

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
August 28, 2006
6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:23 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Present:

David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Don Jardine	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Al Moss (6:30 pm)	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Markleeville Resident

Absent:

Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
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I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of June 26^h meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Shirley Taylor Second: Kim Chatfield

All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Administrative Committee

V. Education Committee

VI. Government Committee

VII. Treasury and Audit Committee

VIII. Old Business

- a. Update on Mesa Vista/River Ranch firefighting water supply.



David Griffith reported that he sent an email to Dennis Cardoza to check the status of the water tank location and progress of the project. Cardoza said he should know more by September 8th.

- b. Update on creation of a Fire Marshal position for Alpine County.
Don Jardine stated that in Bear Valley the deputy sheriffs were given a 5% pay increase to handle the duties of fire marshal, paid under a special assessment. Currently, the special assessment does not cover the cost so it is now a general fund obligation. Jardine spoke with Sheriff John Crawford about the Bear Valley deputies coming over in the spring to do the defensible space inspections and fire marshal duties on the East Slope. Shirley Taylor questioned whether they will just come once per year. Jardine clarified that they will come to the East Slope as needed, but the important time for defensible space inspections will be during spring clean-up. They will then need to come back to do follow-ups and responds to complaints. Jardine and Jeff Brees will work together and follow-up on the issue.
- c. Update on the committee to promote adoption of Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan.
Griffith reported that they have made some progress. Bill Morgan and Jim Haen have agreed to join the committee. Jardine reported that the Alpine County's Sheriff's Department hand delivered a letter to Brian Wallace of Hung-a-lel-ti community, asking for the opportunity to meet with the tribal council and explain why the fire and emergency medical services plan is important. There was still no response from Wallace or Mahlon Machado at this time.
- d. Update on the Burn Pile – Fall 2006.
Brees reported that he spoke with Dennis Cardoza who assured him the Public Works newsletter would have the Burn Pile information included and it should be mailed out this week. Brees will be attending the Shay Creek Homeowner's meeting on Saturday and will let them know the Burn Pile is open. Brees has not reached Mike Wilde with the Forest Service regarding the ability to burn the pile this year. Brees is getting quotes on hauling and chipping the pile.
- e. Update on the Hot Springs Road Fuels Project.
Brees stated he had been in touch with Mr. Gilbert who agreed to have the Council proceed with the project on his property. Brees faxed him the paperwork for his signature. Brees sent the maps to Mary Huggins, CDF, but she has been busy and she has passed it on to another Forester. Brees will file for an extension if needed, but he hopes to complete the project this year, doing Gilbert's property and the road right-a-way. Brees will put out a bid for the project. He has already spoken with Martin at Lake

Valley who will be available and he will ask for bids from other contractors.

- f. Update on Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) revision.
Brees reported that he has 85% of the text updated. He hopes to have the draft written by the next meeting. Clint Celio will be doing the map work in the next couple weeks.
- g. Update on Curbside Chipping Program 2006.
Brees reported that he has had positive response to the Chipping Program. There were a few people whose piles were missed, but the crew will be returning to chip their piles.
- h. Continued discussion of the West Fork Estates Fuels Assessment.
Brees stated that he had passed on the comments the Council had on the West Fork Estates Fuels Assessment to Brian Peters, Planning Department. Brees also heard back from Mary Huggins, CDF, who did not think the assessment addressed the defensible space clearance requirements, the roadside vegetation requirements, and vegetation type conversions. She said that a Registered Forester did not need to do the vegetation management plan because it is not timberland. Brees said there is not a guideline for writing a vegetative management plan. Brees spoke with Peters about getting guidelines from CDF to give to developers, perhaps specific to certain areas in the county. After some discussion, Brees stated he would get in touch with Huggins to discuss the issue and Jardine will work with Brees in getting it resolved.

IX. New Business

- a. Discuss and set date for community meeting in September.
Griffith stated that a meeting will be held to talk about the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and get community input on new projects. Brees asked the Council if Saturday, September 23rd would work for everyone. It was agreed to hold the meeting on that date at 9:30 a.m. in the Administration building. Brees will also solicit input from the community through the website.

Griffith reported that there is a variance request to the Planning Commission by the Alpine County Museum to reduce the setback requirement to 5 feet from the property line for a shed they are constructing. The rationale for setback requirements is defensible space and fire suppression. In the past, the Council has sent a letter to the Planning Commission when there was an application for a variance for a setback stating that the reason for setback requirements is to maintain defensible space. The variance can be mitigated and conditions be placed on it to address issues of fire suppression. The Council agreed to send a letter to the planning commission regarding the variance request.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss

Second: Don Jardine

All ayes. Motion carried.

Griffith stated that he had a request for the minutes of the meetings to be distributed by email. A motion was made to distribute the approved minutes only by email.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss

Second: Shirley Taylor

All ayes. Motion approved.

Don Jardine reported that the State of California is considering new prison facilities including conservation camps. Jardine asked the Council if they would be interested in exploring the possibility of a conservation camp in Alpine County. Jardine stated that conservation camps are level one inmate and they are used for trail building, fire fighting, and various other projects in the community. Al Moss questioned where they would be housed. Jardine stated that in the past the Airport and Turtle Rock Park were looked at as possible sites. Jardine will invite CDF to the Council's next meeting to discuss the issue further. After some discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter to CDF asking for more information on the issue.

Motion: Don Jardine

Second: Al Moss

All ayes. Motion carried.

b. Staff Reports

Kerry Radelfinger reported that she spoke with Jean Burt, Forest Service, regarding obligating the funds for the 2007 RAC funds. Burt said that the application and contract need to be completed by September 25th.

Radelfinger reported that she had submitted two invoices to the County for Title III funds the first of July and had not received the funds. Radelfinger spoke with Judy Molnar who said she would check with the auditor, but she thought there was only \$800 in the reserve account, which was not enough to pay the invoices in full. After some discussion, Jardine offered to help out if the auditor was having any problems. Griffith also suggested that Radelfinger offer to share the information that she has learned in working with the Forest Service with the auditor if need be.

Brees reported that the Falling Leaf Community Service District has a Benefit Assessment District and they just got a 75% approval rating on increasing their assessment to a maximum amount of \$600 per year. After some discussion on the process the Falling Leaf CSD went through in creating their Benefit Assessment District, Brees stated that the Falling Leaf CSD would be willing to meet with the committee to promote the adoption of the Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan.

Brees reported that the Volunteer Fire Departments budgets were approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Brees reported that the 2007 Forest Service grant received through the State Clearinghouse is hung up on procedural issues. The California Fire Safe Council would like the Forest Service to put together some guidance on endangered species and historic preservation and other issues that need to be addressed. It will not be a problem getting the money, but the timeline for receiving funds is questionable. It is not an issue for the Council at this time.

Brees reported that he has been in touch with the Park regarding the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan. He has not showed them any material. Brees will be working more on this project, but it will not be done this fire season.

X. Adjournment

- a. Set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday September 25th.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Kim Chatfield

All ayes. Motion carried.