

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
August 27, 2007
6:00 pm, Woodfords Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:17 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	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident
Rick Dustman	Interested Citizen	Mesa Vista Resident
Karen Dustman	Interested Citizen	Mesa Vista Resident
Christy Daugherty	Cal Fire	

Absent:

Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of July 30th meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Shirley Taylor

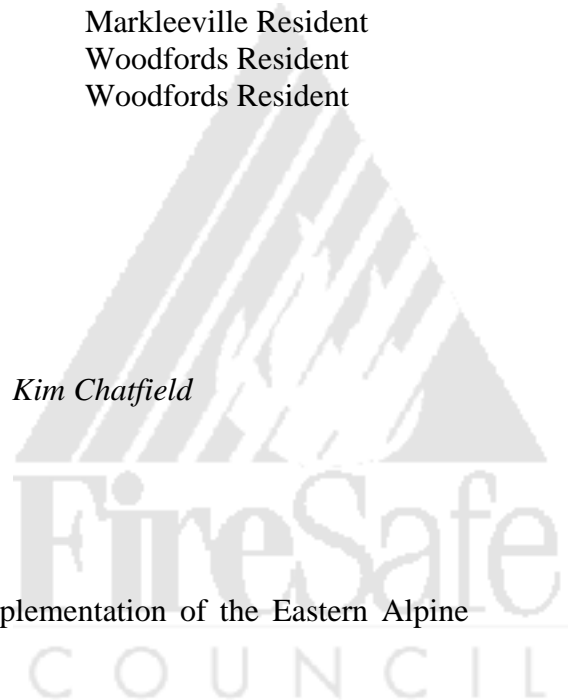
Second: Kim Chatfield

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 stated that at the budget hearing the Board of Supervisors tentatively approved \$30,000 for an engineering study for a Benefit Assessment Study with a contingency for some money for a paid fire chief. Don Jardine reiterated that they had approved \$30,000 for an engineering study and there were funds for a Volunteer Coordinator through a grant and a portion of that can be used for a fire chief. Jardine will have more information as it unfolds. Griffith stated that they did not get everything they wanted this year, but they have a good chance next year.

- b. Update on the creation of a county fire marshal position.

Griffith stated that the County has funds set aside in their budget to hire a Defensible Space Inspector to enforce the 4291 defensible space regulations. They will not be able to enforce any fuels reduction on vacant lots because the County does not have an ordinance. Griffith distributed a draft letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting them to pass a "Weed Abatement" resolution with enforcement provisions. In 2004 a Weed Abatement resolution was considered, but the Alpine Fire Safe Council did not support it as there weren't any enforcement provisions. After some discussion, it was agreed that Council suggest to the Board that the ordinance pertain to that portion of vacant lots which is within 100 feet of a structure. A motion was made to send the draft letter with amendments to the Board of Supervisors supporting the adoption of a Weed Abatement ordinance.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Kim Chatfield Second: Shirley Taylor

All ayes. Motion carried.

Jardine will put the item on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

- c. Update and discussion of the impacts of the 2007/2008 budget hearings.

This item was discussed with item a. above.

- d. Update on Mesa Vista/River Ranch fire fighting water supply.

Griffith stated that Public Works informed him that the fire hydrant on Foothill Road is permitted and operational. The signs are posted and the hydrant just needs to be painted. The Woodfords water tank is up and the piping and controls will be online by the end of September. Regarding the Mesa Vista water tank, there will be a meeting this week with the Corps of Engineers in regards to the site at Hwy. 88 and River Ranch Road to determine if there is a buildable parcel that avoids any wetlands. The Boards of Supervisors continues to look into other possible locations. Kim Chatfield questioned when the RAC funding and the \$90,000 from Molines expires. Griffith stated that the RAC funding must be committed by December 31, 2007. The \$90,000 had a 3 year time frame for commitment and an additional two years during which it had to be spent. The Moline money must be committed in one more year. Griffith reported

that Dennis Cardoza, Public Works Director spoke with the Molines and verbally they said they would not hold the Board of Supervisors to that time frame. Griffith requested that Jeff Brees speak to the Sheriff's Department regarding the Foothill hydrant to make them aware that the hydrant is for fire fighting purposes only and all other uses of the hydrant are not allowed.

