

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

## Approved Minutes

May 28, 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
Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident

### Absent:

Don Jardine	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident

#### I. Call to order

#### II. Introductions

#### III. Approve minutes of April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Al Moss                      Second: Kim Chatfield*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

#### IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

#### V. Old Business

- a. Update on committee to promote implementation of the Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan.

David Griffith reported that Kerry Radelfinger sent out the Fire Chief letter to Alpine County property owners who had a mailing address in the county. This list did not include the Woodfords Community or renters. Radelfinger distributed copies to the library and Sierra Pines and will

leave some for the residents of Woodfords Community. Griffith questioned whether anyone had heard any feedback on the letters. Al Moss heard from several people who had received the letter. There wasn't any negative communication on the issue. Jeff Brees heard two comments. Both individuals just needed clarification on the issue. Griffith submitted it to the Record Courier for publication, but has not heard back from them at this time. There has not been any feedback from any of the County Supervisors. Griffith stated that presence at the public comment period of the budget process will be important to show support in making the Fire Chief position a priority. Radelfinger asked if there were suggestions for additional distribution of the letters. Brees suggested contacting the Health Department regarding publishing the letter in Alpine Threads. Radelfinger will contact Doc Harvey regarding Alpine Threads and post copies for distribution at the cluster mail boxes.

Moss stated that Lake Valley Fire Department's Board of Trustees and their Fire Chief, Jeff Michaels, have put together a proposed EMS package for Alpine County. They have submitted it to a sub-committee of the Board of Supervisors for review. Lynn Doyal, Alpine County EMS Director, will be retiring June 30<sup>th</sup> so this proposal could fill the need for providing EMTs/paramedics in the area seven days per week. Brees stated that the county still has a contract with East Fork Fire & Paramedics Department, who will continue to respond, along with Lake Valley Fire Department. The local EMS service available at this time is minimal. Griffith stated that East Fork usually arrives about 5 minutes after the local EMS and Fire Departments.

- b. Update on the creation of a county fire marshal position.  
Brees had emailed a draft of the job description for the county fire marshal position to the Council for review. Brees changed the job title to Defensible Space Inspector as the position is targeted towards a specific task. Brees had received comments on the job description from Griffith and Randy Gibson, Alpine County Building Official. Brees asked the Board if they had any additional comments or suggestions. Jerry Andrews and Kim Chatfield gave Brees some additional feedback, which Brees noted to incorporate into the description. After some discussion, Brees stated that he would incorporate the comments and send it out to the Council for final review before taking it to the Board of Supervisors.
- c. Update on Mesa Vista/River Ranch fire fighting water supply.  
Griffith stated that Debbie with Public Works said there is a contract to install a hydrant on Gansberg's Ranch; they are just waiting for the contractor to schedule the work. Griffith stated that Public Works is waiting to get the Washoe Tribe's permission to move forward with the water tank on Emigrant Trail. Moss stated that the proposal was to put the water tank on tribal property and make it potable, then deed it back to the

Tribe. Griffith said that Dennis Cardoza is moving forward in getting the River Ranch location permitted and then will pursue funding for a water tank at that site.

d. Update on Chipping 2007.

Brees stated that Radelfinger sent out the RFP to the contractor list. Brees had received three responses ranging from \$110/hour to \$190/hour. Fire Stop, the contractor on the low end has offered to clear brush on private lots and haul it to the curb for \$85/hour, with an additional senior discount. It was agreed that it would be a great option to offer to homeowners. Brees hopes to get the chipping flyer out to the residents, posted on the website, and posted in the Record Courier in the next couple weeks. Brees will email out a copy of the RFP and contract to the Directors for review and take a phone poll to get approval for selection of a contractor. Taylor questioned how the chipping program will work. Brees stated that individuals will call or email to schedule the chipping and state how they want the chips spread back onto their property. Brees will also offer Courtesy Fire Safe Reviews for those who request it. Chatfield suggested starting the program earlier in the spring next year. Brees stated that his goal is to begin the program earlier, but it did not work out this year to do so. Griffith suggested going to a Board meeting to inform them of the details of the program. Brees will promote the program at the next Board meeting.

e. Update on Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan.

Brees reported that he has not received the banner/handout for use at the campground in the State Park. Once he receives it he will email out a copy for review. This is the last component to the Evacuation Plan to be completed.

f. Update on CWPP adoption process.

Brees announced that the CWPP is going on the agenda for approval at the next Board meeting. He has received 2 of the 3 signatures from the Fire agencies. Once the Board approves the CWPP and funding becomes available, the goal will be for the County to target the next priority area outlined in the CWPP. Brees will provide a final digital copy for the Directors and will have a hard copy on hand if anyone would like to use it.

**VI. New Business**

a. Discussion on funding alternatives for the AFSC.

Griffith reported that funding for the Fire Safe Council has been through the Federal government, mainly via Forest Service grants. With uncertain federal funding for the next year, it is time to start looking at other funding sources. Other Fire Safe Councils have alternatives that are not available in Alpine County, such as contributions from large private landowners or insurance companies. Griffith asked the Council for suggestions in

funding alternatives, possibly charitable organizations. Griffith stated that the Council must try to find a way to get off the dependence on federal and state grants and to diversify its funding sources. Brees reported that he has heard that the RAC funding was packaged in the Iraq War Bill, which was approved. Brees had not heard if they had approved a one year or five year authorization of the RAC funding. At the state level, Brees stated that the State Senate bill is in front of the Appropriations Committee on May 31<sup>st</sup> for a hearing. A grant worksheet outlining the current grant funding available was distributed, as well as a projection worksheet. Moss questioned if there was grant writer or other person who could help in finding additional funding. Brees stated that he has spoken with the County grant writer and has explored the government options. He has also spoken with other Fire Safe Councils, but has not received much feedback. Brees said he has not looked into private sector funding and that is an area they need to explore. Brees said he would like to speak with someone who is knowledgeable in private sector funding. Brees will dedicate more time researching additional funding sources once his current projects come to a close.

#### Staff Reports

Radelfinger reported that she will be extending the Burn Pile grant which is due to expire June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007. She questioned the time frame for extending the grant. It was agreed that she would submit an application for a one year extension.

Brees stated that Cal Fire has funds to put toward fire prevention, particularly Defensible Space Inspections. They may be able to provide the service to Alpine County.

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

Brees announced there is training at California Fire Safe Council in Sacramento on June 21<sup>st</sup> regarding environmental documentation for grant programs. Brees will attend.

Brees said BLM was not able to do the work in the Turtle Rock Park campground. Brees hopes to get it completed through the county or BLM at a later date.

Brees said there is a new Living with Fire production on fire resistant landscaping. Brees hope to get additional copies to insert in the educational packets.

Brees stated that the new Markleeville fire engine is now in service. The Woodfords fire engine is supposed to be completed the end of June.

Griffith attended the Defensible Space workshop put on by Cal Fire. He learned that Cal Fire does not have the staffing to help with Defensible Space Inspections. Griffith received a DVD from Mary Huggins, which Brees will give to the library.

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday June 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Jerry Andrews      Second: Al Moss*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*