

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

**Approved Minutes**  
January 26, 2009  
**6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station**

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Al Moss, Chair, at 6:05 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

**Present:**

Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Joyce DeVore	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administrator	Woodfords Resident

**Absent:**

Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
John Super	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident

**I. Call to order**

**II. Introductions**

**III. Approve minutes of December 29, 2008 meeting.**

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Steve Yonker Second: Shirley Taylor*

*All Ayes. Motion carried.*

**IV. Volunteer Time Sheets**

**V. Old Business**

**VI. New Business**

- a. Review financial statements for the fourth quarter of 2008.  
Radelfinger distributed the fourth quarter financial statements for review. Radelfinger said that they paid the chipping contractor in the fourth quarter which accounted for the higher than average fuels reduction expense. Moss said there had been discussion about the extension of the

Title III funds with the County. Moss said it was scheduled to be on the agenda for the next Board of Supervisors meeting. Brees said it will be on the agenda for February 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting. Moss will attend the meeting with Brees. Brees said that the County had set the grant period for the Title III funds and Brees has requested a one year extension. Brees said he is going to speak to them about the Title III funds they had received in 2006 to make sure the funds are secured. Moss asked who handles the Council's tax returns. Radelfinger said Richard Peters in Minden has prepared tax returns in the past. A motion was made to approve the fourth quarter financial statements.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Steve Yonker                      Second: Joyce DeVore*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

- b. Discussion and possible action to form a nominating committee for positions on the Board of Directors to be filled at the annual meeting in March.

Moss said a nomination committee needed to be formed for any vacancies on the Board for the annual meeting in March. Radelfinger said Andrews, Taylor, Super and Griffith's terms were ending this year. Moss said there were four positions to confirm. Taylor said she would call Super to see if he was interested in having his name on the ballot for another term. Moss said he will speak with Griffith and Andrews about their interest in serving another term. A nomination committee of DeVore, Moss and Yonker was formed to get a list of individuals interested in serving on the Board. They had one name in mind and they will speak to that individual about his interest.

- c. Discussion and possible action to approve grant application projects for the 2009 cycle of California Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse grants. Brees went to a grant workshop put on by the California Fire Safe Council where he was told there is about ten times as much money for grants this year as there was last year. Brees said the deadline for grant applications is February 20<sup>th</sup>. Brees said he has had various property owners talk to him about fuels projects on their property. Some of the projects proposed are the Thornburg Shaded Fuel Break, Upper Manzanita Shaded Fuel Break, Blakely Thinning (adjacent to Diamond Valley School), Bradshaw Thinning (adjacent to Diamond Valley School), Proposition 40 leftovers (Turtle Rock Park and County right-of-ways), a possible Lower Manzanita Lane project, and possible thinning on Shokouh's property in Markleevillage. Brees said these are all potential projects that could be packaged into one or two projects. Brees was waiting to get confirmation from all the property owners who would be expected to contribute 10-25% match, some of which could be in-kind. Brees said there was a short time frame for putting the projects together. The total acreage for the projects was estimated at 75 acres. Brees said they may only apply for funding for

some of the projects outlined, pending property owners agreement. Brees said he will email or call Board members to get approval for the grant applications, as he firms the projects up. Brees said that the Thornburgs are on board, and he believes the Blakelys, Bradshaws and Upper Manzanita residents will approve the projects. Brees drafted a letter to send out to Upper and Lower Manzanita Lane residents to get their feedback on fuels reduction projects in their area. Radelfinger will send out the letter this week. Brees said he spoke to some other Fire Safe Councils at the grant workshop that use fiscal sponsors. Brees said the fiscal sponsors are economic development corporations or businesses that can take on the administrative part of the projects. Brees spoke to the County about the possibility of using the Public Works Department as a fiscal sponsor and handle the grant paperwork part of the project. Brees said the Alpine Fire Safe Council would be the project manager and go after the grants as a non-profit corporation. Brees said that it would bring some money into the County for someone to do the grant administration and allow Brees to handle the homeowners and contractors. Brees spoke with Dennis Cardoza, Public Works Department and Pamela Knorr, CAO. Both agreed to be the fiscal sponsor, but he has not received a written confirmation. Brees said they would need to have an agreement with the County outlining the responsibilities of each. DeVore asked what the total funding amount would be for the projects listed. Brees said it would be between \$200-300,000. Brees said the administrative component would cost about 10-15%. It was agreed that Brees would move forward with the grant applications for those projects where he has homeowner support. Brees said a public meeting will need to be held to discuss the projects with the community and get their feedback. Brees said the community meeting will also allow them to update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) project list. Brees said it important to sync the project list with the grant projects. Brees said the California Fire Safe Council is looking at a two year grant period. Brees said once he submits the application it will take a month or two to hear what has been awarded. Brees said they can have a community meeting in the spring to update the CWPP and discuss the grant projects if approved. Taylor asked if the Proposition 40 money has dried up. Brees said that the funds have not dried up, but the money has been frozen until a later date.