- e. Discussion on programs and priorities for the next year.
Griffith stated that at the last meeting the programs that were discussed for the coming year included the evacuation plan for Hot Springs Road, supporting the County in applying for Proposition 40 funds for fuels reduction work and a replacement site for the Burn Pile. Griffith asked if anyone had any additional project ideas. Brees suggested reestablishing the Upper Manzanita fuels break, working with the County, Forest Service, and/or property owners to accomplish this. Griffith also suggested finishing the Manzanita Lane emergency exit. They had worked on this project a few years ago and the owner of one parcel had not allowed them to complete the project. There is now a new property owner and they may be able to finish the emergency exit. Jardine questioned if there was money available to fund the project. Griffith stated that if they had cooperation from the landowners the Council could apply for grant money. Brees said there was work planned on Manzanita Lane in 2008 or 2009 by the Forest Service and he hopes to have the maps at the end of September to see what work they will be doing.
- f. Update on the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan.
Brees stated that the plans were mailed out on August 14th and he announced it at the last Board meeting and received positive responses. Brees spoke with Cedar Creek Publishing about doing a plan for Woodfords; he is just waiting on a new map. Brees is also working on updating the FOG manual for distribution to the first responders.
- g. Update on the status of the Burn Pile.
Brees stated that the STPUD is not interested in providing a location for the burn pile, so it will need to be on either County or Federal land. The airport has been considered. Brees said that Dennis Cardoza, Public Works was considering it as an interim solution until the area is developed. Brees offered funds from the Fire Safe Council to help secure the site and for signage. Brees is waiting to hear back from Cardoza at this time. Brees spoke with the Shay Creek Homeowners Association and told them there is not Burn Pile location for this coming weekend. The Burn Pile, which has always been at Turtle Rock Park, has to be moved to a new location as the Forest Service is building their new station next door and will be digging to lay the water and power lines. Griffith suggested moving the burn pile to one side, giving them room to do their work. Jardine and Brees will work together to make some calls about using

Turtle Rock Park for burn pile this weekend. Griffith stated that they should make it a priority to get a burn pile location for Labor Day weekend for the Shay Creek homeowners and others who utilize the site.

VI. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible action to encourage the Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance requiring maintenance of vacant lots with enforcement provisions.

This item was discussed under Old Business, item b.

Christy Daugherty, a Forester with Cal Fire, said that Cal Fire has received an augmentation to their budget to provide 4291 defensible space inspection assistance to local fire districts. Cal Fire is using forestry aids to do the inspections. Lake Valley, Meeks Bay and Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Protection Districts have currently been using the forestry aids for defensible space inspections. Daugherty asked the fire departments to let them know their requests for time and a contact person. Jardine questioned whether the forestry aids would be able to write citations and whether they would be able to do inspections in Bear Valley. Daugherty stated that the forestry aids would not have the authority to write citations as they are not public officers. The forestry aids could do inspections in Bear Valley, as it is part of Alpine County. Brees questioned how long the forestry aids would be available. Daugherty said they will be available until December. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to notify property owners of the inspections. Griffith suggested targeting Markleevillage first with the limited time availability. Shirley Taylor questioned whether the district attorney is in support of issuing citations for defensible space. Jardine will meet with the district attorney to discuss the issue. Griffith questioned how much time Alpine County will get from the forestry aids. Daugherty stated that she can't guarantee any numbers, as it changes from week to week, but she anticipates she will have availability for inspections in Alpine County in three to four weeks. Griffith asked Brees to contact Terry Woodrow regarding Bear Valley's interest in defensible space inspections.

- b. Staff Reports

Kerry Radelfinger distributed a flyer from the Sierra Forest Legacy on a workshop they are hosting in Sonora on September 11th and 12th regarding CWPPs.

Brees attended a meeting sponsored by the California Fire Safe Council, Business Survival Skills for Non-profits. There was some Quickbooks information he will pass on to Radelfinger.

Brees stated that the tanker base in Minden is an NDF base staffed by the BLM. The BLM said they will not be staffing it any longer. The base in

Stead will be open. Brees wrote a letter to the Nevada Fire Board of Directors in support of maintaining the base in Minden and will copy the Board of Supervisors. Brees said there needs to be a joint effort with other areas affected by the base, including East Fork, Bridgeport, and Mammoth to gain support to staff the base in Minden.

Brees reported that he spoke with Franklin Pemberton, Forest Service, regarding the possibility of getting the balance of the Coordinator budget funded through Title II rather than Title III funds. There are funds available through the RAC funds and Pemberton said that would be possible, after the Board voted to allocate the RAC funds to Title II and Title III. Brees will follow up with Pemberton on this issue.

Brees said he had received a letter from Dr. Harvey authorizing the Fire Departments use of the STPUD water in the purple hydrants for wildland fires.

Brees stated that he has met with Terry Woodrow and Rick Stevens and is currently working on Bear Valley CWPP. He should be done with it this fall.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Set next meeting at Markleeville Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday September 24th.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Shirley Taylor Second: Don Jardine

All ayes. Motion carried.