

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

**Approved Minutes**  
June 30, 2008  
**6:00 pm, Woodfords Fire Station**

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Al Moss, Chair, at 5:58 pm at the Woodfords Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

**Present:**

Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker (6:35pm)	FSC Board	Woodfords Residents
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
John Super	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident
Tom Sweeney	Interested Citizen	Woodfords Resident
Gunter Kaiser	County Supervisor	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Michaels	Lake Valley Fire Chief	Lake Valley Fire Department
Pamela Knorr (6:20pm)	Alpine County Administrative Officer	

**Absent:**

Joyce Devore	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
--------------	-----------	--------------------

**I. Call to order**

**II. Introductions**

**III. Approve minutes of April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: David Griffith*

*Second: Jerry Andrews*

**IV. Volunteer Time Sheets**

**V. Old Business**

a. Update on Chipping 2008.

Brees said there were 26 participants in the Curbside Chipping Program.

One of the participants was the entire Shay Creek Homeowners



Association. Brees said there were about 35 participants last year. Brees has not received the final volume and home totals from Fire Stop, as they are busy with fire season. Brees said Fire Stop did fuels work on 6 different properties this year, which was an increase from last year. Brees will send out the final report when he gets the information from Fire Stop. Brees stated that Fire Stop has been great to work and very responsive. Brees said the Fire Safe Council was awarded another Chipping grant for 2009 through the California Fire Safe Council.

b. Update on School Wildfire Education Program.

Brees said he borrowed the Lake Valley educational trailer for the School Wildfire Education Program. Brees hired Joe Voss, a teacher at Diamond Valley High School, to run the program. Brees and Voss were trained on use of the trailer. Brees said it was a success and the students enjoyed it. Griffith said he thought it was a really important program with long term results. Moss questioned if they would have a program in the fall. Brees said the schools have Emergency Preparedness week in the fall and there may be a chance to tie into that program. Brees said they did not have a chance to do the program in the Bear Valley schools this spring, but he is going to look for another educational resource on that side to use in the program.

c. Update on Title III Budget application.

Brees distributed a copy of the proposed Title III budget. Brees said they need to increase their grant match for the 2009 Chipping grant to \$7333. The chipping grant used for the last 2 years had a \$1500 grant match requirement. Brees said there is a balance in the 2006 Title III budget of \$7617. Brees said the Title III budget could be used as a grant match. There was some discussion on how the budget could be altered to factor in the needed grant match funds. A motion was made to reduce the budgeted amounts for the Neighborhood Wildfire Pre-Planning and Assessment and Fire Day by half and eliminate the Firewise Workshop. The balance of the funds would go toward grant match opportunities to support the 2009 Chipping Program grant match.

*Motion: Steve Yonker                      Second: David Griffith*  
*All ayes. Motion carried.*

Supervisors Kaiser asked that the Council explore a pilot program for reflective home numbers. Brees said he planned on addressing the reflective home numbers in conjunction with the Fire Day event. Moss said the management of the reflective house number program is difficult with a volunteer organization; it needs to be a run through a government organization such as the Building Department. Griffith said the house numbers are more for emergency medical services, not so much the fire departments. Griffith said the Fire Safe Council's primary mission is to reduce the threat of life and property from catastrophic wildfires and the

reflective address signs, while a good idea, do not fall under this mission. Moss suggested that the Fire Safe Council pull together detail on the subject for homeowners. Moss asked if Taylor would get costs and information on reflective address signs to discuss at the next meeting.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Presentation on Defensible Space Inspection Program by Lake Valley Fire Protection Department.**

