

# Alpine Fire Safe Council

**Approved Minutes**  
July 27, 2009  
**6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station**

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

**Present:**

Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
David Griffith	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Kris Hartnett	FSC Board	Markleeville Resident
Dave Mills	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Shirley Taylor	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Administration	Woodfords Resident

**Absent:**

Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
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**I. Call to order**

**II. Introductions**

**III. Approve corrected minutes of June 29, 2009 meeting.**

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: David Griffith                      Second: Shirley Taylor*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

**IV. Volunteer Time Sheets**

**V. Old Business**

a. Update on reflective address sign program.

Taylor reported that she had sold a total of 143 signs since she started the program last August. Taylor added that she would promote the program at the Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department fundraiser and at the Markleeville block meeting. Andrews said that Supervisor Skip Veatch had inquired about the availability of grant funding to purchase signs for those who did not have one. Brees explained that there may be some

unused Title III funds from the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan that could be used for that purpose. Brees said that in the Markleeville area progress has been made and landmarks have been established with those who have their signs in place in helping to determine address locations. Brees mentioned that it would be beneficial to drive through neighborhoods to look for gaps in signage and target residents in specific areas. Moss said that he did not feel that taxpayer money should be used to purchase address signs for those property owners who did not have interest in doing so themselves. Moss added that the sign program is a good program and it should be pursued at the current level of involvement with assistance provided to residents in putting up the signs as needed. Taylor said that she will be attending the August 50 Plus Club luncheon. Moss questioned if another mailing should be sent. Brees said that there a few mailers to be sent out and the information could be included in with the AFSC Fall newsletter.

b. Update on Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan Phase 2.

Brees said that progress has not been made in getting the Sheriff's Department on board to move forward with the creation of block captains, but Sheriff Crawford was supportive of the AFSC involvement. Moss explained that he met with Undersheriff Rob Levy to discuss the Field Operation Guide (FOG) manual. Moss said that Levy suggested meeting with the AFSC to discuss the evacuation plan to determine how the AFSC can help the Sheriff's Department communicate the evacuation plan for Hot Springs Road. Griffith questioned what was missing from the Sheriff Department's current evacuation plan. Brees said that he felt there were still issues to be resolved. Brees explained that he would like to see a step by step prioritized procedure. Brees said that they do have a list of those residents needing help and reverse 911 in place. Hartnett said that he spoke with Levy regarding the block captains and Levy had suggested that those individuals join Search and Rescue. Andrews mentioned that he spoke with Sheriff Crawford who offered to share the Sheriff Department's current evacuation plan. Moss said that he would get in touch with Levy to set up a meeting to further discuss the evacuation plan and determine what direction to go. Moss added that he will request a copy of their current evacuation plan. Hartnett mentioned that the Markleevillage block meeting that was set for the end of September may not happen until a later date. Brees asked if they wanted to mail out another round of the evacuation plan pamphlets. It was agreed to send out the evacuation plan pamphlets as soon as possible. Andrews questioned use of the Lake Valley educational trailer for the block meeting. Brees said that it may be possible to use the trailer, though it is not geared toward wildland fires, but as an attention getter for the students. Brees went on to explain how the trailer is used. Griffith suggested that the trailer could be used for the children attending the block meeting.

c. Update on Chipping 2009

Brees reported that the final payment on the Chipping grant had been received and there was roughly \$15,700 in the bank, part of which will be matching funds for the grant. Brees said that the grant deadline is February 2010. Brees explained that the grant will be completed this fall with another round of chipping in October. Brees added that another application for a chipping grant will be submitted for next year. Brees explained that the Title III funds will be used for matching funds and administrative expenses. Brees went on to say that he had been doing follow-up calls for all participants in the June chipping program. Brees said that Nagy, Chambers Lane resident, thought the program was great, but the crew blew the material onto the wrong side of the road. Brees mentioned that he is trying to get in touch with the other large participant on Chambers Lane. Brees reported that there was another large participant on Emigrant Trail who had 1000 yards of material and was upset that all of her material was not chipped. Brees said that he explained to her that they did not want to burn up all their funds and time on one participant. Brees explained that he would like to help her if there are funds remaining but he does not want to short any of the other participants. Brees said that most participants were happy with the program and the contractor was a good contact and willing to come back to do follow-ups as needed. Brees mentioned that the contractor logged 50% more material than was chipped in the past.

d. Continued discussion of community block meeting dates and topics.

