



# Fire Safe San Mateo County

February 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance:

**Guido Ciardi** - President. San Francisco Water

**Denise Enea** - Woodside Fire Protection District

**Rich Sampson** - CAL FIRE

**Philippe Cohen** - Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (left at 10:50 for prior commitment).

**Todd Lando** - Executive Director. Urban Forestry Associates

**Christine Reed** - Central County Fire Department

**Andrew Hubbs** - CAL FIRE

**Chris Baressi** - Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

**Lori Cuesta** - PG&E Vegetation Management

**Kirk Shearer** - PG&E

**Dick Schwind** - South Skyline Firesafe Council

**Jennifer Chapman** - US National Park Service

**Mark Colbert** - Coastside Fire District

**John Romandia** - Black Cat Construction

**Steve Daus** - RPF

## Call to order

Guido Ciardi calls the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

## Approval of Minutes

- *Corrections to January 8, 2014 minutes: Add Kirk Shearer (PG&E) and Christine Reed.*
- *Motion to approve January 8, 2014 meeting minutes (Cohen) seconded (Enea). All in favor. Motion carries.*

## Treasurer's Report

- Account balance is \$141,000.
- Question and discussion about whether FSSMC is in the county "interest pool" and whether our account earns interest.
- **Non-profit status**
  - No update. Application resubmitted in 2013 by Denise Enea. Still waiting response from IRS.
  - Denise Enea answered a question about camp billing for crews at \$250 per day.

## Announcements

- None.

## New Business

- 2014 Goals draft.

## 2014 Goals

- Denise Enea Suggests **outreach to SRA areas to identify potential projects.**
  - Woodside
  - Coastside
  - County Fire
  - San Bruno
- FSSMC should contact field BC's to help identify priority project areas.
- Ensure that CWPP and Fire Plan updates are addressed.
- Dick Schwind suggests that **FSSMC and South Skyline Fire Safe Council work together to identify and fund private road clearance projects.**
- Lori Cuesta suggests that **FSSMC create a master list of stakeholders**, to better help with outreach.
- Andy Hubbs suggests that FSSMC contact Chief Jaubert to discuss the potential of **handing out a FSSMC flyer during CAL FIRE defensible space inspections.**
- Chris Baressi suggests that FSSMC **create a running list of projects, tied in to outreach to homeowners.**
- Jennifer Chapman suggests that FSSMC continue working with NPS to identify projects and secure funding.
- Approach Board of Supervisors for potential funding.
- Carry-overs
  - Work to increase membership.
  - Apply for grants.
  - Complete 501(c)3 status.
  - Consolidate outreach ideas and incorporate concepts of "membership" and "traing" proposals from 2013.
- Potential projects list:
  - Southern edge of Edgewood park (north of Rocky Way in Woodside FPD, near Sunset PG&E substation). Project was completed 3 years ago, needs maintenance. Protects watershed, homes, PG&E substation.
  - Southern Fuel Break with SF Water.
  - Hillsborough project.
  - Fire Roads and Truck Trails (Rich will help prioritize trails).
  - Cypress removal on school district lands near Coral Reef (adjacent to Rancho Corral de Tierra).
  - (Nick?) Park, Redwood City.
  - Eaton Park, San Carlos (Redwood City Fire Dep't).
  - San Carlos Fuel Break and vegetation management bordering Palomar Park neighborhood.
  - County Parks including Wunderlich, Huddart, Edgewood.
  - Skyline Blvd from Hwy 92.

- Highland Recreation District lands.
- Cal Water, all tank properties in Portola Valley.
- Los Trancos Woods.
- CALTrans right of way on Montara Mountain near Point Montara.

## **Fire Adapted Communities Update (Denise Enea)**

- NFPA and FEMS
- Promotes Grants and Firewise/FAC Adoption.
- <http://www.fireadapted.org/>
- “A Fire Adapted Community takes responsibility for its wildfire risk. Actions address resident safety, homes, neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure, forests, parks, open spaces, and other community assets. The more actions a community takes, the more fire adapted it becomes.
  - How does a community become fire adapted?
    - Becoming a fire adapted community is a process and includes the following characteristics:
      - It is in or near a fire adapted ecosystem.
      - It has adequate local fire suppression capacity to meet most community protection needs.
      - Its structures and landscaping are designed, constructed, retrofitted and maintained in a manner that is ignition resistant.
      - It has local codes [building, planning, zoning, and fire prevention codes] that require ignition-resistant home design and building materials.
      - Fuels on land near and inside the community are treated and maintained for safety.
      - It has and uses a community wildfire protection plan.
      - It has built other safety features such as buffers between fuels and the community; safe designated evacuation routes; and safe zones in the community when evacuation is not advisable.”

