

FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNT

Minutes
January 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Ciardi at 9:40 am. Self introductions were made. Correspondence was circulated.

Attendance: Rich Sampson, John Ferreira, Cal Fire; Thadyne Borchert, Soquel FSC; Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford; Lori Cuesta, PG&E; Priscilla Alvarez, San Mateo Co, Dept. of Parks; Denise Enea, WFPD; Brian Malone, MROSD; Guido Ciardi, SFWD; Klauss Zalinskis, North County Fire and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

Additional to the Agenda: Chief Sims reports Fire Safe will make a presentation to the San Mateo Fire Chiefs at their May meeting. The committee of Palisi, Enea, Cohen and Richmond will need to change the power point presentation to meet the needs of this group.

Leave Early or Stay and Defend: Much discussion about the concept in California. FIRESCOPE has it on their agenda today. SMCO Prevention Officers have a speaker scheduled for their meeting January 21 at 1:30 pm.

Rich Sampson, Cal Fire reports the SM/SC Unit may receive \$140,000 for the next three years to pay for conservation camp crew work. Rich will be meeting with both SMCO and Santa Cruz County RCD's to scope out projects and funding.

Guido Ciardi stated he had been able to regain \$15,000 in his budget to pay crews on SFWD Project.

Steve Richmond reminded everyone that Sponsor Training will be held in this building on January 28,29.

There was general discussion regarding chipping projects in the county.

Next month we will have a presentation on using airborne remote sensing to map fire risk at Jasper Ridge.

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:

Brian Malone, MROSD reports they are looking at budget reductions. Crews are doing pile burning off Page Mill Road. Board of Directors need to approve two VMP burns for this year. Both have a training element. The district is working at scorching Scotch Broom seedlings.

Priscilla Alvarez, SMCO Parks says they have had to hold off on Ben Lomond Crew work because grant money is not available for continuing work in Wunderlich Park. The VMP burn in Edgewood County Park is still on.

Lori Cuesta, PG&E – Tree Crews are in Menlo Park and Woodside and moving up the Peninsula.

Clayton Jolley, Coastside F.P.D. – POST doing extensive work on one of their properties to reduce Eucalyptus hazard. An upgrade of the Coastal Trail through Moss Beach has been completed.

John Ferreira, CDF – reports that the Tour of California will move through both San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. They will be involved with CHP and others to make up an Incident Action Plan. John reported that state employees will be furloughed two days a month.

Discussion on the ramifications of AB38

Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University - They are also looking at budget cuts. He will be attending a symposium on Wildfire in the West—how fires will change.

Klauss Zalinskis, North County Fire – The fire marshal staff will serve as agency sponsors for the Brisbane Project. All will attend the sponsor training on January 28 and 29.

Rich Sampson, Cal Fire – PRC Code 4291, Insurance companies can require homeowners to contact the local fire department to make safety inspections. Angela Bernhaisel, Cal Fire, has made a good contact with an individual in the Coastal Commission who thinks we Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo get relief from having to get county permits for tree removal in the coastal zones.

Quido Ciardi, SFWD – They are working on a Fall treatment of Sudden Oak Death. They have contracted with University of California to track spores. Mid Penn Open Space already has three test plots and are working on Bay tree removal.

The meeting was adjourned at 1145.