



Fire Safe San Mateo County

April 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Guido Ciardi
Philippe Cohen
Dick Schwind
Rob Sherman
Steve Daus
Jen Chapman
Christy Reed
Steve Kraemer
Chris Baressi
Lori Cuesta

Corrections to March Minutes:

SSFSC and Jasper Ridge corrections. Philippe will let Todd know of the corrections.

Treasures Report:

Per Guido, Denise and Steve Richmond still working with BLC regarding transferring of funds.

Grant Committee:

- Todd is away at the pre-operational CA Fire Safe grant workshop.
- Chief Ari Delay of La Honda Fire Brigade asked Andy to present a chipping request to the Council. Guido suggested Chief Delay submit his request in writing to Todd.
- Andy discusses two potential CAL FIRE funding sources available sometime after July 1, 2014: "Fire Prevention Fee" funds and "Cap and Trade" funds. More information to come.

Additions to the Agenda:

Philippe reports Jasper Ridge will host a multi-jurisdictional emergency response training for 8 days at the end of May. Steve Kraemer said Huddart and/or Wunderlich could host something similar in the future if needed.

Agency Roundtable:

Jasper Ridge:

- Philippe reports there is research underway to investigate previous ecological conditions at the preserve.

South Skyline Fire Safe Council:

- Dick reports Bill Gunther is now president and Dick is vice president
- Eric Isacson has finished maintenance on the Kings Creek Truck Trail fuel break using CCC and AmeriCorps crews (Prop 40 and FEMA funds).
- Free chipping offered to residents May 1st or the Council will pay for ½ of chipping fees on another day.
- Possible chipping to occur on the Middleton Track with Denise
- Working with road managers to do private road clearing
- Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council working with Palo Alto to do work on portions of Skyline Areas
- Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council funding a camera on a tower along Highway 17 at the county line to look for fires; cost: \$25,000 - \$50,000.

CAL FIRE:

- Rob reports crews are conducting annual training; not available again until end of April
- BLC is booking quickly with 3-4 crews/day committed to SRA projects through the end of June; get requests in soon
- 4 defensible space inspectors have been hired in CZU
- Extra firefighters will be hired this season to increase staffing from 3 to 4 firefighters on some engines statewide.

GGNRA:

- Jennifer reports they are working with PG&E to conduct vegetation management along powerlines
- Education efforts, based on thinning pine stands, are underway to help control pitch cankers
- Fire road designation is underway
- Chipping at Rancho Corral was recently completed
- Revision of mowing treatments are underway; no details yet

Central County Fire Department:

- Christine reports Burlingame residents will receive notice for defensible space and weed abatement much earlier this year

Midpeninsula Open Space District:

- Chris reports Brian Malone returns so this will be his last fire safe meeting

San Mateo County Parks:

- Steve reports 100 dead trees were recently felled in District 2
- Weed cutting underway for a July 1 finish
- Funding looks possible for Richards Road vegetation clearance and road work
- CAL FIRE/CDC Crews to work 3 days/week during the months of May and June
- Eucalyptus and broom spraying began in previously cut areas of Wunderlich
- Burning broom piles did not work out at Wunderlich; now pursuing mastication
- Several acres of Eucalyptus removal no longer looks feasible; will continue shaded fuel break efforts though
- Work on Camp Sawyer Trail resumes April 21; several mile complete to date
- Memorial park: tree work underway
- AB 109 involving County inmates continues with trail work
- Crews and spraying to control star thistle at Edgewood

PG&E/WECI:

- Meeting with PG&E/GGNRA to discuss tree trimming tomorrow; currently not allowed to cut
- Reliability crews currently working; doing more than “normal” distribution work

SF Water:

- Guido reports rainfall is 58% of normal going back to 1870.
- 2 Brontosaurus are working (or just finished) 3 fuelbreaks
- Disking starts next week; too early for mowing
- Work continues on power lines at Hetch Hetchy.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes are respectfully submitted by Andrew Hubbs.