

Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council
Board of Directors Meeting
October 10, 2017
MINUTES

Board members present: **Norm Walker, Ron Perry, Doris Lombard, Jerry Holddber, Ray Barmore, Larry Kueneman** and **Marvin Spreyne**

Staff present: **Edwina Scott**

Public in attendance: **Brian Tisdale**, Supervisor Washington's Office; **Freddie Espinoza** and **Matt Ahearn**, USFS; **Robert Fish**, CAL FIRE; **April Eugene**, County Fire; **Gregg Bratcher**, CAL FIRE; **Ian Tober**.

- 1) Opening Remarks – **Norm Walker**, President
President Walker commented on ongoing fires in California and on the aspects of wind and its relationship to fire and the need for fire fuel abatement.
- 2) Budget and Financial Report - **Jerry Holddber**, Treasurer
 - a. Financial Report: September 2017 financial reports. Treasurer **Holddber** gave a briefing of each line item and along with the board complimented both **Edwina Scott** and our C.P.A. **Laurie Marcher**. Move to file the report for audit made by **Ron Perry**. Passed.
 - b. Delinquent EDD/Taxes: **Norm Walker** will work with **Edwina Scott** to draft and send a letter.
- 3) Adoption of September 2017 Minutes
The Minutes were reviewed. With a minor correction and on a Move by **Jerry Holddber**, seconded by **Ron Perry**, the minutes were accepted.
- 4) Fuel Modification Operations - **Edwina Scott**
 - a. California Fire Safe Council 2015 Grant: Closeout report submitted on September 18, 2017.
 - b. California Fire Safe Council 2016 Grant: Using CaFSC grant funds, MCFSC worked with three property owners, creating fuels reduction plans and facilitating the contractors' bidding process to create defensible space.
 - c. CWPP: Completed and approved by Steering Committee and County Fire Chief **John Hawkins** and now in the hands of County Board Supervisor **Chuck Washington**. Note: Copyright statement to be added.
 - d. County funds to assist low-income individuals: No requests received. **Edwina Scott** to send a report to **Opal Hellweg**.
 - e. SRA Grants:
 - I. Dead and Dying Tree Removal: In September, MCFSC worked with two homeowners, helping them remove six bark beetle infested trees.
 - II. Fuels Reduction: Last month, MCFSC worked with six home owners, helping them reduce the fuels on their properties and creating defensible space.

- f. Projects Report: Edwina shared photos of a pending fuels reduction job on Inspiration Lane and before and after comparison pictures of a fuels reduction job Garner Valley.
- g. Woodies Report: **Ron Perry** related that since a flyer was posted 2 individuals have joined the list of volunteers. He also complimented the trade skills of **Ray Johnson** who successfully and in a brief time repaired the professional chain saw used by the Woodies.

5) Education – **Edwina Scott**

- a. GSOB Update: **Ron Perry** revealed that 6 requests have been received and of those 5 will be inspected. While no funds are available for tree removal the mapping of data will continue.
- b. Correspondence: None. In brief, **Norm Walker** will compose material for the next newsletter and to include revelation on the Saunder Meadows, a thank you to **Ray Johnson**, and the topic of basic explanation of prescribed burns requirements,

6) New Business

- a. A schedule conflict prevented Supervisor **Chuck Washington** from attending this meeting. **Brian Tisdale** will attempt to get his presence at a meeting in November. The board agreed to change the meeting day if necessary to accommodate the supervisor.

7) Agency Reports – **Matt Ahearn** touched on San Bernardino fires and fire stats, the current Pine Cove Fuel Break process and other burn projects for this coming winter. **Robert Fish** gave comments that included info about the firefighters working out-of-county and the current California fires are drawing down on resources. **Gregg Batcher** gave comment on the Astro Camp Project, Cal-Trans Right-of-Way, Red Hill Fuel Break, and on the changes where SRA funds will be replaced by funds generated by the Sacramento Cap and Trade.

8) Public Comments – **Ian Tober** questioned whether it is more cost effective to fight a fire or reduce fire fuel which resulted in a generalized discussion.

9) Meetings:

- a. Next Board Meeting: November 14, 2017, 9:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Marvin Spreyne, Secretary

Note takers: Secretary Marvin Spreyne and Executive Director Edwina Scott