



# Fire Safe San Mateo County

January 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance:

**Guido Ciardi** - President. San Francisco Water  
**Denise Enea** - Woodside Fire Protection District  
**Rich Sampson** - CAL FIRE  
**Philippe Cohen** - Jasper Ridge  
**Todd Lando** - Executive Director. Urban Forestry Associates  
**Christine Reed** - Central County Fire Department  
**Kirk Schearer** - PG&E  
**Andrew Hubbs** - CAL FIRE  
**Chris Baressi** - Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
**Stephen Kraemer** - San Mateo County Parks  
**Jim Palisi** - Redwood City Fire Department  
**John Romandia** - Black Cat Construction  
**Steve Daus**

## Call to order

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

## Approval of Minutes

- *Motion to approve December 12, 2013 meeting minutes (Cohen) seconded (Sampson). All in favor. Motion carries.*

## Treasurer's Report

- Account balance is \$146,460 at last reporting (9/26/2013).
- Discussion regarding billing and payments, including Fire Camp billing, SMC Fire Department accounts, and potential changes when non-profit status is received.
- **Non-profit status**
  - No update. Application resubmitted in 2013 by Denise Enea. Still waiting response from IRS.
  - 11 months since last application submitted with no feedback from the IRS.
  - Discussion.

## Announcements

- MPROSD is preparing to release final Vision Plan.

## **New Business**

- February meeting will draft goals for 2014.

## **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:**

- CAL FIRE grant activity in Burlingame and County Parks is complete.
- Todd Lando and Denise Enea are preparing the extensive pre-award application packet due January 24 to the CA Fire Safe Council.
  - FSSMC will need a certificate of insurance or a comparable letter of self insurance from San Mateo County.
  - Rich Sampson will investigate insurance questions.
  - Steve Daubs will get info from other councils on insurance questions.
- Will need to prioritize areas for fuel treatment and chipping.
- CWPP Update discussion.
- Review of CWPP to ensure areas are named, for inclusion in future grant applications.
- Andrew Hubbs updated group on CAL FIRE grants.
  - No information on Highlands Recreation District grant application (WUI).
  - SFA funding ended 12/31/2013.
  - Funds were used in Burlingame, San Mateo County Parks, and Half Moon Bay.
  - Most of the money was used, despite setbacks.
  - Highlands Recreation District did receive funding for CCC crew work which is underway.
- Denise Enea update group on BAAQMD chipper research.
  - Doug Tolar is researching chippers and benefits of chipping for potential feasibility of grants.
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Todd Lando

### **Public Relations Committee:**

- Press release sent out in December related to FSC grant award.
- Committee members:

- Denise Enea
- John Romandia
- Todd Lando

**Living With Fire Update Committee:**

- Todd Lando needs name and contact information for all San MAtteo County FPOs.
- Non profit status must be emphasized in print copy.
- Fundraising potential.
- CAL Fire may have photos from the recent VMP burn near Big Basin.
- Committee members:
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Jim Palisi
  - Christine Reed
  - Philippe S. Cohen
  - Joel Smith

**Website:**

- Traffic continues to increase related to reports of fire danger and late season wildfires due to drought in the media.
- Agency/Group pages have been added for each regular attending member.
- 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**

- Project updates.

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

- Normally would be using portable mill to mill oak this time of year.
- Unable to use mill due to fire risk.

**Central County Fire Department - Christine Reed**

- Work completed in Burlingame.
- May have a need for additional work in 2014.
  - Margaret Glomstad is very happy with work.

**CAL FIRE - Andy Hubbs**

- Staffing pattern in place.
- Hiring back seasonals.
- Water supply issues, including water tanks and ponds being dry.
- Crews have found initial attack tanks and hydrant systems dry.

- Well based communities are severely impacted.
- Water being trucked in and additional tenders required.
- Seasonal Forester 1 to be hired soon, to be funded by SRA fee.
- Crew work update.

**Woodside Fire Protection District - Denise Enea**

- Chipping program finished end of November.
- Crews are used at least one day per week over winter to clean up water tanks sites.
- Private contractor was used when very busy.
- Ready to lobby county to take Wunderlich to the next level.
- Need to consider grants and other funding to address Eucalyptus.
- County Parks will need to complete CEQA work.
- Discussion about issues related to Eucalyptus removal.
- Sampson has observed that native vegetation recovers more quickly than expected after Euc removal (cites Berkeley work as an example).
- Discussion about herbicide application post removal to prevent regrowth.

**SF Water - Guido Ciardi**

- Thanks to Andy Hubbs for fuel moisture updates.
- Bad year for tanoak.
- Seeing pine kill from beetles, probably related to drought stress too.
- Water situation is being monitored.
- Crews are finished at Rim Fire site.
- Lots of cooperative work underway with SMC Parks.

**Open Forum**

- Nothing to report.

**Meeting adjourned 11:06 am**

Respectfully submitted by Todd Lando.

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