

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

**Approved Minutes**  
January 29, 2007  
**6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station**

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:07 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

**Present:**

David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonkers	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Markleeville Resident
Debbie Burkett	Alpine County Public Works	
Nancy Thornburg	Interested Citizen	Markleeville Resident

**Absent:**

Don Jardine	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
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**I. Call to order**

**II. Introductions**

**III. Approve minutes of November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Steve Yonker                      Second: Al Moss*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

**IV. Volunteer Time Sheets**

- a. Pass out time sheets, fill out and return by the end of the meeting.

**V. Old Business**

- a. Update on Curbside Chipping Program.

Jeff Brees filed the first quarter report for the chipping grant; none of the money has been spent at this point. The grant period runs from May 2006 until August 31, 2008. Brees anticipates getting two seasons of chipping

out of the grant funds. He will do a phone reservation system this year to schedule the chipping. Brees spoke to Public Works about putting the chipping information in their spring newsletter and it will also be posted on the Fire Safe Council's website.

- b. Update on Mesa Vista/River Ranch fire fighting water supply.  
Al Moss reported that he attended the Board of Supervisors meeting. The water supply issue was addressed and a report was given by a consultant who worked with Cal Trans in putting together right-of-way issues for the County. The report stated that due to Cal Trans' requirements for a turn lane, it would cost between \$30,000-200,000 to study the issue. Moss said there were some homeowners in the River Ranch/Chambers Lane area at that meeting that voiced their resistance in putting a water tank in that location. Moss stated that there has also been some concern by West Fork Estates homeowners that the \$90,000 from Molines be used for a water tank located a reasonable distance to their homes. The location at Hwy. 88 and River Ranch would satisfy the requirements from the homeowner's association where the money originated. Moss questioned whether the Council should send a letter to Cardoza in support of the pursuit of the River Ranch property to help move the project forward. Griffith stated that there was a recommendation in the General Plan amendment specifying a location that met certain criteria. The property at River Ranch and Hwy. 88 was the only County owned parcel that met that criteria. Brees met with Cardoza and one of the big issues is the tank location. Cardoza is looking for public input on the issue at Public Works' community forum on Friday night. Griffith asked that everyone encourage homeowners to go to the meeting and give their input on the issue. Griffith will draft an email for Radelfinger to send to all those who have attended the community meetings for the Mesa Vista/River Ranch water study. It is important that there is a good showing of support for that parcel of land at the meeting so things can move forward with the water tank.
- c. Update on the CWPP revision project.  
Brees reported that he is just finishing up the CWPP. Brees asked if the Board wanted to include the school education program as a project to help secure grant funding in the future. It was agreed to add the educational program to the project list for the Woodfords Planning area. Brees is just beginning the Bear Valley component. He just received assurance from Judy Molnar that the funding will be available. Griffith questioned when the CWPP would be finished. Brees hopes to be done in February.
- d. Update on committee to promote implementation of the Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan.  
Moss stated that the committee met with Gunter Kaiser, Judy Molnar and Skip Veatch to discuss setting up a Fire Chief position. The Fire Chief

would be able to put the details together for a special assessment district, put the proper training programs in place and manage the program. The committee's recommendation for the Fire Chief position to Kaiser, Veatch, and Molnar seemed to be met with favor. The committee will be meeting again and hopes to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending that they create a Fire Chief position. The implementation committee has done all that they can do at this time and hope that the Board of Supervisors will act on their recommendation.

- e. Update on creation of a County Fire Marshal position.  
Griffith stated that he does not have any information on the County Fire Marshal position and Don Jardine was not in attendance to discuss the issue. Brees reported that he had met with Bill Smith who is writing the job description for the position. Smith was writing the job description geared towards enforcing defensible space, not for commercial inspections as that was not his expertise. Griffith stated that the Fire Safe Council's primary concern is getting the defensible space enforcement procedures in place before the coming fire season. It was agreed that there needs to be a resolution of the Fire Marshal position. Griffith and Brees will speak with Jardine to find out the status of the position.
- f. Update on the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan.  
Brees will have a draft version of the packets for the three target groups, residents, responders and tourists, at the next meeting.
- g. Update on educational programs and materials available for school children.  
Brees reported that he has done some research on educational programs. There are a lot of programs available. It was agreed the Council would put the project in the CWPP and go after grant funding for an educational program.
- h. Review year-end financial statements.  
Radelfinger distributed copies of the fourth quarter and year-end financial statements, as well as the grant funding worksheet. Griffith stated that the financial statements will be approved at the February meeting so the income taxes can be completed.

