

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

**Approved Minutes**  
September 24, 2007  
**6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station**

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:03 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

**Present:**

David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident
Brian Peters	Planning Department	Woodfords Resident
Gunter Kaiser	Alpine County Supervisor	Woodfords Resident
Keith Barker	Fire Ecologist	BLM – Carson City
Tim Roide	Fuels Specialist	BLM – Carson City
Steve Edgar	Fire Mitigation	BLM – Carson City
Leonard Turnbeaugh	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 August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

*Motion to approve.*

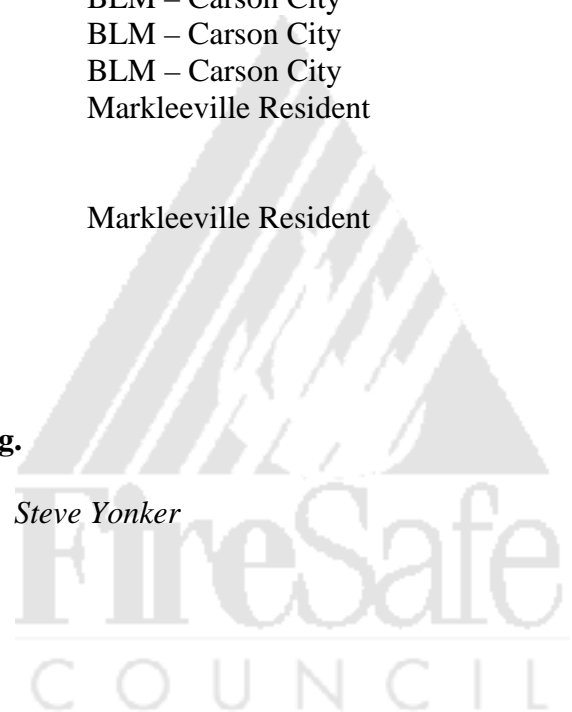
*Motion: Jerry Andrews*

*Second: Steve Yonker*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

**IV. Volunteer Time Sheets**

**V. Old Business**



- a. Update on Woodfords Evacuation Plan.  
Jeff Brees reported that Cedar Creek Publishing has received the updated map for the Woodfords area and expects to get back the draft map for the evacuation plan before the October meeting.
- b. Update on the Burn Pile.  
Brees stated that after the August meeting, Don Jardine assisted in coordinating the details to have the burn pile at Turtle Rock Park for the fall. Brees said that Dennis Cardoza, Public Works Director, said they will chip the pile if it cannot be burned. Brees said the last day for the burn pile will be October 28<sup>th</sup>. Brees stated there will be some opportunity for input on relocation of the burn pile; it is a valuable project for the community and it is important to find a long term solution. Brees will talk more with Public Works Department on the issue.
- c. Update on Chipping 2007.  
Brees reported that the Council received a check from the California Fire Safe Council for a large portion of the balance of the Chipping grant. Brees is following up with those who participated in the program for the quality control survey.
- d. Update on defensible space inspections by CALFIRE employees.  
Brees reported that Kerry Radelfinger put together a postcard announcing the defensible space inspections, which will be mailed out tomorrow. Brees stated that he is having trouble getting the inspection form from CalFire as they are not sure if the Fire Safe Councils can run the program; it may need to be sponsored by the county or the fire departments in order to use that particular form. Brees expects the defensible space inspections to start the first week of October with them getting through about 10 properties per day. Shirley Taylor questioned how long they will be available. Brees stated that they are available until December, but he is not sure how much time they will be able to spend in Alpine County.
- e. Update on committee to promote implementation of the Eastern Alpine County Fire Services Plan.  
Gunter Kaiser, Alpine County Supervisor, said that 2007-2008 budget had been approved by the Board of Supervisors and gave a brief summary of the final budget decisions. Kaiser stated that through a misunderstanding, a petition has been distributed gathering signatures against usage of funds for a Benefit Assessment District engineering study. Kaiser stated that there were no plans for such a study. Griffith explained to the Council that there was a rumor circulating that the Board of Supervisors had funded \$100,000 for unspecified projects for the fire departments, one of which was for an engineering study for a possible Benefit Assessment District for the East Slope. The petition that had been circulated was against the engineering study. Kaiser stated that the \$100,000 is for fire

department projects to be determined. Kaiser said the Board of Supervisors would like to hear project ideas from organized groups within the community for use of the funds. Griffith questioned where in the budget the funding for the defensible space inspector would come from. Kaiser stated that it is not tagged, but it could come from the \$100,000 specified for fire department projects. Griffith stated that the two most important recommendations the Council had made to the Board were for a Defensible Space Inspector and a Fire Chief. Though there is not enough money to pay a Fire Chief for an entire year, Griffith stated that by the time one was hired it would not be an entire year. Moss stated that he had relayed to the Board, as representative of the Woodfords Fire Department, that from the fire department stand point, it was more important to establish a County Administrative Officer (CAO) position prior to the establishment of a Fire Chief position, as the CAO can help the Board prepare a better fire and emergency services system, which may include the creation of a Fire Chief position. The Council agreed they need to work with the Woodfords and Markleeville Fire Departments in putting together a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on use of the funds. They will ask representatives from the fire departments to the October meeting to discuss project ideas.

- f. Update on the creation of the Defensible Space Inspector position. Discussed with item h. below.
  
