



# Fire Safe San Mateo County

August 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance:

**Guido Ciardi** - President. San Francisco Public Utility District

**Rich Sampson** - Secretary. CAL FIRE

**Todd Lando** - Executive Director. Urban Forestry Associates

**Lori Cuesta** - PG&E

**Brian Malone** - Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

**Rob Sherman** - CAL FIRE

**Brigitte Shearer** - Highlands Recreation District

**Christine Reed** - Central County Fire Department

**Doug Tolar** - BAAQMD

**Dick Schwind** - Skyline Fire Safe Council

## Call to order

President Guido Ciardi calls the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

## Approval of Minutes

- *Motion (Sampson), Seconded (Lando) to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2013 Regular Meeting of Fire Safe San Mateo County without corrections. All in favor. Motion carries.*

## Treasurer's Report

- No change in status of 501(c)3 application.
- Accurate account balance not available. About \$140,000 at last review.

## Announcements

- Thank you to Brian Malone (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District) for presentation at July 10 meeting.

## **New Business/Correspondence**

- Thank you letter received from Burlingame for assistance with Cal Fire grant funds and preparing Mills Canyon project.
- BAAQMD advisories released for new fees. See BAAQMD website.

## **Non-profit status**

- No update. Application resubmitted. Awaiting response from IRS.

## **Grant Updates:**

- Western States Fire Assistance/WUI.
  - FSSMC submitted application for Highlands Recreation District shaded fuel break and Defensible Space education.
  - Discussion regarding access issues and land ownership.
  - SFWater will work with HRD to determine access and parcel ownership.
  -
- Todd Lando attended CA Fire Safe Council Grant Workshop in Sacramento mid June.
  - Clearinghouse grant application process has been “tightened.”
  - Reporting requirements are more detailed.
  - Fire Safe Council may not directly apply for funding without 501(c)3 status.
  - Fiscal sponsors will be held to stricter requirements.
  - One application per group/agency will now apply to primary applicants and fiscal sponsors. FSSMC may not act as a fiscal sponsor if it has applied for a grant directly (once 501(c)3 status is achieved).
  - FSSMC will assist agencies with applications. Local groups are asked to contact FSSMC if planning to apply.
  - September 17 deadline for Clearinghouse Grant applications.

## **Committees**

### **Grant Committee:**

- See Grant Updates, above.
- Per Doug Tolar, BAAQMD is looking at providing and encouraging chipper programs to reduce burning.
  - Jack Broadbent is the contact to discuss this with.
  - FSSMC may consider requesting grant funding to support local chipper programs.
- Some discussion regarding usefulness and availability of tracked chippers.
- Hillsborough has been unable to use all of the days allotted by Cal Fire grant.
  - Hillsborough will begin work next week.
- 50-60 crew days are available, send project proposals to Andy Hubbs.

- Projects must be CEQA ready.
- SMC Parks is prepared to use many of these days, but some days will be available.
- Coral Reef projects may use some of these days (10-12 anticipated).
- Mills Canyon Fuel Break in progress.
- Sponsor Sharing is being pushed to help move projects along.
- Beginning in January, Rob Sherman reports that sponsors will not have to attend training annually. A process will be developed to renew annually without the full training. Entire training process will be “streamlined.”
- 3-4 new sponsor classes will be held each year going forward.
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Todd Lando

**Public Relations Committee:**

- Todd Lando is preparing a list of constituents with information acquired from San Mateo County Planning Department.
- PR Letter in progress, to send to constituents when 501(c)3 status is received.
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - John Romandia
  - Todd Lando

**Living With Fire Update Committee:**

- Update suggestions currently requested for defensible space pages.
- Committee members:
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Jim Palisi
  - Christine Reed
  - Philippe S. Cohen
  - Joel Smith

**Website:**

- Agency/Group pages have been added for each regular attending member.
- 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:

### **San Francisco Water** - Guido Ciardi

- Small fires reported on 280 corridor.
  - Disc line fire breaks have held well.
  - Fire on Skyline was determined to have been caused by a distress flare. ¼ acre.
- Prep work for winter underway.
- 11 seasonal watershed workers are doing fuel reduction and vegetation management work.
- “Garden Project” youth enterprise group working on fuels and vegetation also.
- Discussion regarding eagle nest.
- 5th pipeline will be in service soon.
  - 102” pipe.
- Southern line fire break:
  - Broom control underway.
- Goats are working on Edgewood Road.

### **Highlands Recreation District** - Brigitte Shearer

- WUI Grant application prepared and submitted with extensive input from Brigitte Shearer, Todd Lando, and Andy Hubbs.
  - Grant will seek funding for a 100’ shaded fuel break between District owned 40+ acre parcel and residential properties.
  - Total fuel treatment area is 22 acres, if approved.
  - grant includes a public education component to be prepared and delivered by FSSMC.
- Some immediate need for crews for clearing, brushing, and fuel breaks.

### **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District** - Brian Malone

- Working with SMC Parks to reopen roads from last winter.
- Woodside and Portola Valley work continues.
- Discussion regarding marijuana grow sites, recent discoveries, and fire risk.
  - Many sites have had fires.
  - Grow site issues, crew use, safety issues discussed.

### **CAL FIRE Ben Lomond** - Rob Sherman/Steve Richmond

- State is looking at revising crew fee structure.
  - Fees will likely go up.
- Camp may have crew days available in August, but fire activity increasing makes this less likely.
- Crews are currently enroute to TNF.

- Crews will be held in San Mateo to reduce response times.

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

- Joel Smith, Forester, promoted to Supervising Vegetation Manager.
- Crews are working in Woodside, Daly City, Redwood City, and Skyline in LRA.
- Discussion regarding Marbled Murrelet habitat on MPROSD lands.
  - A project is being held up.
- Further discussion regarding PG&E crew work and endangered species restrictions.
- Crews finding that USFWS critical habitat map does not have enough detail.

#### **Skyline Fire Safe Council - Dick Schwind**

- Met with Jack Cohen (USFS Missoula Fire Lab) in Montana. Will report at a later meeting.
- Description of SSFSC.
- Recent WUI project completed.
  - 3 miles of road clearing, totaling 23 acres.
  - \$35,000 direct cost, with \$16,000 match.
  - 42 crew days and 63 sponsor days. 2500 volunteer hours.
  - Some reporting to finish up.
- Council is providing voluntary 1 hour home inspections for residents.

#### **BAAQMD - Doug Tolar**

- New open burning fee has been officially adopted.
- Rules are available online.
- Notification fee.
- New advisory passed around.
- Online fee payment will be launched August 26.
- Notification forms passed out.
- Reminder that this is not a burn permit application!
- New email box created: [openburn@baaqmd.gov](mailto:openburn@baaqmd.gov)
- Regulations and new forms discussed.

#### **Central County Fire Department - Christine Reed**

- Annual vacant lot program underway in Hillsborough.
- Contractors have cleared 6 lots where homeowners did not comply.
  - This is down from 10-11 lots in years past.
- Hillsborough Defensible Space work (Cal Fire grant) is delayed until August 26.

#### **Open Forum**

- Thank you to Philippe Cohen and Jasper Ridge Open Space Preserve for the generous donation of time and space for last month's meeting.
- Thank you to Rich Sampson and Denise Enea for coordinating cooking and barbecue at last

month's meeting.

**Meeting adjourned 11:34 am**

Respectfully submitted by Todd Lando.

Next meeting will be held at Woodside Town Hall Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 9:30 am.