

**Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 24, 2018

**Minutes**

**Board members present:** Norm Walker, Ron Perry, Doris Lombard, Jerry Holdber, Larry Kueneman, Chris Kramer

**Staff:** Pete Coy (Executive Director Edwina Scott was attending a Grant Workshop)

**Public:** Greg Ross

**Agencies:** Gregg Bratcher (CalFire)

1) President Walker thanked those in attendance for making our re-scheduled January 9 meeting which did not have a quorum of Board members to conduct the business of the Board.

2) **Budget and Financial Report:** Jerry Holdber, Treasurer

a. Financial Report : November & December 2017 financial reports were both presented for review. Treasurer Holdber gave a briefing of each line item. Treasurer noted that in recent conversation with the auditor, an additional expense of \$100 can be expected toward the filing of our organizations tax forms this year. Move to file the report for audit made by Dir. Perry, seconded by Dir. Lombard - Passed.

3) **Adoption of December 2017 Minutes**

The Minutes were reviewed with a note that Item #9, Meetings, should show that the January 2018 meeting should have been scheduled for, January 16, 2018 at 9:30 AM. Motion to accept made by Dir. Holdber, seconded by Dir. Perry - Passed.

4) **Fuel Modification Operations - (Field Supervisor - Pete Coy)**

a. California Fire Safe Council 2016 Grant  
Nov. and Dec. Fuels Reduction: Pete worked with 9 individuals who own 14 parcels equaling 4.77 acres, creating fuel reduction plans for their respective properties. Sixteen tons of biomass was taken to the grinder, 14.5 tons was chipped and 5 cords of firewood was left for the homeowners.

**b. CWPP**

The CWPP was approved on Dec. 12, 2017 by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. It seemed appropriate that Supervisor Washington should be the signer, so Chief Hawkins arranged that.

**c. County Funds to assist low-income individuals**

None. However, the Woodies raked and removed the pine needles and duff for one couple in Dec.

**d. SRA Grants**

**i. Dead and Dying Tree Removal**

In Nov. and Dec. Pete worked with 7 residents who owned 8 parcels. The contractors removed 10 bark beetle infested trees.

**ii. Fuels Reduction**

Nov. and Dec. Fuels Reduction: Pete worked with 1 individual who owned .12 acres. The contractors removed 1.5 tons of bio-waste.

**e. Projects Report (Field Supervisor - Pete Coy)**

Looking at future abatement projects in Pine Cove and Garner Valley, and education outreach.

**f. Woodies Report (Directors Perry & Lombard)**

Nov. & Dec. work efforts created 11 cords of split wood with a value of \$2,250 and 186 man-hours with an in kind match value of \$3,700.

**5) Education**

**a) GSOB Update (Directors Perry & Lombard)**

No requests for inspections.

**b) Correspondence (President Walker)**

President Walker spoke about the numerous phone contacts he had received from Congressman Ruiz's office to coordinate their proposed Press Conference related to his Wildfire Funding Bill, HR 1009.

He also spoke of conversation with USFS District Supervisor Delgado who offered to write a letter of support for any grants we may apply for.

**6) New Business**

**a) Number of Board Members**

A lively discussion ensued around the future number of Board members we may want to maintain. With the pending resignation of Dir. Barmore we will be down to 7 active members. This is still in line with our by-laws which state our make up of anywhere between 5 and 12 members. The feeling was that we may be drifting from our by-laws with the stated number of members. It was proposed to eliminate the chapters and seek replacements as needed by areas of the W.U.I.

**b) Economic Stages**

President Walker explained his Economic Stages paper (attached) and its use as a guideline when planning the spending of grant monies toward projects. It was felt that this document also gives the Project Manager some leeway when designing work projects.

Those in attendance felt it was a good document to use for prioritizing our projects during times of unsure funding. One change in wording that was proposed for Stage II was that private property is prioritized over commercial, church or rental properties. Motion made by Dir. Perry, seconded by Dir. Kueneman to approve this document with said change - Passed

**c) Change of by-laws**

Discussion of what may be involved to go forward with items discussed in Item 6a) above. Dir's Perry and Lombard will review the by-laws related to this and bring suggestions to a future meeting. There was concern about the expense of having some legal review and President Walker thought there might be assistance with this at the county level. Director Kramer to make contact with Brian Tisdale to explore this and report back.

**d) Insurance Meeting Presentation Reschedule**

Have representative bring information, costs and proposal for cybersecurity incorporated into our policy for discussion.

**e) Legislative Support of FSC's**

Dir. Kueneman spoke of his many travels, observations and lack of abatement throughout the state. He would like to see more support at the legislative level toward FSC's along with additional abatement work within the state. Lots of signage but no evidence of work.

**7) Agency Reports**

Gregg Bratcher – CAL FIRE

Discussion on replacement for Chief Hawkins, Dan Talbot has been appointed to replace him by CAL FIRE. He has been a long time employee in the east end of the county. Gregg has a meeting with new chief soon, will get a feel for his direction for the agency. Project work along Hwy 243 below Astro Camp is finishing up.

**8) Public Comments**

None

**9) Meetings**

**a) Next Board Meeting February 13, 2018, 9:30 AM.**

Respectfully Submitted

Chris Kramer