

Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council
Board of Directors Meeting
9:30 A.M., Tuesday, July 10, 2018
Mountain Resource Center

DRAFT MINUTES

Board members present: **Norm Walker, Jerry Holldber, Chris Kramer, Doris Lombard, and Ron Perry**

Staff present: **Edwina Scott**

Public in attendance: **Brian Tisdale**, Supervisor Washington's Office; **Charles Wentz**, U.S.F.S. **David Ofahulu**, U.S.F.S.; **Robert Fish**, CALFIRE; and **Nochella Funes**

1) Opening Remarks – **Norm Walker**, President

President Walker welcomed everyone. He reported on the meeting at Idyllwild Fire Department about the fire threat posed to the mountain communities by the homeless.

2) Budget and Financial

a) Financial Report: May 2018. **Jerry Holldber** reviewed the financial reports with the board. The reports will be filed for audit.

b) Edwina told the council that all signers who have online banking have full access to MCFSC's accounts and have full authority to make any transactions to any of the council's BBVA accounts. Treasurer Holldber will go talk to the bank about this.

3) **Adoption of June 2018 Minutes**

Director Perry moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

4) Fuel Modification Operations-**Edwina**

a) California Fire Safe Council 2016 Grant

June Fuels Reduction projects: Pete and Pat worked with the owners of 7 property owners, creating fuel reduction plans for their respective properties. The properties equal 10.81 acres. 26.5 tons of biomass removed, and 24.5 cords of firewood was left for homeowners.

b) County funds to assist low-income individuals

The final report was sent to Opal, Supervisor Washington's Legislative Assistant on 6/21/18. Using these funds, MCFSC helped 12 less fortunate property owners create defensible space. 5 Idyllwild; 5 Pine Cove; 1 Pinyon and 1 Poppet Flats

c) Projects Report

We have a possible 13 remaining jobs, totaling \$35,500. If all follow through with the work, we will go over budget by \$400. A couple of the owners are unsure if they want to do the work.

d) Woodies Report- **Directors Perry and Lombard**

- The Woodies worked 40.75 hours cutting and splitting 4 cords of wood and 35.75 hours on an abatement job located on Palomar. Three loads were taken to the transfer station.
- Chief Fish told the council about a new chipper which CSA 38 purchased. He offered it for use by the Woodies if they have jobs that benefit an entire community.

5) Education

a) GSOB Update-**Directors Perry and Lombard**

On hold until we see the status of the GSOB tree removal grants.

b) Correspondence-**President Walker**

c) Newsletter-**Edwina**

We are moving forward with the newsletter.

6) Old Business

Bank of America 2006 grant award

On June 27, 2018 MCFSC sent an email to Bank of America requesting to use the \$25,000 to help improve the safety of the mountain communities and firefighters by creating educational materials re: defensible space for new home buyers. Bank of America approved the request.

Director Holldber made a motion to transfer \$25,031.73 from the Bank of Hemet #0901 Restricted account to the BBVA #9687 Unrestricted account and close the Bank of Hemet #0901 account. Following discussion, the motion carried.

7) New Business

Edwina has been looking into magnetic signs for the Woodies and others to place on their vehicles as advertisement. Chief Fish suggested that the council should contact the Fire Crew in Norco. He thinks they will be able to produce the signs at a reduced cost. Staff will follow-up with the Norco crew.

8) Agency Reports

CALFIRE-Chief Fish reported that CSA 38 has allocated funds for fuels modification around the fuelbreaks, community and roads. The projects will require CEQA for all projects. CAL FIRE Crews are not available to do this so CSA 38 would like to form a partnership with EDA, CAL FIRE/Riverside County and MCFSC. Chief Fish would like to open a dialogue with these entities.

Director Kramer moved to explore and evaluate a partnership with CSA 38, CALFIRE, E.D.A., and other possible parties to reduce the fuel along escape routes for citizens and ingress and egress for engines and fire apparatus to protect the citizens of Pine Cove through fuels reduction projects. Following discussion, the motion carried.

U.S. Forest Service-Forester Wentz reported that the Thomas Mountain project has been delayed due to several small fires.

CALFIRE-Forester Funes updated the council on the following activities:

- Point of Rocks-Project is in the pre-planning and recon stage
- GSOB-Nochella went through a GSOB training session with the U.S. Forest Service
- Red Hill Truck Trail V.M.P.-Currently waiting

9) Public Comments – related to items on the agenda.

Next Board Meeting: August 14, 2018, 9:30 AM