

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Approved Minutes
November 30, 2009
6:00 pm, Markleeville Fire Station

The meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council was called to order by Al Moss, Chair, at 6:00 pm at the Markleeville Fire Station, Markleeville, CA 96120.

Present:

Al Moss	FSC Board	Woodfords 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
Steve Yonker	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
Jeff Brees	Coordinator	Markleeville Resident
Kerry Radelfinger	Admin	Woodfords Resident
Will Richmond	Alpine County Dist Attorney	Woodfords Resident
Tom Sweeney	Alpine County Supervisor	Woodfords Resident

Absent:

Jerry Andrews	FSC Board	Woodfords Resident
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I. Call to order

II. Introductions

III. Approve corrected minutes of October 26, 2009 meeting.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Steve Yonker Second: David Griffith

All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Volunteer Time Sheets

V. Old Business

- a. Update on Curbside Chipping Program fall edition.
Brees reported that the chipping crew worked for two weeks this fall serving 25 participants. Brees added that he has not yet received the totals on the volume of material chopped. Brees said that he hopes to get them back for one more day, but there has been a scheduling conflict. Brees.

went on to say that there will be a surplus of grant funding that will have to be turned back in for the chipping grant, with the grant period ending February 1st.

- b. Update on Biomass Pile Program at Turtle Rock Park.
Brees said that there were 67 participants making 186 trips to the Biomass Pile. Brees added that there was a volume of 100 tons of material, part of which came from clearing the campground and the Frisbee golf course. Brees said that the site was open for four weekends this fall. Griffith said that he was encouraged that people are using it to reduce fuels around their homes and at the campground. Moss questioned if the county had considered running it for eight weekends rather than four. Brees explained that the AFSC has submitted a RAC application to open the site for four additional weekends in the fall and spring as has been done in the past. Brees added that he was encouraged that the county was covering the cost to keep the site open for four of the weekends.

VI. New Business

- a. Discuss project ideas for 2010 grant applications.
Brees distributed copies of project ideas for grant applications for 2010. Moss questioned when the RAC would be meeting. Brees said that the RAC meeting for December 2nd has been postponed due to the fact that they have not gotten the new members clearance back and the award process had been put off again. In regards to the 2010 project ideas, Brees explained that the Senior and Disabled Defensible Space Fuels Program would serve those seniors who do not have the money to clear fuels or can't physically get the material to the burn pile and would have a 50/50 match. Griffith questioned the involvement of social services to determine what people actually need the service. Brees said that he will work on getting a better number on how many people in the county would need this service. Hartnett suggested including a form in the next AFSC newsletter for seniors to submit if they have a need for chipping or defensible space assistance. Moss questioned if Brees could prioritize the projects. Brees said as far as community need, the Senior and Disabled Defensible Space Fuels Program would be priority number four. Brees encouraged Board members to submit other project ideas. Brees reported that the Markleevillage Forest Fuels Project was a result of a suggestion from the community meeting. Brees explained that this project originally was done in 1991, with the goal being to thin the dead and dying trees and overstocked areas to promote forest health and reduce wildland fire intensity within the neighborhood. Brees added that this project should be included in the CWPP under the Markleevillage Planning Area Mitigation Projects. Brees said he felt this project should be the first priority. Griffith agreed that this should be the top priority project as 50% of the neighbors who don't do any fuels reduction on their property can burn out the 50% of homeowners who have defensible space during a fire. In

