



Alpine Fire Safe Council

Providing community leadership, resources and a forum to improve wildfire preparedness and prevention in eastern Alpine County.

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 16, 2021

5:30 pm, Markleeville In-Person at Markleeville Fire Station – Hot Springs Road

Present:

Kris Hartnett – <i>FSC Chair / Coordinator, Markleeville Resident</i>	Teri McAlpin – <i>Administrator (minutes)</i>
Steve Yonker – <i>FSC Vice Chair, Woodfords Resident</i>	January Riddle – <i>BOS Liaison (guest)</i>
Tom Sweeney – <i>FSC Treasurer, Woodfords Resident</i>	Norm Saake – <i>Shay Creek Resident (guest)</i>
Steve Howe – <i>Carson Ranger Fields Officer, (guest)</i>	Patty Saake – <i>Shay Creek Resident (guest)</i>
	Robert Nobriga – <i>Markleeville Resident (guest)</i>

Absent:

Terry Hughes – <i>Eastern Alpine Fire and Rescue</i>	John Dion – <i>FSC Member, Alpine Resident</i>
Mark Quillici – <i>FSC Member, Woodfords Resident</i>	Matt Tremayne – <i>FSC Member, Woodfords Resident</i>

I. Call to order – K. Hartnett

Kris Hartnett, Chair, called the meeting of the Alpine Fire Safe Council (AFSC) to order at 5:30 pm

II. Introductions

All present (on phone) were introduced as listed above. Process reviewed regarding how community members can become a member of the Alpine Fire Safe Council

A. K. Hartnett announced there are some additional community members who would like to participate in the AFSC and possibly become members in the near future.

III. Volunteer Time Sheets

Time sheets were distributed, completed, and returned by all present Council members.

IV. Eastern Alpine Fire & Rescue Report – T. Hughes

A. Status of Volunteer Fire Department
a. Mr. Hughes was not present at this meeting

V. Board of Supervisors Report

A. Supervisor January Riddle presented on the following:
a. J. Riddle expressed the immense appreciation and thanks for the hard work in protecting the community in the recent Tamarack Fire.
b. The defensible space completed in various areas recently greatly helped the firefighters during the fire.

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VI. Oral Communication

Each member of the public shall be allotted three minutes to address the AFSC on no more than one topic. The topic cannot be a listed agenda item. *Members agree that public comment may include more than one topic area, at the discretion of the Chair.*

A. Public comment was solicited by the Chair
a. Community members expressed their thanks for the defensible space completed; their homes and neighborhoods were saved as a result.

- b. Mr. Saake expressed thanks to Kris Hartnett for “continuing to dig his heels in” to get the work completed at Shay Creek; the work saved our homes.
- c. Mrs. Saake asked about trees that have been cut down being removed; wood that is on personal property is up to the owner to determine what happens with the wood. The Shay Creek association will decide what to do with the wood on their property.
- d. Mr. Saake asked if there is a plan to do salvage on the trees still standing, but damaged.
 - i. Yes, this is the plan. Salvage has started; hazardous/dangerous trees have been cut down.
 - ii. Salvage could take 1+ years to complete.
 - 1. Salvage will include planting new trees (on public land)
 - iii. Explanation was provided about which trees will be considered salvageable and which will likely not live. Trees can be damaged by the heat and/or smoke even if they are not scorched. Science states that if there is less than 30% crown left on a tree, it will likely not survive.
- e. Personal stories of the Tamarack Fire were shared
- f. Attendees were reminded of the burn pile and greens waste vouchers available to Alpine County

VII. Agency Presentation for Projects under CWPP

A. Carson Ranger stated the following:

- a. The Type 3 fire team that has been in Alpine County for the Tamarack Fire will be leaving this coming Sunday.
- b. Mr. Howe has worked personally on many of the areas in Alpine County through fuels treatment.
- c. Evaluators will be visiting the fuels treatment areas (field tour) on 9/9/21, and monitoring will continue after that. The intention is to learn about the treatments that were completed, and the effect of those treatments on the Tamarack Fire.
 - i. The final report will be made public for review.
- d. The mills are full and aren't accepting any further trees for lumber; they have been receiving wood for various other fires. The suggestion was made to contact smaller companies in the business of firewood to see if they may want to remove some of the downed trees to sell as firewood.

VIII. Approve 5/17/2021 Regular Meeting

Motion to Approve 5/17/21 Regular Meeting Minutes: Steve Yonker

Second: Tom Sweeney

Ayes: Steve Yonker, Tom Sweeney, Kris Hartnett

Motion Carried

- A. K. Hartnett provided updates on all action items in the minutes.
 - a.

IX. Financial Report

Financial reports were provided to members and reviewed.

A. General Fund

- a. No report provided on the general fund; this will be the topic of an administrative meeting to be held in September 2021

B. CALfire Grant

- a. Status update on the CALfire Grant was provided and the spreadsheet was reviewed
- b. 2 invoices were submitted and paid since the May meeting.
- c. This grant ends 2/1/22.

C. Title III

- a. Balance Report and Expense Report were provided and reviewed
- b. A new fiscal year has started, so 2 reports were provided (one for FY21 and one for FY22)
- c. The BOS has tentatively obligated another \$2300 for the current fiscal year; it should be deposited into the Title III account at the end of September.

D. K. Hartnett provided an overview to the members of the public of the current grants and work that has been completed under each grant.

