

**Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council
Board of Directors Meeting
9:30 A.M., Tuesday, July 8, 2014
Mountain Resource Center**

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Lois Clements, Mike Esnard, Jerry Holldber, Chris Kramer, Larry Kueneman, Doris Lombard, Ron Perry, Marvin Spreyne, Norm Walker

Staff Present:

Pat Boss, Don Patterson, Edwina Scott, ED

Others Present:

Shela Boynton, Roberta Corbin, Dan Dever; Gregg Bratcher, Cal-Fire; Doug McKeller, Grinding Station

1. President's Remarks (Mike Esnard)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by President Mike Esnard. Mike mentioned that Edwina, Pat and Don were to meet with a Palm Springs TV taping crew after the meeting to talk about the reroofing project and other things that MCFSC does. They may tape some of the old and new roofs.

2. Budget & Finance (Jerry Holldber)

Treasurer Jerry Holldber presented the financial report. The final \$1,800 payment was made to the Auditor and FEMA grant funds should be arriving soon.

Second VP, Larry Kueneman made a motion to accept the financial report and Community Liaison, Norm Walker seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

3. Adoption of June, 2014 Minutes and March 2014 Minutes

Norm Walker made the motion to pass the June 2014 edited minutes, Jerry Holldber seconded the motion and the motion was passed. Jerry Holldber made a motion to pass the March 2014 minutes, Director Doris Lombard seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

4. Fuel Modification Operations (Edwina Scott)

a. FEMA/CalEMA Roof Replacement Grant

Executive Director, Edwina Scott gave the Fuel Modification Operations report. In June, three houses were reroofed and completed at a cost of \$20,364. The reimbursement cost for these houses was \$14,673. This brings the total number of reroofed homes to 52.

b. CFSC Grant

When the grant comes through it will cover abatements only.

c. County Coop Grant

In June, 9 acres were cleared. 12 ton of biomass was removed and taken to the grinding station and 10 tons were ground on site and spread.

d. Projects and Woodies Report

Bill Baker of the Woodies was the Grand Marshal of the 4th of July Parade, he rode in Norm's orange Jeep. The Parade with Bill Baker was a big success.

Field Supervisor Don Patterson reported that there were four working sessions for the Woodies last month, which included three abatement projects giving a total of 126.25 volunteer hours.

Field Supervisor Pat Boss reported that four abatement jobs in Pinyon were completed last month along with two more abatement jobs in Anza. One of the abatement jobs in Anza had a Fire Department violation which had to be signed-off by the Fire Department for compliance by Pat. Three more small abatement jobs will be coming out this week. A large abatement job in Garner Valley will be coming up soon; the job is projected at \$2800.

5. Education (Edwina Scott)

a. GSOB Detection

A windshield GSOB inspection was held on June 19, 9 trees were spotted that were GSOB suspect. The results are being reported to the UCR.

There were 28 suspect trees noted. One tree had the GSOB "D" hole, Doris took an excellent picture of the "D" hole in the tree and sent it on to UCR.

Chief Gregg Bratcher said that from the 28 trees, five of the trees were confirmed positive for GSOB; three of these trees were on a single lot. Cal-Fire spotted other suspect trees while driving around looking at the original 28 trees. A total of 40 trees have been confirmed having GSOB. A few trees will be treated to see if that helps.

Gregg also stated that pesticides may be used in the future, the projected costs might be in the range of \$100/tree topical treatment and \$500/tree for injection treatment.

b. Town Hall Meeting Debrief

Many thanks go to Chris for the excellent table displays and to Jerry for his great sounding sound system and to Jan and Gigi for the yummy cookies.

The meeting showed how well the three Chiefs work together.

The situation at the Dump was a good point that was brought up. More reasonable access is needed at the dump. The way it stands right now, a home owner without access to a pickup truck can't get their brush accepted at the Dump. The person they hired to haul the brush was turned away.

Pat summarized it as follows: people need a place to dump pine needles, branches, etc. so that they can meet the fire codes.

c. Possible Action on Vacant Lot Code and Enforcement

County Code 695 isn't enforced at elevations above 3000 ft.; also vacant lots don't pay fire fees. This will be brought up at the MAST meeting to get clarification on the codes.

Mike feels that fire fighters should have the authority to have brush removed etc.

The Council will continue investigating. Emails maybe sent from Mast to the Chief after code clarification. Gregg asks who would be responsible for code enforcement.

The Newsletter will be due into the hands of Shela on September 5. The timing of the newsletter should motivate people to cleanup around their homes. Jerry made the motion on the newsletter timing and it was unanimously passed.

6. Agency Reports

Gregg Bratcher, Cal Fire

Two projects are done, Red Hill still needs five days of chipping for completion and El Careso will take longer, there is still chipping and cleanup to be done.

SFA- New funds of possibly ten million dollars may become available for clearing, individual tree removal, MCFSC and other projects. A possible project could be clearing evacuation routes off the hill, if this happens it would involve Cal-Trans, Cal-Fire, Edison and BLM.

The Bark Beetles have reappeared in Idyllwild again. Chemical treatments may be tried against them.

Cal-Fire will be losing its part time temporary employees soon. Cal-Fire is working in tandem with MCFSC also.

Larry wants to set up a demonstration site with 40 trees per acre so people can go and see what that tree density looks like. Jerry will provide the land.

7. Meetings:

- a. Brown Bag Meeting: Wednesday, Noon, July 23, MRC Office
- b. Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 12, 9:30 AM, MRC Conference Room

Meeting Adjourned at 11:10 AM

Meeting minutes taken by Dan Dever

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Barmore, Secretary