, and property owners. Griffith and Jardine plan on meeting with Mahlon Machado of Hung-a-lel-ti tomorrow. Once things begin moving forward with Hung-a-lel-ti, Griffith, Jardine, Moss, and Steven Martin will put together an educational program budget and go before the Board of Supervisors to begin the process of educating the public about what needs to be done and how the money can be raised.

- k. Assignment of responsibilities for contacting Alpine County RAC members to promote a quorum at the July 27 meeting.

Griffith stated that the RAC has tried to meet twice this year to make decisions on the projects they will be funding, but were unable to get a quorum. It is important that a quorum be present for the July meeting. Griffith distributed a list of contact information for the RAC members and suggested that the names be divided up among the Council so each person is contacted and a request made that they make every effort to attend the July 27th RAC meeting.

Griffith distributed an email from the insurance agent regarding an increase in the liability insurance from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 or \$5,000,000. The \$3,000,000 is about \$2000 per year and the \$5,000,000 is about \$2200 per year. The insurance will cover the activities of the Coordinator. In the past, it was set up so that all independent contractors, including the Coordinator, had to have their own insurance. Jeff Brees found it is not possible to find insurance at a reasonable cost. Griffith suggested that the Council pay for the insurance, without a contribution from Brees, as the insurance premiums are very reasonable. Griffith suggested that the limit be increased, since the Council will not have the added protection of the Coordinator carrying insurance. It was agreed that the Council would increase their liability limit to \$5,000,000.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Steve Yonker

All ayes. Motion carried.

IX. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on joining the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition.

Brees stated that six groups in Alpine County belong to the National Forest Counties and School Coalition and there are not many Fire Safe Councils that are joining at this time. Brees suggested that the Alpine Fire Safe Council join. Griffith asked Don Jardine to tell the Council about the Coalition, since the Board of Supervisors is a member. Jardine stated that they are a lobbyist group attempting to ensure old timber receipt dollars continue coming to the county. After some discussion, the Council agreed to join the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Steve Yonker Second: Al Moss

All ayes. Motion carried.

- b. Discussion and possible action regarding the Planning Commission proposed amendments to the Fire Element of the General Plan.

Griffith asked the Council for any feedback on the Fire Element draft of the General Plan. Kim Chatfield had a few comments regarding wording found in the draft copy. Griffith will attend the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday evening and discuss the Council's comments on the draft copy.

- c. Staff Reports

Brees attended the California State Fire Safe Council meeting. He has information on the RAC funding for other counties. Brees commented that it is a critical time to contact our legislatures during recess about Secure Rural Schools funding act.

Brees reported that the RAC meeting is July 27th at Diamond Valley School at 6:00 pm.

Brees reported that Dennis Cardoza, Public Works, is working on moving the burn pile, either by chipping and hauling or hauling the green stuff. If Public Works does not dispose of the pile, then Brees will get someone to haul the pile.

X. Adjournment

- a. Set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday July 31st.

Motion to approve.

August 31, 2006
Page 6

Motion: Shirley Taylor Second: Steve Yonker
All ayes. Motion carried.