E. K. Hartnett stated there is a donor who is considering donating a large donation soon; this will be anonymous, but is not yet finalized.

Motion to approve all financial reports: Steve Yonker

Second: Tom Sweeney

Ayes: Steve Yonker, Tom Sweeney, Kris Hartnett

Motion carried

X. Review & approval of staff vouchers & invoice statements

Discussion for T. McAlpin voucher: No discussion at this time.

Motion to approve T. McAlpin voucher: Steve Yonker

Second: Tom Sweeney

Ayes: Steve Yonker, Tom Sweeney, Kris Hartnett

Motion carried

Discussion for K. Hartnett voucher:

Motion to approve K. Hartnett voucher, with the noted revision: Tom Sweeney

Second: Steve Yonker

Ayes: Steve Yonker, Tom Sweeney

Abstained: K. Hartnett

** Administration of the meeting was turned over to S. Yonker, while the item of K. Hartnett's Coordinator voucher was on the table. K. Hartnett abstained from vote for this topic item.*

Motion carried

XI. Unfinished Business

A. Status Update: CALfire 2020/21 Fire Prevention Grant Application

- a. 7 of the 9 properties in the grant application were burned in the Tamarack Fire. If the new grant is approved, the areas will still be included in the project funded by the grant.
- b. K. Hartnett has been maintaining communication with the individuals at CALfire who are reviewing the grant application; it is still in the process of review.

B. Continued Discussion with Possible Action: FIREWISE Community Activity

- a. Shay Creek would like to start a FIREWISE community; K. Hartnett will meet with the association if needed/scheduled
- b. A community will be started in Woodfords as well; some members will get a meeting together to start the process of meeting.
- c. The FIREWISE process was reviewed for those present.

XII. New Business

A. Discussion with Possible Action: Grant Writer Contract

- a. The lady who has agreed to be the grant writer (Jill Michelle) has taken a full time position with CHIPS. She will continue to work as our grant writer, and will be paid with awarded grants.

B. Discussion with Possible Action: Special Meeting Needed – additional meeting in September?

- a. The AFSC members will attend a special meeting in September, immediately prior to the regular meeting, at 4:30pm.

C. Status Update: Commendation to the AFSC for fuels work completed in various areas

- a. CALfire stated that because of the defensible space work that was completed save some neighborhoods and a great deal of manpower in fighting the Tamarack Fire.
- b. East Fork Fire also commented on the assistance the fuels reduction gave to fighting the fire. Many thanks to the Fire Safe Council for the work completed; it directly affected the battling of the fire. Thank you!

XIII. Member Report

- A. No reports provided at this time.

XIV. Staff Report – T. McAlpin

A. SLIP Insurance Renewal Update

- a. Insurance has been renewed; premium has been paid

XV. Coordinator Report

A. Shirley Taylor reflective sign

- a. Discussion occurred about how to attach the plaque to the rock

B. Preliminary report on Beer Sales

- a. Beer was sold on the Friday of the Death Ride, which was also the first day of evacuations for the Tamarack Fire.
- b. The Chamber asked the AFSC to also sell Death Ride beer glasses
 - i. They cost \$10 each, of which \$8 is returned to the Chamber and \$2 goes to the AFSC
 - ii. Due to the evacuation, the remaining glasses were loaded into the beer trailer, and need to be retrieved before final totals can be determined.
- c. \$1400 was withdrawn for change prior to the Death Ride
- d. \$2461 was deposited into the account after the Death Ride
 - i. \$1400 of this was the change being returned to the account

- e. The final total will be presented in September
- C. Ordering more greens vouchers
 - a. K. Hartnett will obtain more vouchers for Alpine residents
 - b. Another bulk mailing will be done to inform residents about the vouchers
- D. 2021 Title III obligation to AFSC – this was discussed above
 - a. The new allotment will be split among the 3 accounts
- E. Presentation on BOS FireWise & CALfire Prevention Grant
 - a. K. Hartnett presented the grant status and work to the BOS
- F. Work with county on CALFSC County Coordinators Grant
 - a. The County has applied for this grant
 - b. The purpose is to establish a County Grant Coordinator
 - c. This opportunity allowed the AFSC to establish a relationship with the California Fire Safe Council
- G. Participation in Eastern Sierra Fire Safe Council’s meetings
 - a. K. Hartnett has been communicating with the Eastern Sierra Fire Safe Council and participating in their meetings
 - b. This is a group of multiple county Fire Safe Councils working together to achieve a better relationship with the Forest Service and CALfire, and to do more preventative fuels reduction to save communities.
- H. AFSC needs: take over website maintenance and updates; take over making reflective signs
 - a. K. Baker will no longer be maintaining the website, nor making the reflective signs
 - b. Please let Kris know if you know anyone who can take over these tasks
- I. FIRES: Tamarck Fire, Dixie Fire, Beckworth Complex, River Fire, Carson City Fire, East Fork Fire (HLT), Pleasant Valley (unnamed), Wolf Creek (unnamed), Henry Fire
- J. Defensible Space
 - a. There is a need to increase defensible space in the community; the Tamarack Fire is a prime example of why defensible space works.
- K. A summer/fall newsletter will be developed and sent out in the fall
 - a. This is paid for through Title III Education funds

XVI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned 7:25pm

Next regular meeting at 5:30 pm – Monday, September 20, 2021