

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
September 25, 2006
6:00 pm, Woodfords Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:07 pm at the Woodfords 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 (6:22pm)	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Markleeville Resident
Mary Huggins	Cal Fire - CDF	

Absent:

Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
--------------	-----------	--------------------

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of August 28th meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss

Second: Kim Chatfield

All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Administrative Committee

V. Education Committee

VI. Government Committee

VII. Treasury and Audit Committee

a. Quarterly Report



Kerry Radelfinger presented Board members with the third quarter financial statement for their review. Griffith stated that the quarterly financial statements did not need to be approved, but if there were any questions they could be directed to Jeff Brees, Radelfinger or Griffith.

Shirley Taylor questioned whether the calendars were all distributed. Brees said they were mailed out, with the remaining portion made available at the library and administration building. After some discussion, it was decided that the Council should look into other mailer options, like the *Living with Fire* brochure. Brees and Radelfinger will research other options and bring them back to the Council for discussion.

VIII. **Old Business**

a. Update on the Hot Springs Road Fuels Project.

Brees stated that Mike Gilbert, Hot Springs Road property owner, never faxed back the signed papers to move forward with the project on his property. He was the last chance at getting one of the property owners on board with the project. The fuels crew that was lined up is now busy and it is getting too late in the year to initiate the project. Brees stated that CDF has been waiting for the Council to move forward with the project, but without the community support needed from the three main landowners on Hot Springs Road the project cannot move forward and the grant is reaching its deadline. Mary Huggins, Cal Fire, stated that she looked at the project in May and found that Ted Bacon, one of the major property owners, was not supportive of the project. Huggins pushed for the project to move forward, even if only one of the other landowners wanted to participate in the project. CDF was reluctant to extend the grant contract with the roadblocks already encountered with the project. Huggins met with Brees and reviewed other project areas for another Prop. 40 project. Huggins said there are other opportunities on the south side of Turtle Rock Park and the brush around the school. Another application could be filed for a Prop. 40 project with two different areas identified in the same application. The current grant contract needs a 30 day notice terminating the contract. Griffith stated that the Hot Springs Road area is one of the most critical areas in the County with thousands of tourists visiting in the summer months and only one way out. Huggins questioned whether there was another project on Hot Springs Road, possibly a project in the State Park. Griffith asked Don Jardine whether the County has any authority to declare unmanaged brush and timber resources as a public hazard and take action to remove that hazard. Jardine stated that the County Council would be in town the next day and he could approach them directly on the issue. Brees felt that Council should get the County to do the right-of-way on Hot Springs Road and focus on the evacuation routes in the community, including helping maintain the other roads that could be used during an evacuation. It was decided that Jeff Brees would write a letter to the Board of Supervisors explaining why the Hot Springs

Road project cannot be completed, why it is important, and urging the Board to find a solution.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Shirley Taylor

All ayes. Motion carried.

- b. Update on Prop. 40 project ideas with Mary Huggins CDF-AEU. Brees and Huggins looked at other Prop. 40 project sites, including Turtle Rock Park and the school site. Griffith thought clearing around the school would be a good project. The Forest Service is building at Turtle Rock Park and the area mentioned may be cleared for their building project. Brees stated that the school project was contained in a larger project in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP.) Griffith asked for feedback from other Council members on the two project ideas. It was agreed to apply for the school project. Griffith questioned whether the property was owned by the School Board or the County. Brees will check on the property ownership and boundaries.
- c. Update on Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) revision, distribute draft. Brees distributed the updated Draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to the Board members and asked them to review and provide him any feedback. Brees also asked Board members to send him project ideas and he will research them. They will be discussed at the next meeting. Terry Woodrow has asked Brees to do the CWPP for Bear Valley, which will be included in the Alpine County CWPP. Griffith reported that at the CWPP Community Meeting on September 23rd a community member suggested an educational program in the schools as a way of reaching the parents. This is an area that has not been targeted and is a possible project idea to be decided at a later date.
- d. Update on Curbside Chipping Program 2006. Brees said the chipping crews returned on September 8th to finish the remaining piles. 35 properties participated and an estimated 53 cubic yard was chipped. Brees will write up a performance report on the project, but he has received positive feedback on the program.
- e. Update on Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan. Brees has not had much time to work on the evacuation plan. Brees will get deeper into this project in the fall and be working with landowners on property access issues.
- f. Status report on Status Inventory. Brees finished the structure inventory report. The final count on structures for Woodfords was 383 single family residences, 34 commercial buildings, 165 outbuildings, and 70 access problems, determined by

driving by the property. In Markleeville there were 195 single family residences, 28 commercial buildings, 59 outbuildings, and 34 access problems. Brees will now take these numbers to the fire departments and see if they want to expand on the report. Brees will write up a structure inventory report.