- g. Update on the Mesa Vista/River Ranch fire fighting water supply. Kaiser updated the Council on the status of the Mesa Vista/River Ranch water tank site. Kaiser, along with Dennis Cardoza, Public Works Director, and Carter Schleicher met with the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the wetlands issue at the location of Hwy. 88 and River Ranch Road. Kaiser said that a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers said that it was unclear whether they would have jurisdiction or not due to issues regarding the source of the water. There will need to be additional studies done to determine who has jurisdiction over the wetlands. Kaiser received a proposal from some community members for a multi-source fire supply suppression system. Kaiser asked the Council to analyze the proposal, copies of which he provided. The pilot project would consist of four units, each unit consisting of three connected underground plastic tanks with a 5,000 gallon total water capacity and fire hydrant hook-ups. Each unit would in a different location, strategically placed in the Mesa Vista and River Ranch areas. The pilot project would be funded through the \$30,000 from the RAC. If the pilot project was successful and accepted by the community, they could look into using the \$90,000 from Molines to install additional units. Moss questioned what would fill the tank and the water capacity of the tanks. Kaiser stated that the three units will have 5,000 gallon of water total and the fire departments would fill

the tanks. Kaiser said there will need to be an MOU with the homeowner. Leonard Turnbeaugh suggested possible placement of the tanks in cul-de-sacs or on county road right-of-ways, eliminating the need to encroach on private property. Kaiser stated that the Del Norte Fire Safe Council has used the program and suggested contacting them for additional information on the program. Griffith stated that the one of the motivations for increasing the water supply in the Mesa Vista/River Ranch areas is to reduce ISO ratings for insurance purposes. Insurance companies require 250 gallons per minute at each house, either through pipes or trucking, which will need to be considered for future planning. The Council agreed to review the proposal and thanked Kaiser for attending the meeting and updating the Council on some of the items the Board of Supervisors is doing and listening to the Council's concerns.

- h. Update on the ordinance requiring maintenance of vacant lots with enforcement provisions by Brian Peters, Alpine County Planner.  
Brian Peters, Alpine County Planner, said he has been working on a draft for the vacant lot ordinance. Currently, the 4291 defensible space provision is already in place for lots with structures. The new draft ordinance will address vacant lots. The Planning Department will be coming back to the Board of Supervisors with a package for the ordinance and recommendations on how to do the inspections. Peters distributed a work in progress draft ordinance for review. Peters said that two key questions that will need to be answered include what vacant lots the ordinance applies to, taking into account lot size and proximity to structures, and what the standards will be for vacant lots. Peters stated that for the inspection program, they would like to consolidate the 4291 defensible space inspections and vacant lot inspections into one program. After much discussion and input on the issue, Peters said he welcomes any further comments via phone or email.

## **VI. New Business**

- a. Presentation and discussion regarding the BLM fuels plan for the next five years with BLM – Carson Ranger District fuels staff.  
Jeff Brees stated that the BLM has had positive impact on the fire departments and fuels reduction work on the East Slope and applauded their efforts. Tim Roide, BLM Fuels Specialist, said the BLM has done about 600 acres of fuels treatment in Alpine County due to the need, vegetation community, and support from the county. In 2003, BLM wrote the 5 year plan for fuels reduction in Alpine County, which they completed this last summer. BLM is now looking at planning for the next 5 years. The BLM has two prescribed burns in the interim. Keith Barker, BLM Fire Ecologist, gave a summary of two prescribed burns the BLM has planned for Spring 2008, Poor Boy Ridge and the Indian Creek Reservoir campground area. Roide said they will have a draft proposal of

their 5 year plan in the late winter or early spring. Riode stated that they are open to suggestions and ideas from the Council and the community.

b. Discussion and possible action to change banks.

Griffith stated that the Alpine Fire Safe Council's bank account is loosely linked to Griffith's accounts at Wells Fargo and he is in the process of changing banks. Griffith stated that Radelfinger utilizes the internet access to the account and he is not sure if that will be available once he changes banks. Griffith suggested that Radelfinger contact Wells Fargo to determine if the online account access can be maintained without the link to Griffith's accounts and the costs associated with it.

Kaiser stated that Board asked Randy Gibson, Building Official, to study increasing the fire impact fee from \$.30 to an amount determined by the study. Kaiser would like to see the Council's support in increasing this fee for additional revenue. Griffith stated that the Council supports creation of a proper capital improvement plan for the fire department so that the fees can be set in accordance with the cost. Kaiser stated he did not want to wait five years for a capital improvement plan, but would like to see an increase in fire impact fees in the near future.

c. Staff Reports

Brees received a call from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy asking if their grant applications through the California Fire Safe Council were funded. The state applications had been funded but it was a good to hear that the Conservancy was looking to fund Fire Safe Councils.

Brees reported that he is almost finished with the Bear Valley portion of the CWPP and will take it to the Board of Supervisors for adoption by the end of October.

Brees stated that he sent an email to Board members with a link to the website with the assessment of the Angora Fire put out by the Forest Service.

Brees reported that on October 5<sup>th</sup> there is a workshop in Tahoe for the new building standards for the urban interface that will be coming out in January put on by the UC Extension office. Brees will email information on the workshop.

Brees met with the US Forest Service fuels specialist; the Forest Service has a fuels project that will wrap around from west of Upper Manzanita and go up above Crystal Springs. Brees asked him to think about maintenance on the other side where the fire burned.

Brees stated he received a new Sierra Nevada Community Wildfire Plan template. He said it leads toward conservation and there may be some beneficial links and references. Brees has the workbook available for anyone interested in reviewing it.

Brees went on a tour of Leviathan Mine, along with Charlie Dobson, Fire Management Officer for the Forest Service, to review their fire evacuation plan for wildland fire. They received a tour of the hazardous materials storage and their evacuation plan.

Brees reported that he met with the Red Cross, along with the Health and Human Services Director and the Emergency Services Coordinator. Health and Human Services is going to work on reestablishing the Red Cross in the area as well as training on running a shelter and possibly establishing a couple of shelter points.

**VII. Adjournment**

- a. Set next meeting at Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday October 29<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Steve Yonker*

*Second: Shirley Taylor*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*