regards to Curbside Chipping 2010, Brees explained that this would be a continuation of the existing program. Brees went on to say that the last chipping grant required a 25% match, which may be hard for the AFSC to produce. Griffith stated that residents are using the chipping program and it is helping to reduce fuels so it should be high priority project. Brees agreed that the Curbside Chipping 2010 would be priority number two. Brees explained that there was money budgeted under Title III funding for Fire Day 2010. Brees said he would like to look into funding through insurance companies for smoke detectors or fire extinguishers to tie in with the community meetings as previously suggested by Hartnett. Brees added that he would place this project at priority number three. Brees reported that the Alpine Watershed Group may be interested in working together to create a demonstration garden landscape to create a landscape with lower fire intensity and fire resistant plants while tying in the watershed group's goals of controlling erosion and saving water. Yonker questioned the location of the garden. Brees explained that there would need to be two; one for the timber environment and one for a brush environment. Griffith said that Kaiser and Stevens residences on the Mesa Vista would be good examples for the brush environment. Taylor suggested signage for those participating properties. Yonker suggested using a public building. Moss asked that they invite the watershed coordinator to the next AFSC meeting to discuss the possibility of collaborating with them on the project. Sweeney suggested that Carson Water Subconservancy District be contacted to see if they would be interested in contributing to the project. Brees placed this project as priority number six. In reference to the Biomass Collection Site, Brees explained that this would provide them an opportunity to use the biomass that is currently being collected. Hartnett mentioned that both South Lake Tahoe High School and the Carson City prison are able to generate a third of their power from their cogeneration plant. Griffith said that one of the issues that have come up is guaranteeing enough fuel throughout the year or for part of the year to run a plant. After some discussion, Griffith said that the Tahoe Basin may be the source of fuel for a cogeneration plant in Alpine County. Brees said that he will look into grant opportunities with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Department of Energy and other agencies for funding opportunities for studying a possible cogeneration plant site in Alpine County. Brees added that this would be priority number five. Richmond offered to determine a contact or speak with the Air Resources Board regarding funding availability for the Biomass Collection Site.

- b. Discuss possible collaboration with the Alpine Watershed Group for a "demonstration garden/demonstration landscape" project. Moss said that this item had been discussed with the projects above. Brees added that he would speak with the Watershed Coordinator about

attending the December meeting to discuss collaborating on a demonstration garden/demonstration landscape project.

c. Staff reports.

Brees said that he met with Pamela Knorr, Alpine County CAO, to discuss Title III funds and he reported that the AFSC claims have now all been paid.

Brees reported that the Proposition 40 funds were released and the fuels work at Turtle Rock Park was completed. Brees added that that the contractor also worked around the Turtle Rock Park building and it looked really good. Brees said that he has photo documentation of the project.

Brees said that he met with a homeowner on Douglas Way in the Sorenson's Subdivision regarding an issue with a gate on Forest Service property. As a result of the conversation, Brees went on to say that an alternate egress was opened up for that subdivision for use during an emergency.

Brees mentioned that the AFSC newsletter was mailed out to county residents. Brees added that he has not sent out the letter to BLM yet regarding the signage on Hwy. 395, but they will go out soon.

d. Board member comments

Hartnett said that the AFSC newsletter was a great capitalization of what has done this year. Moss agreed that it was a good report for the AFSC and good awareness form for the community. Griffith agreed with Hartnett on the fall newsletter and suggested that the spring newsletter be sent out well before the burn pile opens. Brees agreed that he would like to see the newsletter sent out earlier in the spring with information and dates for the community meetings.

Taylor reported that 168 signs have been sold to date. Taylor went on to say that she believed three or four sales were generated from the newsletter. Taylor questioned the monthly AFSC presentation to the BOS. It was agreed to give a presentation on a quarterly basis or as needed. Taylor asked about the progress of the siren in Markleeville. Hartnett said that they will be installing underground wiring at the water tank and will not be able to work on it until the spring. Hartnett added that he would be putting together an estimate for wiring and labor to install the siren and the project completion, contingent on funding, should be by June 2010.

Moss questioned the availability of Title III funds. Brees said that there was about \$8000 remaining in the 2008 Title III grant and \$5,000 remaining in the 2006 Title III grant. Moss suggested holding a meeting in January to discuss how the AFSC can survive without RAC funding.

VII. Adjournment

Set next meeting at the Woodfords Fire Station at 6:00 pm on Monday,
December 28, 2009.

Motion to approve.

Motion: Steve Yonker Second: David Griffith

All ayes. Motion carried