



# Fire Safe San Mateo County

March 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance:

**Philippe Cohen** - Vice President. Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve.

**Denise Enea** - Treasurer. Woodside Fire Protection District.

**Rich Sampson** - Secretary. CAL FIRE.

**Todd Lando** - Executive Director.

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

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

**Rob Sherman** - CAL FIRE.

**Eric Isaacson** - South Skyline Firesafe Council.

**Jennifer Chapman** - US National Park Service.

**Mark Colbert** - Coastside Fire District.

**Steve Daus** - RPF.

## Call to order

Denise Enea calls the meeting to order at 9:38 am.

## Approval of Minutes

- *Motion to approve February, 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 Steve Richmond is in the process of transferring all records to Denise Enea. Enea will meet with Chief Sherman at the Fire Camp to go over billing and administration.
- **Non-profit status**
  - No update. Application resubmitted in 2013 by Denise Enea. Still waiting response from IRS.

## Announcements

- None.

## **New Business**

- New policies must be adopted for future Clearinghouse Grant applications.
- Should adopt policies BEFORE submitting application.
- Fire Safe Council has provided some model language for policies.
- Fire Adapted Communities - FSSMC should look to program for model language in anticipation of this program driving future federal grant funds.
- Prospective projects discussion.

## **Correspondence**

- None.

## **Committees**

### **Grant Committee:**

- Discussion related to Clearinghouse grant pre-award application.
- Discussion regarding the need for FSSMC and Woodside Fire to adopt policies per the grant guidelines.
- Jim Palisi has indicated that he'd like to conduct fuel reduction projects in Eaton Park.
  - Interested in goat projects.
  - FSSMC will look into possibility of funding goat projects in defensible space zone with clearinghouse funds.
- Still waiting on word on the WUI grant submitted to CAL FIRE.

### **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
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Todd Lando

### **Public Relations Committee:**

- Newsletter discussion.
- Add public works directors and town managers.
- Ask members to invite guests to meetings.
- 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**

- Pulgas Ridge Eucalyptus removal update.
- Ongoing project since 1990s.
- Purisima Creek Redwoods project update.
- Going for a bond measure on the upcoming ballot.
- Ballot language will include “reducing fire risk.”

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

- Sudden Oak Death removal project update.
- Lots of Valley and Live oaks dropping big branches recently.

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

- Added funding for reliability crews from HMB, south.
- Few crews are working in county.
- Montara.
- Large trees on roadsides.
- Inspectors are working in the LRA near Atherton and Menlo Park.

#### **CAL FIRE, Fire Camp - Rob Sherman**

- Good feedback on recent sponsor training and recert program.
- Still awaiting recert response from County Parks.
- Crews are already responding to fires.
- Trying to give crews time off before fire season.
- Crews will be unavailable for periods in March and April.
- 2.5 acre fire near Half Moon Bay.
- Burn ban has been lifted.
- CDCR may increase camp population this summer.
- Filling the 21 acre foot pond at the camp.

- Live fuels are still critically dry.
- SRA Fee Fund availability discussed.
- Transition to fire season expected in late March.
- Crew work update.

**US National Park Service** - Jennifer Chapman

- Cypress removal at Cabrillo School district update.
- “Bio Blitz” project underway with National Geographic, leading up to NPS 100th birthday celebration.
- 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 in May, through end of November.
- Crews are used at least one day per week over winter to clean up water tanks sites.
- Will use at least 10 crew days through November.
- Private contractor will be used when very busy.

**Coastside Fire Protection District** - Mark Colbert

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

**South Skyline Fire Safe Council** - Eric Isaacson

- New President is Bill Gunther.
- Dick Schwind is officially retired.
- Kings Creek truck trail project update.
- Chipping program is funded and will start soon.
- Looking for funding for Skyline Blvd.
- 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.

**Steve Daus**

- Sending planning based proposals to CAL FIRE for potential funding.

**Open Forum**

- June and September, Woodside Town Hall meeting room is not available.

**Meeting adjourned 11:15 am**

Respectfully submitted by Todd Lando.

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