Brees asked for suggestions for topics to be included in the community block meeting. Brees mentioned that he hoped to discuss Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan, get project ideas for the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) from the community, promote the reflective address sign program, view defensible space DVD, provide educational packets and material, recruit volunteers, and market the AFSC website. After some discussion on the meeting timeline and topics, it was agreed to look into having the meeting at the Markleeville Fire Station or at a residence in the Markleevillage area, with a presentation at the beginning of the meeting followed by food and informational stations. Moss suggested that any additional ideas for topics or meeting format be forwarded to Brees. Hartnett offered to assist Brees with the preparation of the meeting.

e. Update on the 2009 Project Outlook.

Brees distributed an update of the current grants. Brees said the projects that will be completed in 2009 include the Bear Valley component of the CWPP, School Education Program for Wildland Fire Safety #3, and the annual display at the Alpine County Library. Brees added that if the Proposition 40 money becomes available through the state they will finish the remaining fuels reduction projects. Moss said that the priority project

for this year should be the Hot Springs Road Evacuation Plan. Griffith agreed that the evacuation plan should be the number one priority. Hartnett questioned the AFSC budget for 2010. Brees said that pending the outcome of the September RAC meeting, grant funds should be able to stretch through 2010. Brees added that other Fire Safe Councils have been looking for additional funding, but there is not much available. Brees mentioned that one option may be to use the County as a fiscal sponsor in the future; using their paid staff with the AFSC continuing to meet on a volunteer basis. Hartnett suggested that a banner be made for the Burn Pile stating that it is provided by Alpine County and the AFSC. Hartnett added that he would get a quote for a banner. Mills questioned if the burn pile would remain at Turtle Rock Park. Moss said that it would remain there for the time being, though it would not be burned but disposed of by other means.

## **VI. New Business**

- a. Review second quarter financial statements.

Radelfinger distributed copies of the second quarter financial statements for review. Radelfinger said that the largest expense for second quarter under fuels reduction expense was for the chipping contractor. Radelfinger explained that those funds were received during a prior quarter which accounted for the negative net income during the second quarter.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Kris Hartnett                      Second: Jerry Andrews*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

Griffith reported that the Grand Jury report was posted on the Alpine County Superior Court website. Griffith explained that after reading the report he found that it did not say anything good or bad about the AFSC. Griffith said that he felt that the report insinuates that the Gansbergs received a benefit from the public and that they did something wrong, when in fact it was a county problem with paperwork being mishandled. Griffith suggested that the issue be discussed when everyone had a chance to read the report. Mills suggested that the AFSC send letter of appreciation to the Gansberg's. Moss agreed that sending a letter would be a good idea, but he agreed that everyone should review the Grand Jury report before proceeding.

Taylor reported that she will be speaking at the August Board of Supervisor meeting to thank them for their assistance and to give them an update on the reflective address signs. Moss questioned if once a month was too often to speak at the BOS meetings. After some discussion, it was agreed that Taylor would speak at the September meeting rather than the August meeting. It was agreed to readdress the issue after the September meeting as to how often to present at the BOS meetings.

b. Staff Reports

Brees said that CalFire has been doing defensible space inspections. Brees added that Brian Peters with the Alpine County Planning Department was going to provide CalFire with a copy of the defensible space inspections done last year.

Brees reported that he is speaking at the Fifty Plus club luncheon next month on defensible space. Taylor added that she would attend to provide information on the reflective address signs. Brees questioned if the AFSC would like to provide money to go towards the luncheon as they have done in the past. It was agreed to donate \$60.00 towards the Fifty Plus Club luncheon.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Kris Hartnett*

*Second: Shirley Taylor*

*All ayes. Motion carried.*

Brees reported that the AFSC display was up at the library.

Brees asked that any suggestions from the Fall Newsletter be sent to him. Brees mentioned that most of the material was written, but there is space available and suggested adding information on AFSC members or the volunteer firefighters. Griffith suggested concentrating on the firefighters. Moss said the AFSC directors should be included in the newsletter allowing them to express their appreciation to the community for their support and giving the community more information about the Board members.

Brees reported that the RAC meeting was close to the September 30<sup>th</sup> obligation deadline and if they was grant funds remaining it will go away. Brees put together a senior assistance grant that will be ready if they have funds remaining and open up the grants applications. Brees said the grant will be a 50% match opportunity for seniors.

Brees announced that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has grant opportunity updates on their website. Brees said that they will be hosting a workshop in October on opportunities for local communities to make use of their fuels and generate jobs. Brees will provide more information as it becomes available.

**VII. Adjournment**

Set next meeting at the Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday, August 30, 2009.

*Motion to approve.*

*Motion: Jerry Andrews*

*Second: Kris Hartnett*

*All ayes. Motion carried*