- g. Update on Fire Marshal position and possible involvement of the Bear Valley Public Safety Officers.
Jardine reported that he talked with the Building Inspector and he is still interested in the position. The Board will be talking about the issue at the next meeting. Jardine also spoke with Bill Smith, retired from CDF, who is interested in working on a contract basis. He is familiar with the area and would only need a short ramp up period. Jardine will be meeting with him this week to discuss the position. Jardine asked Brees to attend the meeting. Griffith liked the quick ramp up period to avoid missing the next fire season.
- h. Continued discussion of the proposed amendments to the Fire Element of the Alpine County General Plan.
Griffith stated that the Board had reviewed the draft of the proposed amendments to the Fire Element and agreed upon changes to the draft. Griffith had attended the Planning Commission meeting, but some of the comments did not get into the draft. Griffith suggested the Board make written comments to the Board of Supervisors to ensure they were included. Griffith reviewed the comments to the proposed amendments. Griffith asked Moss and Brees to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting if available. Griffith will draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors and email a copy to Board members.
- i. Update on Mesa Vista/River Ranch Water Supply for Firefighting.
Griffith reported that Dennis Cardoza was still working on a site location for the well. They are looking at the old County Dump as a possible site. Griffith stated that this site may be too expensive as there is no power there, it will require an easement on Bureau of Indian Affairs land, and there are access issues for the fire engines. There is a wetlands area at the corner of Hwy. 88 and River Ranch Road. This is the preferred site for the tank, as it is the obvious place for the next fire station in the community. Griffith reported that Cardoza said that the wetlands issue can be engineered and planned around, but he does not know the cost to do so at this time. Griffith will stay in touch with Cardoza on the issue.
- j. Update on the committee to promote implementation of the Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan.
Griffith reported that Bill Morgan and Jim Haen have joined the committee. Jim Haen is going to put some numbers together to determine what people will have to pay for a Benefits Assessment District. Bill

Morgan will be working with Haen. They hope to have a June ballot measure to get a value of what people will be willing to pay for what level of service. Moss said the final measure will be placed on the November 2007 ballot, with information detail provided to community members between the June and November ballots. Griffith said they will be asking the Board of Supervisors for money for an educational program before the June election.

IX. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action to increase hourly rate for the services of Kerry Radelfinger.

Brees reported that Kerry Radelfinger had reached her one year anniversary and asked the Board to increase her hourly rate to \$22/hour. The Board agreed to increase the hourly rate as recommended.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Don Jardine

All ayes. Motion carried.

Griffith reported that the Planning Commission has an agenda item for Thursday's meeting regarding driveway and private road construction standards. In the past the County has not enforced standards for roads. Griffith suggested that the Council write a letter of support to the Planning Commission for enforcement of road standards and ask that they get input from the Fire Departments. Griffith asked Brees and Moss to attend the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday if they are available. Griffith will draft a letter and email out to Board members for their comments.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Don Jardine Second: Al Moss

All ayes. Motion carried.

Brees asked Jardine about the status of PL-106, which funds the RAC. Jardine went to Washington to lobby for the bill. Jardine stated there is one more session and if the bill passes it will be granted a one-year, \$50 million extension.

Brees asked the Council if they would like to send a letter of appreciation to Cal Trans for the quality mastication work done on Hwy. 88. It was agreed that Brees should send a letter.

- b. Staff Reports

Brees attended the Shay Creek Homeowner's Association meeting. Brees introduced himself and updated them on the Council's projects.

Brees sent a letter to the Planning Commission regarding the variance request by the museum. Brees will check on the outcome of that at the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday.

Brees received a letter from the Board of Supervisors stating that they had obligated the RAC money the Council was awarded.

Radelfinger asked the Board if they would like to include any items on the Chamber of Commerce's Calendar of Events. Griffith suggested adding the Council's monthly meetings.

X. Adjournment

- a. Set next meeting at Markleeville Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday October 30th.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Don Jardine

All ayes. Motion carried.