

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
October 22, 2007
6:00 pm, Woodfords Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by David Griffith, Chair, at 6:02 pm at the Woodfords Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Present:

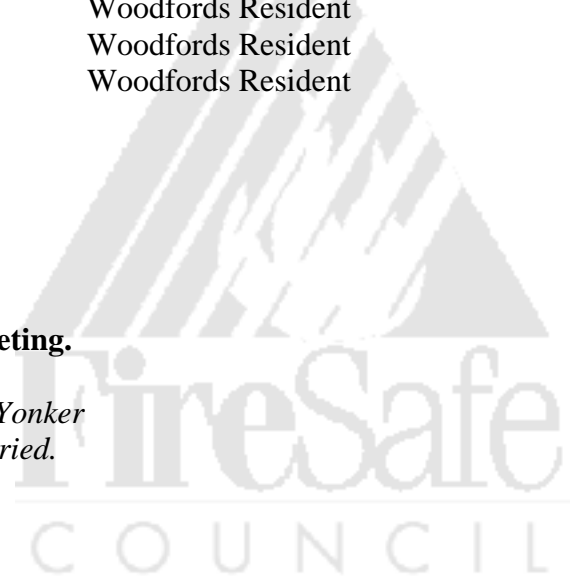
David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kim Chatfield	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Don Jardine	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident
Gunter Kaiser	Alpine County Supervisor	Woodfords Resident
Buck McLelland	WVFD Chief	Woodfords Resident
Wayne Thomson	MVFD Chief	Markleeville Resident
Mike Gard	Woodfords Fire Dept.	Woodfords Resident
Joe Voss	Markleeville Fire Dept.	Markleeville Resident
Ari Makinen	Woodfords Fire Dept.	Woodfords Resident
Karen Dustman	Interested Citizen	Woodfords Resident
Rick Dustman	Interested Citizen	Woodfords Resident

I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve minutes of September 24th meeting.
Motion to approve.
Motion: Al Moss Second: Steve Yonker
6 ayes. Don Jardine abstain. Motion carried.

IV. Volunteer Time Sheets



V. Old Business

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

David Griffith reported that at the last meeting, Supervisor Gunter Kaiser, had presented a proposal for water supply storage for the Mesa drafted by some community members. Griffith put together a memo with some considerations for the proposal which he distributed to Board members. Griffith stated that there is a difference in equipment, qualifications, water requirements, and sometimes personnel between wildland and structural fires. Wildland fires require much less water than structural fires. Griffith said the availability and cost of fire insurance drove the process of establishing a water tank in the Mesa Vista area from the beginning. Buck McLelland, Woodfords Fire Department Chief, questioned the status of the tank at Hwy. 88 and River Ranch Road in regards to the Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. Kaiser stated that the River Ranch site will cost \$9000 to determine if the Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction and it could be a lengthy and costly process. McLelland voiced concerns about the deadlines for the RAC and Moline money passing without the creation of a water source on the Mesa. McLelland suggested that the multi-tank proposal may fit into the timeframe better than a large water tank at this time. McLelland would like to see the Fire Safe Council put together a 10 year plan for water services in Alpine County. He said that the hydrant at Gansberg's Ranch is not permitted or tested and he cannot direct the volunteers to use that water source, which is an issue that the Building Department and Public Works need to resolve. Moss questioned whether the multi-tank water storage would assist in firefighting services. McLelland said this proposal would assist as an initial attack system, as the first hour of firefighting water. McLelland said the only void in the proposal would be the water needed to fill the tanks, which could be solved by putting in a well at the Woodfords Fire Station, which will be needed to fill their water tank as well. Griffith suggested contractors could also be utilized to fill the tanks. Brees voiced his concern that the multi-tank proposal addresses wildland fires, but not a structure fires. A larger tank would give them the water supply needed in the near term, though Brees said he is not against using available funds for the multi-tank system. Griffith stated that the old Fredericksburg School site was a consideration for a tank location, but the land will need to be purchased. Kaiser stated there is another possible location at Foothill and Emigrant Trail. This property would need to be purchased by the County as well. Griffith suggested that Brees and McLelland walk the location at Foothill Road and Emigrant Trail to assess its suitability for future needs. After much discussion, Moss suggested creating a committee to put a plan together for increment stages in building up the water services in the area. Moss will meet with Brees and McLelland to put together the committee to further discuss the water issues and create a one-year, two-year, five-year, and ten-year plan for water services.

- b. Update on defensible space inspections by CALFIRE aides.
Brees reported that the CALFIRE aides have completed defensible space inspections in Markleeville and Alpine Village. The CALFIRE aides will be going to Bear Valley this week while the pass is open. Brees reported that the aides have been doing a great job and it has been a success thus far. Brees hopes to get the rest of the East Slope finished and as time permits Hope Valley and Kirkwood. Brees will receive a final report when they are completed.
- c. Update on Woodfords Evacuation Plan.
Brees reported that he has ordered the Evacuation Plan for Woodfords from Cedar Creek Publishing. Brees distributed a copy of the maps that will be printed.