Jeff Michaels, Fire Chief for Lake Valley Fire Protection District, said State Law 4291 gives citizens, counties, and fire chief's authority to demand defensible space inspections without notice to property owners. Michaels said the Governor Schwarznegger is putting pressure on CALFIRE to enforce 4291 throughout the state. Michaels said that the Lake Valley Fire Protection District will be ready to begin as soon as the contract is signed. Michaels said they will be using the modified LE100 inspection form, which he distributed for review. Michaels stated they will begin at the state line and work their way through Woodfords and Markleeville. Michaels encouraged Brees to make a list of any homes that may be out of the way so they can ensure they reach everyone. Supervisor Kaiser said that Brian Peters with the Planning Department will have a meeting with the key players to discuss the inspection program. Michaels questioned whether the residents of Alpine County could receive funds through the grant process to help them with their defensible space. Griffith said that if neighborhoods organize themselves the Fire Safe Council can help get funding for fuels reduction projects. Michaels said Lake Valley has neighborhood BBQs and organize a chapter leader from each neighborhood to enforce defensible space in their area. Michaels will ask Jessica Mankin, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, to attend the next meeting to discuss the chapter leader program. There was some discussion on how the new vacant lot ordinance will come into play. Supervisor Kaiser said the vacant lot ordinance for fuels reduction on vacant lots was approved by the Board of Supervisors. Michaels said that the vacant lot inspections are not included in their contract. Supervisor Kaiser said county residents can file a complaint with the county. The ordinance will help homeowners to maintain the 100 foot area around their house, even when a portion of the 100 feet is on a neighboring parcel. Griffith questioned if the vacant lot ordinance could be included in the scope of work being done by Lake Valley. Michaels said it could be included if the County wished to include it in the contract. After some discussion, it was agreed to send a postcard to residents notifying them of the coming defensible space inspections by the Lake Valley Fire Protection District. It was agreed to include a reference to the council's website for a list of area contractors and a contact phone number for Lake Valley. Moss said Bear Valley will be included in the inspections, but someone else will be doing those inspections. Moss said they should receive a postcard notification, too. Brees will send the

postcard to Michaels to modify and then it will be sent to Brian Peters, Planning Department, for final review. Taylor questioned whether they will go through gates to inspect properties. Michaels said he would like to set up a number for people to call to set up appointments or ask questions, as they cannot go through locked gates to do the inspections.

A motion was made to send a postcard notifying residents of coming defensible space inspections.

*Motion: David Griffith      Second: Shirley Taylor*  
*All ayes. Motion carried.*

- b. Discussion and possible action to approve the use of Title III funds as grant match for the 2009 Chipping Grant.  
Discussed with item Old Business, Item a. above.

Brees said that if there is funding available through RAC, which is currently working its way through Congress, Brees would like to be prepared with grant application ideas. It was agreed to apply for another Coordinator grant. Brees suggested applying for funds for Biomass to transition from the Burn Pile to something new. Griffith questioned if there was funds available for biomass treatment. Brees said there were funds available on a larger scale that they might be able to tap into. Brees said they already collect the biomass; it is just a difference in how it is treated after it is collected. Moss said that it looked like the RAC money is eventually going to go away and additional funding sources and grant opportunities need to be explored. Griffith agreed it was worth looking into the biomass grants, due to future air quality issues and other restrictions with the Burn Pile. Knorr said that she will ask the County grant writer to keep her eye out for grants that may work for the Fire Safe Council.

- c. Staff Reports.

Brees reported that the vacant lot ordinance passed at the last Board meeting.

Brees said the Volunteer Fire Departments did burn the pile thanks to wet weather in May. Brees said Dennis Cardoza said he would commit to continue collecting at Turtle Rock Park.

Brees wrote a letter to the Forest Service in support of the Thornburg's request to create a fuel break. Brees said the Thornburgs were meeting with the District Ranger this morning. Brees walked the area with Fritz Thornburg and said it was a logical location for a fuel break.

Brees said that the County received the Prop. 40 grant for fuels reduction work. Brees will do a walk around with the Forester handling the project in support of Public Works.

Brees will be setting up the library display.

Brees distributed an updated 2008 Outlook. There was discussion and review of the status of each project. Brees said the Bear Valley component of the CWPP is almost complete, with just a few map legends that need changing. Brees said he wasn't up to date on the current status of the Mesa Vista/River Ranch water supply implementation. Knorr said that Phase II of the Woodfords water tank would cost \$116,000. She said they had funding for all but \$60,000. Knorr said a payment of \$90,000 was put toward the water tender. Knorr said the truck cost about \$250,000. Knorr said that they will submit a RFP for pricing on a water tender. Supervisor Kaiser said the fire hydrant at Gansberg's property is installed incorrectly and it needs to be remedied. Brees said there are issues with the installation but he has tested it and it water flows with good pressure. Moss said the Mesa Vista/ River Ranch water supply issue may be on hold due to funding/budget issues, but it is a continuous process that will take years to complete. Griffith stated that a location for a water tank must be continually explored. Griffith asked that Brees give Knorr a copy of the Mesa Vista Water Study.

Brees said BLM finished their burn on Poor Boy completing their projected 31 acre project.

Brees said fire restrictions will be in affect tomorrow on the National Forest.

Moss thanked everyone for their participation in the fundraiser at Turtle Rock Park. Moss believes they may have netted about \$8500 for the local agencies.

## **VII. Adjournment**

- a. Set next meeting at Markleeville Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: David Griffith      Second: Steve Yonker*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*