

*El Dorado County Fire Safe Council*

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**MOSQUITO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes: September 21, 2023 @ 6:00**

**Dyer Lake Pavilion**

**6770 Sluice, Placerville, CA**

1. Meeting Called to Order: 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call/Verification of Quorum  
Board Members Present: K. Pullin, P. Beacham, J. Gregson, W. Gregson  
Present by Phone/Zoom: J. Pullin, K. Joseph, M. Joseph
3. Approval of Agenda: M-Pullin, K. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Gregson, W.: **Approved Unanimously**
4. Approval of Minutes: M-Gregson, W. 2<sup>nd</sup>- Pullin, K: **Approved Unanimously**
5. Approval of Financial Report: M- Gregson, J. 2<sup>nd</sup> Gregson W.: **Approved Unanimously**

Delayed open forum, Old Business and New Business until after our guest Speaker, Mark Egbert from RCD gave a presentation and Q/A.

Mr. Egbert gave an excellent presentation on the grant process, projects, relation to CWPP, grant project management and relationship between RCD, EDCFSC/MFSC. Discussion and Q/A. Highlights included the \$200K grant awarded to Mosquito Fire Safe Council (\$190K remaining), challenges and successes of our last grants. Our Grant Coordinator, Jerry Pullin along with those who will be assisting him will meet with Mark in the next in upcoming weeks to finalize the project location, contractors, ROE and estimated start and finish date. Jerry will lead the discussion with MFSC Board on committee member selection. Clarification that Mosquito FSC, as with other associate FSCs, write and are awarded grants. El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC) does not write grants for individual or associate councils. EDCFSC writes grants for their own projects such as the free chipper program, Senior, Veteran and low Income defensible space program and the Hazardous Tree Removal program. MFSC hires EDCFSC to be our fiscal sponsor (paid from the grant). As the fiscal sponsor, all monies and invoices are processed through EDCFSC. RCD is paid through the grant to manage our grant project. Mark assists us in determining which of the identified projects on the CWPP will be the most beneficial and get us the biggest bang for the project selected. We appreciated Mark Egbert's presentation and making the time to drive up here and answer questions. We will be having Mark back as a guest in the near future to give us an update on our project.

6. **Old Business:**

- a. Review of 8/26 Block Party featuring El Dorado County Sheriff, Office of Emergence Service, Cal Fire and CERA (Community Emergency Radio Association) Johnny Valenzuela gave a report. The block party was the first in a series. Evacuation was the main topic of discussion and understanding the process. Both EDSO/OES and CalFire gave valuable and resourceful information for a better understanding of what to expect in the event of an evacuation and to inform and educate our community on the evacuation process. CERA gave an incredible presentation on the value of the Emergency Radio program for the whole community. MFSC is spearheading an effort with CERA to create a neighborhood radio program to disseminate accurate and timely information. The engagement between the EDSO OES, CalFire and CERA was amazing! Thanked Johnny Valenzuela for all the corporate sponsors.

b. **Upcoming Events:**

Second Block Party is scheduled for Friday 9/29 on Stope Ct. Our featured speakers will be SCLAR (Large Animal Rescue) will discuss animal evacuation and their training, certifications and as responders for EDC Animal Control and EDSO / OES, Air/Med/Care will be giving a presentation on the benefits of this low cost insurance for medical air transport in an individual medical emergency. CERA will again be joining us to continue our efforts to bring this valuable emergency radio service to our community.

MFSC will discuss the possibility of getting one more block party in before winter hits us.

MFSC has, for 6 years hosted the Veterans Day Celebration and honoring our local Veterans. We were worried that we would not be able to host the Veterans day celebration this year. MFSC has been asked to host an event at the county level and lead a joint effort on Veterans Day. MFSC recently learned the FD announced they would be hosting another pancake breakfast on behalf of the Veterans. This will hopefully allow our local Veterans to be honored as we have honored them in the past.

Upcoming MFSC meeting will be announced as will future events as soon as we set the dates.

- c. We need to continue to promote the free programs offered by EDCFSC to our Mosquito residents. Chipper, Senior, Veteran and Low Income Households and Hazardous Tree Removal.
- d. Update on Assessments offered by MFSC. These assessments are **completely voluntary** and offered to assist our residents in understanding the recommendations and current ordinance requirements. The inspections are being provided by MFSC members who have gone through training and received their certification. These assessments also contribute to our FireWise designation and requirements.

- e. CERA (Community Emergency Radio Association) update by Wayne. 9 radios were picked up for delivery to the first group of residents who signed up. 8 more residents signed up at the block party on 8/26. We are looking forward to building on this much needed program
- f. Update on Green Waste Dumpster Day. EDCFSC offered title III money to associate councils in the amount of \$2500.00 to host a Green Waste Dumpster opportunity in their communities. MFSC had our request approved and will be hosting this event in the spring. We felt it was best to offer service after the winter storms. It was suggested that using a chipping program would allow for more room in the dumpsters.
- g. FireWise update. The renewal of our FireWise designation application was started and should be completed and ready for submission to NFPA by this weekend.
- h. Distribution of Wildfire Preparedness Workbook. Much appreciation to Johnny Valenzuela for the creation of the Mosquito Wildfire Preparedness Workbook over a year ago. EDCFSC and our county partners were so impressed with our workbook, they hired Mr. Valenzuela's company to create a workbook for the county. These workbooks will be shared among 30 councils to get delivered to our communities as well as throughout the county. Currently, MFSC has given out 200+ workbooks. We gave some to MFPD and MVFA to distribute. We will be hand delivering as many as we can and giving them away at our events. We also include a tracking sheet and Ca Fair Plan Discount application with the workbooks.

## **7. Old Business**

- a. MVFA Harvest Fest: MFSC participated last year. The event was fun and allowed another opportunity to give important emergency education and information to our friends and neighbors. MFSC will be participating again this year. We are looking forward to it.
- b. Future meetings: The board has decided to offer zoom as an option for the community to participate in our future meetings. Due to lack of internet at the Pavilion, we will hold future meetings at other locations. We have had offers to hold our meetings at resident homes, buildings.
- c. We have access to the Diamond Springs Memorial Firefighters Hall to hold our zoom, open meetings or events. We have access to equipment as needed.
- d. As a nonprofit, we have issued tax deductible receipts as requested to residents who have donated, businesses/donors.
- e. MFSC has been approached about leading an effort to collaborate with some other FSCs to do more joint events promoting the work FSC does.
- f. Form development: Wayne is working on a form to present to the board that will allow requests from community members on information they would like hear about, available options for voluntary contributions to MFSC.

8. **Open Forum:** Question was asked what the process for the grant committee would be. Stated the MFSC would determine who will be on the committee.

Chairman Report:

Thanked the MFSC Board of Directors for their professionalism and not negatively engaging with the 3 women who tried to create negativity around our organization. The comments about our grant money and nonprofit status were made by a person (s) who were again trying to create issues unnecessarily. Our partners do follow us as do other FSCs. The comments only succeeded in making them look bad. We have too much work to do to engage in such nonsense. I would expect anyone that has a complaint would bring it forward to MFSC in order to resolve the issue; going outside to complain is unproductive, juvenile and will not resolve any issues. We will continue to move forward and focus on all the good work we do.

Thank you again to the MFSC Board of Directors.

Next meeting: 10/24/2023