VI. New Business

- a. Review third quarter financial reports.
Kerry Radelfinger distributed the third quarter financial reports for review. Radelfinger reported that the third quarter installment of the chipping grant fund had been received and accounted for a larger portion of the balance in the checking account. Brees stated those funds would be held over until the spring chipping program. Jerry Andrews questioned whether the chipping grant funds might be put into a time deposit in the meantime. It was agreed that Radelfinger would check with the bank on what options and rates are available for non-profit organizations. A motion was made to approve the third quarter financial statements.
Motion to approve.
Motion: Al Moss Second: Don Jardine
All Ayes. Motion carried.
- b. Discussion and possible action to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on how to invest the \$100,000 earmarked for unspecified fire department projects.
Griffith stated that the Board of Supervisors allocated \$100,000 for unspecified fire department projects. At the last Fire Safe Council meeting, Supervisor Gunter Kaiser clarified that the Board of Supervisors would spend the money as directed by all of the organization involved in fire in the community, including the Markleeville and Woodfords Fire Department and Alpine Fire Safe Council. Griffith stated that two recommendations that have been made by the Fire Safe Council include hiring a full-time, paid Fire Chief, responsible for fire protection in the Eastern half of the County and retaining the services of a part-time Defensible Space Inspector, which would be in conjunction with a possible vacant lot ordinance that is in the works. Mike Gard questioned the condition on the timeline for spending the money. Kaiser stated that the money is budgeted for the fiscal year 2007/2008. Griffith questioned whether the funds can be kept in a different account to be rolled over if not

spent this fiscal year. Kaiser stated that the funds would be available for the Fire Departments projects approved by the Board of Supervisors. McLelland said he would like to see the Fire Departments inventory their equipment and supplies to determine what each department needs. Jardine stated he would like to see those needs come in as a special request and to leave the \$100,000 separate. McLelland stated that the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) need improvement and there needs to be conversation with Julie Ola and Hugh Margesson, the new Health and Human Service Director, to determine what can be done to improve EMS services in Alpine County. Kaiser stated that EMS would be included in the \$100,000 allocation. Moss asked the Woodfords and Markleeville Chief if EMS services were a priority for them. McLelland said that it was for the Woodfords Fire Department. Wayne Thomson, Markleeville Fire Department Chief, stated that EMS is a separate entity from the Fire Department, though public safety is a top priority. Thomson stated that medical emergency calls burn volunteers out faster than anything. Brees stated that there are a small percentage of volunteers that respond to medical calls and it is hard to retain those individuals. Kaiser said that an assignment of the new Health & Human Services Director is to work on the Emergency Medical Services in Alpine County. Thomson proposed directing the money towards a Fire Chief, half for the Markleeville Chief and the other half for Woodfords Fire Department. Joe Voss, Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department, said the success of the Markleeville Fire Department is due to the management and commitment from their Chief and Assistant Chief. Voss supports hiring a Fire Chief for Markleeville Fire Department. McLelland suggested that each department put together a list of how they would each like to spend their \$50,000. Jardine questioned the possibility of adding on to the Woodfords Fire Department to house the ambulance. McLelland said he has a contractor coming next week to get some preliminary numbers on housing the ambulance at the Woodfords Fire Station. Jardine said he would like to see a meeting with the Health and Human Services Director to determine the needs of EMS, bringing Doc Harvey into the discussion. After much discussion, it was agreed that Brees would coordinate a meeting to include Buck McLelland, Rob Levy, Julie Ola, Hugh Margesson, Gunter Kaiser and Don Jardine to discuss the needs of the EMS program. The Fire Departments will put together a proposal for the Board of Supervisors which will include an upgrade to the EMS program and project ideas from the Markleeville and Woodfords Fire Departments. This proposal should be finalized within the next 30 days.

c. Renewal contract with the Fire Safe Coordinator.

Griffith reported that Brees contract was up for renewal. Griffith proposed that Brees wage be increased to \$60/hour. A motion was made to approve renewal of Brees' contract and increase his hourly rate.

Motion to approve.

*Motion: Al Moss Second: Don Jardine
All ayes. Motion carried.*

- d. Discussion of projects proposed for inclusion in the next Proposition 40 application by the Alpine County Public Works.
Brees reported that he met with Debbie at Public Works regarding the Proposition 40 application. Brees showed the draft maps of areas to be included in the Proposition 40 application. There is about 60 acres of hand thinning and chipping of brush and some timber areas included in the application at this time. Brees will be meeting with Public Works and Mary Huggins, CALFIRE, to finalize the acreage. There is still some time available if there are any ideas for additional acreage.

Staff Reports

Brees reported that Sheridan Acres is creating a new Fire Safe Council and has contacted him for information and invited him to attend their Chapter Leader Training.

Brees met with Rodney Prior with Shay Creek Homeowner's Association who gave him a tour of their upgraded water system.

Brees made a request to the RAC to receive the balance of \$20,000 from the original \$40,000 RAC Coordinator grant application from Title II funds. The Fire Safe Council had originally asked for \$40,000 from Title II funds, but was awarded \$20,000 as it was noted at the RAC meeting that the Board of Supervisors had said that Fire Safe Council would get funds from Title III funds. The Title III funds are more limited and there is a balance of about \$22,000 through Title II funds, so Brees requested that the remaining \$20,000 come from Title II dollars. Brees wrote a request to Franklin Pemberton, USFS, and it was forwarded to RAC members for approval. He has not heard anything back at this time.

Brees reported that the Living with Fire Landscape Guide has come out in digital form and he will have Radelfinger put a link to it on the Fire Safe Council website and include it in the educational packets for distribution.

Griffith reported that the Planning Commission is making changes to the Public Land Use Element of the General Plan and recommended that Brees check with Brian Peters, Planning Department, to see if it has any relevance to the Fire Departments or Fire Safe Council.

Griffith stated that there was a large donation from Art Hall of \$5000 during the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Griffith reported that Hall requested a charitable donation receipt and there were some issues with getting him a receipt. Griffith offered to help with the details, as the Fire

Safe Council, as a non-profit organization, may be able to assist. Brees said that the issue had been handled on Friday.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Set next meeting at Markleeville Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday November 26th.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Al Moss Second: Steve Yonker

All ayes. Motion carried.