## **VI. New Business**

- a. Overview of the fuels reduction planning for 2007 by Alpine County Dept. of Public Works.  
Debbie Burkett with the Department of Public Works announced that they will be hosting a public forum on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7pm at Turtle Rock Park to discuss some capital improvement issues in the county, including the location of a new water tank for fire fighting purposes. Brees stated that he had asked Burkett to come to the meeting

to update the Council on Public Works fuels reduction work. Public Works is currently going after Proposition 40 money for fuels reduction work in the County. Brees reported that he will be helping Burkett to put together some acreage for fuels reduction projects. Burkett said that the more acreage they can come up with the higher the project will rank. The money can be used for private property as well as road right-of-ways and any other county property. The grant process is fairly short so they hope to accomplish the project in the spring, summer, and fall. The contribution match for the grant is minimal and can be in kind. Griffith stated that the most important fuels reduction project is Hot Springs Road, due to the potential loss of life in the event of a major wildfire in the area. Nancy Thornburg asked if they could include the vacant lots in Markleevillage. Burkett stated that the grant will qualify whether it is private or public property as long as they have property owner's approval. Taylor queried if the size of the private property is a factor. Burkett said she will check the guidelines of the grant. Brees stated that Burkett is also working on getting the environmental documents for Turtle Rock Park so that they will be able to move forward when an opportunity arises in that area.

- b. Discussion and possible action regarding the future use of mitigation monies held in trust by Alpine County for the West Fork Estates subdivision.

This item was discussed with Old Business, item b. above.

- c. AFSC outlook for 2007 (projects, budget, etc.)

Griffith reported that the Council has \$40,000-55,000 in funds that have not been spent. Brees distributed a worksheet with budget detail and projects to be completed in 2007. Griffith told the Council that they will need to start thinking about funding options in the event that the RAC funding is no longer available. Even if the legislation is renewed there will probably be a cash flow problem due to the timing in RAC meeting and the funds being granted. Griffith stated that the Council needs to work on finding money from other sources. This will be a problem for other Fire Safe Councils as well. Griffith stated that in larger communities, Fire Safe Council's have received money from insurance companies. Griffith recommended that Brees talk to other Fire Safe Councils to find out what other grant funding might be available. Brees sent an email to Vicky Yorty with the El Dorado Fire Safe Council asking her for help in tracking down grant funds. Brees announced that Proposition 84 funded, in part, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and some of that money will be available as a possible source of funding. The Fire Safe Council is small enough that it may be able to find funding sources easier than some of the bigger organizations.

- d. Consideration of possible alternate sources of financing in the event that

Public Law 106 which funds the RAC is not renewed.  
This item was discussed with item c. above.

- e. Request for a contribution to support a community dinner honoring the volunteer first responders (firefighters, EMTs, SAR, and deputies.)

Nancy Thornburg reported that they will be having a community dinner on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to honor all of the emergency responders and deputies and dispatchers at Turtle Rock Park. There will be a BBQ dinner and raffle. All proceeds, after expenses, will be divided between the Markleeville and Woodfords Volunteer Fire Departments, EMT's, and Search and Rescue. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. For more information you can contact Nancy Thornburg or Joyce Devore.

- f. Staff Reports

Griffith asked for the formation of a nomination committee to fill four vacancies on the Board. Jardine, Griffith, and Taylor's terms are expiring. At the annual meeting in March the Board will vote on the nominees. Moss, Yonker and Chatfield agreed to discuss nominees after the meeting.

Brees questioned whether the Board wanted to hire Richard Peters to do the 2006 taxes. Griffith stated that in previous years the Fire Safe Council has used Peters to prepare the tax returns. It was agreed to use Peters for the 2007 tax preparation.

Brees distributed a copy of the new envelope for the educational packets. Brees will need volunteers to help stuff the envelopes. Living with Fire is coming out with a new Landscaping Guide this spring and he would like to incorporate it in the packet along with the new Driveway and Roadway standards.

Nancy Thornburg donated before and after aerial photos of the Waterfall fire. The Council has this resource available if anyone would like to use them.

Brees announced that Living with Fire will be putting on Chapter/Leader Training for Nevada Fire Safe Councils. Brees will notify the Council of the date and details when it becomes available.

Brees reported that he wrote a letter of support for the California Fire Safe Council who is trying to get State funding for Fire Safe Councils to help replace some of the PL-106 money.

Brees stated that if the winter stays below normal for precipitation they will not be able to burn the Burn Pile at the end of May. He will begin researching other options, including possibly opening it a month early.

Brees will write a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors for a Conservation Camp asking them to look into the issue. Brees said the first step is to get on CDF's list of future camp locations. Brees stated that there will need to be a joint effort between Mono County, Tahoe Basin and Alpine County to move forward with a Conservation Camp.

Taylor stated that she had contacted Jim Goodloe about the "purple hydrants." He referred her to Dennis Cardoza with Public Works. Taylor will put the item on the March meeting of the Contract Commission to check on Goodloe's progress.

**VII. Adjournment**

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

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Shirley Taylor      Second: Steve Yonker*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*