- d. Discussion and possible action regarding the use of Alpine County Public Works as fiscal sponsor for California Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse grants.  
Discussed with item c. above.
- e. Viewing and discussion of new Living with Fire DVD for the Tahoe Basin.  
Brees presented the new Living with Fire DVD. The Board thought it was a good presentation and agreed to purchase some DVD's at the cost of

\$2.60 each. Brees said the Defensible Space regulations changed. Brees said there was a Senate bill passed at the request of the insurance industry who wanted to have their involvement in the defensible space process validated. Brees said the new wording in the code is now ambiguous and hard to enforce. Brees said it will require better trained inspectors. Brees said all of the defensible space is now 100 feet, managed so that your house is unlikely to catch fire in the event of a wildfire and is very subjective. Brees said they do not yet know if the inspections they did last year will be able to be followed up on as they were done under a different code. Brees said it will depend how CalFire and the legislative analysts decided to interpret the bill. It was agreed to purchase 30 of the Living with Fire DVDs for educational tool for the community.

f. Staff reports

Moss asked Taylor for an update on the reflective address sign program. Taylor said she has sold about 66 at this time. Radelfinger said the mailer from the AFSC was sent out on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Taylor said she will have an overview that she will present to the Board of Supervisors at their March meeting. Taylor said she will decide then whether she will close it out and pay the organizations involved or if she will continue the program another 6 months. Brees said they can have samples available at the spring community meeting.

Brees said the AFSC Title III funding agreement is on the agenda for the next Board of Supervisors meeting. Brees said he is looking at extending the grant period as an executed copy of the agreement was never received and the grant period has expired. Brees submitted a justification for the grant extension and he will be at the Board meeting. Moss said he will also attend the meeting.

Brees said there is a Planning Commission meeting Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Brees said the Fire Safe Council has tried to weigh in on setback variance requests in the past as it affects defensible space. Brees said there is a variance request for a property on Douglas Way, across from Sorenson's Resort. Brees said he will look at the variance request and attend the Planning Commission meeting. Moss will try to attend the meeting as well.

Brees said he talked to the Forest Service employee who was reported to be handling the local RAC committee. Brees said he was told the Forest Service hasn't designated anyone to handle the RAC, but there would soon be a meeting when the Forest Service employees would find out more information.

Brees said the Grand Jury asked him for some documentation on the Gansberg hydrant. Brees said the Grand Jury looks at one County

department or organization each year, and this year it was the Public Works Department. Brees said the hydrant was never inspected before it was put in. Brees said they may have to dig it up and inspect it. Brees said the Grand Jury is supportive of the hydrant, but they are waiting on further information from Public Work and Gansberg's.

Brees said he emailed the final chipping report.

Brees said he put together some information for the Winter Fire Prevention newsletter. Brees handed out a list of winter prevention tips he put together for the Directors to review. Brees said he called Cedar Creek Publishing, who did the Evacuation Plan brochures, about doing a layout for a newsletter for the Fire Safe Council that could be updated a couple times per year for a winter and summer edition. Brees was waiting to hear back from them on pricing. Brees would like to get the winter newsletters out as soon as possible and will call the Directors with pricing and information as it becomes available.

Brees said he received a copy of the database for the Defensible Space Inspections, but Brees was not able to find any inspections noted in the database, only names and addresses. Brees said Brian Peters, Planning Department, was going to have the computer tech at the County look at the database.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Set next meeting at the Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, February 23, 2009.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Steve Yonker    Second: Joyce DeVore*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*