



FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY

April 8, 2020

General Meeting Minutes

Online conference call. No in-person meeting.

Commence 9:33 am

I. Attendance:

Online Zoom conference call in lieu of in-person meeting due to COVID-19 meeting restriction due to sheltering-in-place order.

51 members attended the meeting.

II. Introductions:

Council President Denise Enea welcomed all members who called into the meeting. Participation instructions were shared:

- Mute audio unless speaking
- Video participation not required, you may turn off your camera
- To ask questions, please unmute and speak after the presentations, or use the chat function to ask questions during the presentations

Agenda has been modified with speakers switching order.

III. Presentations:

1. Todd Lando – Fire Safe Marin

A. History of Fire Safe Marin

Formed about 1 month after Fire Safe San Mateo County. We (Marin and San Mateo) consider ourselves sister councils.

The Tamalpais Forest Fire District first started in 1917, this was the first district that started specifically for forest fires. It was funded through taxed per parcel.

Then in 1991, the official Fire Safe Council was established.

B. Community Outreach

Fire Safe Marin is focused on community education programs. Highlights include:

- 30 workshops in 2019, 300 attendees for Living with Fire. Will be moving to online but prefer in person

- 2 annual FireWise workshops. These workshops are used to help get communities started with FireWise applications. These communities are highly engaged and active. There are currently 72 FireWise sites in the county, and the aim would be for 150 sites to cover the county.
- Home hardening workshops. These have been very successful, and included live burns
- FireWise Walks- public walks in the neighborhood to talk about issues specific to the diversity of neighborhoods.
- Chipper Program- similar to San Mateo County
- Goat Grazing- expanded in the last 3 years. Goats are used for fuel breaks, helps reduce resources needed for fighting fires

C. CWPP

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was updated in 2017 through a grant. Fire Safe Marin took the lead for this CWPP revision. Vegetation was mapped and updated with increased resolution. Fuel modeling was done in finer scales. 300 project areas were prioritized in 20+ categories, but this prioritization did not include any budget to be applied to the prioritized plans.

D. Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

There is a new Joint Powers Authority. This looked at the CWPP project and budget required to effectively implement the projects. It was concluded that \$19.3 million would be required annual for these projects and project maintenance.

The goals of addressing CWPP fall within following issues:

- 1) Wildfire detection and evacuation program improvements
- 2) Fire hazard reduction with hand crews, expanding goat grazing
- 3) Expanding public education
- 4) Coordinated defensible space inspection
- 5) Core funding for specific community needs, under conditions money be used to support goals of CWPP

E. Measure C

To fund this, they proposed Measure C as a tax measure. To develop this plan, they focused on information, updated and feedback. Some of the things they did included: Public information such as website, video, background info docs, FAQ; Soliciting feedback from over 60 info sessions; Requesting input related to governance; feedback from citizen oversight committees, and environmental groups.

F. Proposed Marin Joint Powers Authority (JPA) overview:

- 17 members countywide: 9 fire protection/special district members, 7 city/town members, and County of Marin.
- JPA represents 98% of all land area and 96% of county's population
- Oversight structure is complex, but necessary for getting everyone onboard in agreement

- Independent Budget of \$0, and dependent on tax measure vis parcel tax. Mandatory fiscal accountability
- 10 year sunset, and the will be evaluated and put back on the ballot

G. JPA Approved!

JPA was CERTIFIED on March 3, 2020 with 71.08% approval, and will go into effect July 1.

H. Questions

- Inspector Training? Fire Safe San Mateo supports training of inspectors that support home hardening requirements through a 20 point inspection
- Fire Cameras? Some funds from the JPA will be used for installing fire cameras
- Where are fire Crews housed during fire season? This is a difficult challenge for Marin County to get access to temporary housing, but they are working on finding resources
- Is stucco safe? Yes, stucco is non-combustible and one of the best materials for siding with respect to home hardening. But you do need to make sure there is no space between the wall and base that might catch combustible material
- Has there been discussion with insurance companies? Not very highly engaged
- With JPA have any policies, or rebates to support wildfire resiliency for new homes? Not for new homes which have fire safety requirements in new building codes, but may be support for retrofitting older buildings

We ended the presentation by saying we hope to have a joint sister council meeting or evnt with Fire Safe San Mateo County and Fire Safe Marin

2. Janet Wohlgemuth, California Conservation Corps (CCC)

A. Introduction

The Motto of the California Conservation Corps is “Hard work, Low Pay, Miserable Conditions, and More!

The corps is composed of young men and women that restore and protect California environment, respond to disasters, and work on public lands. The corps members receive training, and professional development, including leadership and work skills.

There are residential and non-residential CCC crews throughout the state, about 2000 young adults per year, aged 18-25, and up to 29 for military veterans. None of the members are on parole or probation. They must all be dedicated to working hard!

Some project examples include: park development, habitat restoration, erosion control, fencing, trail work, invasive plant removal,

B. Spiking

In some cases, when a site is too far to travel back and forth each day, the crew will spike, which means camping on location for 8 days, and work 10 hour days.

C. Fuel Reduction

Specific to fire resiliency and forest health, the crews have experience in fuel reduction. They also have chipper training and respond to disasters such as fire.

All staff are also trained for certified as A+B tree fellers by CA dept of parks and rec

D. Questions

- How to schedule a crew: Contact Janet by phone or email: 831-768-0150, Janet.Wohlgemuth@CCC.CA.GOV
- What is the process? 1) Contact Janet 60-90days before project, 2) Schedule a project walk – looking at safety issues, travel time, consider spiking, 3) Estimate Cost, 4) Develop contract. This whole process takes about 4-6 weeks to get the project approved
- Service private land? No, typically no, the CCC crew does not work on private land, but projects are evaluated on a case by case basis. They have worked with HOAs before
- Is CEQA required for private property? Depends on the project site, but generally yet, it must be completed.
- Who cares the insurance? CCC has insurance, liability, workers comp
- Do crews work on public roadways? Yes. But sponsor needs to provide traffic control
- What equipment will the crew provide? Basic tools: chainsaws, pole saws, weed eaters, hand tools.
- Debra from South Skyline shares that CCC crew will be working with Portola Heights, and doing a spike camp, starting May 13
- There is funding available coming up through Prop 68. Janet can send more info if you would like to use a CCC crew.

IV. Announcements:

Woodside Fire and Fire Safe received a Fire Prevention grant

Will be working on:

- 1) Shaded fuel break in Pacifica
- 2) Target Hazard Work, in Devonshire Canyon

3) Green Climber purchase

Adjournment: 10:46am

The next Fire Safe San Mateo County Meeting will be held on May 13, 2020.