

FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY

Minutes June 10, 2009

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

Attendance: Jim Palisi, Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department, Klaus Zalinskis, NCFCA; Thadyne Borchert, Soquel Fire Safe; William Glomstad, Guest; Margaret Glomstad, HRD; Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford; Denise Enea, Woodside Fire; Lori Cuesta, PG&E Vegetation; Scott Jalbert, Cal Fire; Brian Malone, MROSD; Guido Ciardi, SFWD; Clayton Jolley, Coast Side FPD/Cal Fire and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

San Bruno Mountain: Scott Jalbert reported he and Steve Richmond met with County Parks to review opening up old fire roads. Parks will work on the recommendations that were made on site including signs for roads and trails and selection of key roads and trails for improvement. Parks will work on the permitting process and eventually it will be included in the San Bruno Mountain Fire Plan.

PROJECT REVIEW:

Jim Palisi reported the Water Dog Lake project is about 50% complete and he will be submitting FC-32 for more crew days. They are getting complaints about fuel hazards at Eden Park in San Carlos. He will meet with the new director to see if they can come up with a plan that will meet their limited budget. Jim wants to set up crew time for the Devonshire Fire Break and also do work in Belmont off Summerset Drive.

Klaus Zalinskis – His department has been contacting homes in Daly City and leaving door hangers for hazard reduction cleanup. The Brisbane Fuel Break work will be completed next week. County Parks has been very helpful in providing equipment and personnel to assist in supervising the inmate crews. Everyone associated with the Brisbane project have been impressed with the work output of the Ben Lomond Conservation Camp Crews.

Thadyne Borchert, Fire Safe Soquel, reported their council organized a chipping program on the road where her property is located. Central Fire District was helpful in obtaining the chipper and providing personnel to operate the equipment. Residents did some of their own clearing and others hired ACE crew members from Santa Cruz to cut and pull brush to the roadside for chipping.

Denise Enea, Woodside Fire, says their community chipping program is off to a good start working two days a week. Captain Ruiz from Ben Lomond Camp says crews are in demand and it's difficult to meet all the needs.

Brian Malone, MROSD, reports they have two burns scheduled—one for training and one for fuel modification. The home permit system has been approved and adjacent home owners can apply for permit to clear the 100 feet from their buildings on district property to meet PRC requirements.

July Fire Safe Meeting: Jim Palisi agreed to handle the BBQ and Philippe Cohen will make sure the facility is ready including fuel for the BBQ and will handle the program for the meeting and send out directions and a request for an RSVP. Steve Richmond will purchase food and drink.

Transfer of Title of Fire Safe CCV: Santa Cruz County will accept the transfer of title and when the communication equipment is installed, it will be made available when needed, at no cost to San Mateo Co.

Additions to the Agenda: The revision committee for Santa Cruz County Living with Fire will be Palisi, Cohen and Brown.

AGENCY ROUND TABLE:

Thadyne Borchert, Soquel Fire Safe Council says they have established a web site, www.soquelfiresafe.org

They are working on by-laws and will meet with a Board of Supervisors member in August. Thadyne said South Skyline Fire Safe Council will no longer be supported by the Santa Clara Fire Council.

Jim Palisi, Belmont/San Carlos F.D. reports that an Eagle Scout designed and installed Fire Safe landscaping for Station 16.

Clayton Jolly, Cal Fire/Coast Side FPD says both County and Coast Side are in the middle of weed abatement programs. The Coral Reef Project tied in well with discussions at the recent CWPP meeting in Half Moon Bay. LE 100 program and lot clearing is in full swing in La Honda.

Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford reports flail mowing in hazard areas. They are considering leasing equipment for more hazard reduction work. The annual fire crew orientation to the preserve has begun. They have developed a handout for fire crews on water sources and other important items.

Denise Enea, Woodside FPD says their engine companies are in full swing with hazard reduction inspections.

Lori Cuesta, PG&E reports inspection crews are working in Menlo Park, Woodside and Skyline and will be followed by trimming crews.

Guido Ciardi, SFWD says they are brush mowing from Pacifica almost to Half Moon Bay. PG&E plans a large scale clearance project on their transmission line right-of-way. Several hundred trees are to be removed which will require a public meeting.

Steve Richmond, Fire Safe San Mateo reported on contacts he had from two homeowners wanting home inspections at the request of their insurance companies. This apparently was brought on by a program established by the Nevada County Fire Safe Council through a grant from Allstate Insurance Company. They have a program where they make inspections and submit information to the insurance company. This has been approved by the local Cal Fire unit.

NEXT MEETING -- July 15 – 10:30 am --- BBQ at Jasper Ridge, Stanford