

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes

July 30, 2007

6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:10 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
Steve Yonker	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
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of June 25th meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Steve Yonker

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 the County budget hearings will start on August 7th or 8th. Griffith said that Don Jardine had suggested talking to Skip Veatch about getting the Fire Chief position to be a scheduled item so they can notify everyone to as to an exact date and time frame for

discussion of the issue. Al Moss agreed to speak with Veatch and contact Griffith with the date so he can notify others. Griffith stated that it will be important for those in support of the position to be in attendance at the budget hearings.

- b. Update on Mesa Vista/River Ranch fire fighting water supply.
Griffith received an update from Public Works on the water tanks. Public Works is still waiting for the Washoe Tribe to make a decision on the Emigrant Trail site for the Mesa Vista water tank. In order to meet the funding deadlines, they will have to start looking at other tank locations. Construction will begin on the water tank at the Woodfords Fire Department the week of July 30th. The Gansberg hydrant on Foothill road is installed and operational. It has not been approved by Building Department, but the approval is in progress. Public Works is also planning to resurface and increase the parking area at the Markleeville Fire Station and install additional drainage. Brees reported that he checked the flow of the Gansberg hydrant and it was functioning well. Brees stated that it was not treated water and he had heard that it may be a purple hydrant. The Council agreed that they did not want the hydrant to be purple, as it would discourage fire fighters from using the hydrant. It was suggested that signage could be used to note it was non-potable water for fire fighting purposes only. Griffith stated that Chris Gansberg wants that water to be used strictly for fire fighting purposes, not for use by contractors or the county for dust control. Signage could be used to indicate proper usage of the water as well. Shirley Taylor questioned what other tank locations are being considered, if the Emigrant Trail site is not approved. Griffith stated that the old Fredericksburg school site has been considered in the past, but there isn't any money in the budget to buy property. Griffith will mention the site to Dennis Cardoza, in the event there are funds to purchase land. Moss questioned whether the River Ranch location was still on the table. Griffith reported that last he heard Cardoza was going through the permit process for usage of that location.
- c. Update on the creation of a county fire marshal position.
Brees attended the last Board of Supervisors meeting and the defensible space inspector job position was on the agenda. The Board gave the description back to County staff to determine what department the position would fall under and for review by County Counsel. The Board discussed combining the position with a vacant lot ordinance to reduce fuels hazards. Brees reported that Jardine said he would write the budget deficiency form for the position so it will be brought up during the budget hearings. Griffith asked that Brees coordinate with Jardine in writing the deficiency form, as there was some confusion in who would submit it. Griffith reported there is a lot of interest in Bear Valley in a vacant lot ordinance to allow clean up of fuels on vacant lots. The ordinance falls in line with the position of a defensible space inspector.

- d. Update on Curbside Chipping 2007.
Brees distributed a copy of the participants in the Curbside Chipping program. There were 35 people who participated with approximately 160 cubic yards chipped. Brees also did 7 fire safe reviews this month. Brees felt if they could get more fire safe reviews, they may get more people to participate in the program. The Board agreed that it was a successful program and thanked Brees for a job well done.
- e. Follow up on July 17, 2007 RAC meeting.
Brees distributed a copy of the report he presented to the RAC Board on the status of the Fire Safe Council's current RAC grants. There were 8 RAC applications submitted, two which were not funded. The Fire Safe Council received a grant for \$1500 for a school education program and \$20,000 for the Coordinator grant. The remaining \$20,000 for the Coordinator grant is to come from Title III funds through the Board of Supervisors. Brees stated there were some Title II RAC funds that were not allocated, totaling about \$22,000. There were various ideas at the RAC meeting about how to allocate those funds. Griffith stated that Title III funds are more restrictive and limited to planning and education. Fuels reduction work is not allowed under Title III. Griffith suggested that Brees speak with Franklin Pemberton, USFS, to discuss the possibility of allocating the entire \$40,000 from Title II funds. Moss complimented Brees on his work and the Board joined in thanking Brees for securing funding for another year.
- f. Status of Minden Air Tanker Base.
Brees reported that the Minden Air Tanker Base is moving to Stead in one year. Brees spoke with Mike Wilde and he said it would be worth sending a letter to the Nevada Fire Board of Directors in support of keeping the Air Tanker Base in Minden. Brees said they were supposed to move the base last year and it was put off one year. It is not a complete cut off of tanker operations in Minden. There will still be temporary air tankers stationed in Minden during the summer, but the year round base would be in Stead. A motion was made to send a letter to the Nevada Fire Board of Directors, with a copy sent to the Board of Supervisors.
Motion to approve.
Motion: Steve Yonker Second: Jerry Andrews
All ayes. Motion carried.
- g. Update on Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan.
Brees showed the Council a copy of the evacuation posters to be posted at Grover Hot Spring State Park. Brees ordered four to be posted, but more can be printed if needed. Brees is waiting on the rest of the evacuation plan to be printed and then they can be mailed out. There are enough additional copies that they can be sent out to the entire East Slope, though

it is specific to the Hot Springs Road corridor. The evacuation plan includes other important information that outlying areas would find beneficial. Griffith suggested that with the money remaining for the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan, they could change the plan to accommodate those living in the Woodfords area. A motion was made to allow Brees to create and mail an evacuation plan for areas outside the Hot Springs Road corridor on the East Slope.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Jerry Andrews

All ayes. Motion carried.

VI. New Business

- a. Review of the second quarter financial statements.
Kerry Radelfinger distributed the second quarter financial statements for review. The quarterly financial statements do not need to be approved and any future questions can be directed to Radelfinger.
- b. Preliminary observation on the Angora Fire.
Griffith reported that Steve Harcourt gave himself, Nancy Thornburg, and Jerry Andrews an informed tour of the Angora Fire area. Griffith presented a slide show with pictures and observations made during the tour. Steve Yonker said there is a Blue Ribbon committee putting together a report on the Angora Fire due out early next year.
- c. Discussion on programs and priorities for the next year.
Griffith asked the Council for ideas for projects for the coming year. Yonker suggested an education program targeting defensible space, emergency communications, disaster preparation, and construction techniques, with a presentation by Senator Cox and the Angora Fire Blue Ribbon panel. Brees recommended taking the evacuation plan one step further and creating neighborhood block leaders who are responsible for evacuating their neighborhood and keeping them informed in the event of a fire. After some discussion, it was agreed that taking the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan to the next level should be their top priority. The Board also agreed that they should explore the possibility of neighborhood block leaders in the Markleeville and Woodfords areas. Brees suggested the Council also support the County in their search for acreage for fuels reduction for the Proposition 40 grant application and with finding a new biomass collection site. Griffith questioned whether it might be worth talking to the property owners on Hot Springs Road again, to see if they would like to participate in the Proposition 40 project. Brees hopes that once the crew is in place, the property owners will see the results of the hand treatment and sign up for treatment on their property. Griffith suggested continuing this item to the next meeting for additional brainstorming.

d. Staff Reports

Brees stated that the County Driveway and Road Standards have been revised again. Brees will review them before next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Brees attended the Tahoe Regional Chiefs meeting. Brees met the head of Nevada Fire Safe Council and learned how their Council operates.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday August 27th.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Steve Yonker

All ayes. Motion carried.