## **Correspondence**

- Email correspondence with San Mateo County Resource Conservation District..

## **Grant Updates:**

- Fire Safe San Mateo County was awarded \$58,580 with a match of \$65,200 for education and fuel reduction.
- The grant will help fund and expand the existing Woodside FPD chipper program, providing additional vegetation removal and chipping county wide.
- Will fund a variety of related print and web based communication tools (\$9300).
- 50 Acres of fuel treatment.
- No other proposals in San Mateo County were funded

## **Committees**

### **Grant Committee:**

- Discussion related to Clearinghouse grant pre-award application.
- Todd Lando and Denise Enea prepared extensive pre-award application packet and submitted

January 24 to the CA Fire Safe Council.

- Jim Palisi contacted Denise looking for funding for fuel break in Eaton park.
- Andy Hubbs gave update on current and completed projects.
- Discussion regarding CCC project at Highlands Recreation District.
- SRA fees may be “filtering” to units soon. Potential for project funding is unclear.
- All CAL FIRE grant projects from 2013 are complete.
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Todd Lando

**Public Relations Committee:**

- Draft fundraising letter in progress.
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - John Romandia
  - Todd Lando

**Living With Fire Update Committee:**

- Updates on hold until Clearinghouse Grant funds are available (April 1, tentatively).
- Committee members:
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Jim Palisi
  - Christine Reed
  - Philippe S. Cohen
  - Joel Smith

**Website:**

- Please review content for your group or agency, and submit corrections or content to Todd Lando at [toddlando@firesafesanteo.org](mailto:toddlando@firesafesanteo.org).
- Weekly newsletter is being distributed by email whenever new content is added to the website.
- Detailed reader statistics are being recorded, and will be available for future presentation to the board and analysis.

**Agency Roundtable:**

**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District - Chris Baressi**

- Fire Season finally called this week.
- Project updates.

**Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve - Philippe S. Cohen**

- Nothing to report.

**PG&E Vegetation management - Lori Cuesta**

- Few crews are working in county.
- Montara.

- Large trees on roadsides.
- Inspectors are working in the LRA near Atherton and Menlo Park.

**Central County Fire Department** - Christine Reed

- Reed will attend CA Fire Prevention institute in March in Buellton.
- Will attend WUI session and bring back materials.
- Work completed in Burlingame.
- May have a need for additional work in 2014.
  - Margaret Glomstad is very happy with work.

**CAL FIRE** - Andy Hubbs & Rich Sampson

- Burn ban has been lifted.
- Live fuels are still critically dry.
- SRA Fee Fund availability discussed.
- Additional positions including Seasonal Forester 1 and 4 defensible space inspectors are in progress.
- Denise Enea is happy that districts will now be able to show that money is being spent on local projects and staff.
- Enea passed out a printed copy of the CAL FIRE SRA Fee budget draft.
- Transition to fire season expected in March.
- Crew work update.

**US National Park Service** - Jennifer Chapman

- Rancho Corral de Tierra, chipped debris piles completed.
- Fire Management Plan amendment is underway.
- Update on plan status.

**Woodside Fire Protection District** - Denise Enea

- Chipping program to begin again, through end of November.
- Crews are used at least one day per week over winter to clean up water tanks sites.
- Private contractor will be used when very busy.
- WFPD will manage grant funds from FSSMC grant.

**Coastside Fire Protection District** - Mark Colbert

- Colbert is acting fire marshal until a replacement is hired to replace Clayton Jolley.

**SF Water** - Guido Ciardi

- Out to bid on a "Brontosaurus" project.
- Water situation update: 3.5"-7" recently; 37% of normal to date.
- Conditions are still critically dry.
- Runoff stopped very quickly due to lack of saturation.

**South Skyline Fire Safe Council** - Dick Schwind

- 3000 Volunteer hours tracked in 2013.
- End of 3 years work on 2 grants.
- Concentrating now on defensible space chipping.
- New policy in place for private road shaded fuel breaks.
- 2 new small grants may help fund current projects.

- Dick will retire soon, trying to ID a successor.

### **Open Forum**

- Nothing to report.

### **Meeting adjourned 11:32 am**

Respectfully submitted by Todd Lando.

Next meeting will be held at Woodside Town Hall Wednesday March 12, 2014 at 9:30 am.