



Alpine Fire Safe Council

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

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 20, 2021

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

Members Present:

Kris Hartnett – *FSC Chair / Coordinator, Markleeville Resident*
Steve Yonker – *FSC Vice Chair, Woodfords Resident*
Matt Tremayne – *FSC Member, Woodfords Resident*
Mark Quillici – *FSC Member, Woodfords Resident (via phone)*

Members Absent:

Terry Hughes – *Eastern Alpine Fire and Rescue*
Tom Sweeney – *FSC Treasurer, Woodfords Resident*
John Dion – *FSC Member, Alpine Resident*

Guests Present:

Teri McAlpin – *Administrator (minutes)*
January Riddle – *BOS Liaison (guest)*
Norm Saake – *Shay Creek Resident (guest)*
Patty Saake – *Shay Creek Resident (guest)*
Steve Howe – *Carson Ranger Fields Officer, (guest)*
Angela Franklin – *Markleeville Resident (guest)*
Teresa Wilson – *Markleeville Resident (guest)*
William Rhodes – *Woodfords Resident (guest)*

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 that it is encouraged that more community members join the Council, but requested that prior to becoming a Council member, it is requested that interested individuals attend 2 consecutive meetings to demonstrate interest.
- B. It was also announced that membership is not required to attend the meetings; residents can join as often as desired without the commitment of membership.

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. The BOS agenda for tomorrow (#10.2) includes a vaccination mandate for all county staff, and any affiliates of the County, including the AFSC members. People were encouraged to attend the BOS meeting to provide public comment.
 - b. Anyone who enters a County building must be masked at all times, including the public.
 - c. The County is developing the Strategic Plan (it is now in draft form), but progress was halted due to the Tamarack Fire. The County has resumed work on the plan.

- i. A paid consultant is assisting with the plan, and the next workshop for the plan will be held in early November.
- ii. The priorities identified for the next 5 years are:
 - 1. Economic Development
 - a. An Economic Developer has been hired
 - 2. Capitol Improvement Infrastructure
 - 3. Increase affordable workforce housing
 - 4. Fund the CAO's staff plan to address the shortages in almost every department

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. William Rhodes voiced his concerns about the lack of fuel breaks and possible interventions to address the issue
 - i. Mr. Rhodes requested assistance from the AFSC in approaching the BIA with a request to complete fuels reduction on property adjacent to his property
 - 1. Mr. Hartnett provided an overview of previous interactions and collaboration between the BIA and the AFSC.
 - ii. Mr. Rhodes stated another property that requires attention is the STPUD land
 - 1. Ms. Riddle will reach out to the district supervisor for Mr. Rhodes' area, and will express Mr. Rhodes' requests.
 - iii. Mr. Rhodes requested that the BOS step in to further encourage STPUD and the BIA to complete fuels reduction on their land to assist residents with the protection of their homes and properties.
 - 1. Mr. Hartnett offered support in making this request.
- b. Another resident voiced her concerns about evacuation routes in Shay Creek and Marklee Village
 - i. Mr. Hartnett provided an overview of previous evacuation drills, as well as the way people were evacuated during the Tamarack Fire; it was very well orchestrated.
 - ii. Mr. Hartnett provided an overview of the previous distribution of an evacuation plan to residents that was developed 10 years ago. Parts of it are still applicable, but other parts are not.
 - 1. A disclaimer was added explaining that the plan is subject to change based on specifics of a wildland fire.
- c. Angela Franklin voiced concerns about evacuation from Carson Ridge as well as the road behind is not a good road.

VII. Agency Presentation for Projects under CWPP

- A. None at this time

VIII. Approve 8/16/2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve 8/16/21 Regular Meeting Minutes: Steven Yonker

Second: Matt Tremayne

Ayes: Steve Yonker, Matt Tremayne, Mark Quillici, Kris Hartnett

Motion Carried

IX. Financial Report

Financial reports were provided to members and reviewed. An overview the various funding sources and uses for the money was provided to all attendees.

- A. General Fund
- B. CALfire Grant
- C. Title III

Motion to approve all financial reports: Steve Yonker

Second: Matt Tremayne

Ayes: Steve Yonker, Matt Tremayne, Mark Quillici, 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: Mark Quillici

Ayes: Steve Yonker, Matt Tremayne, Mark Quillici, Kris Hartnett

Motion carried

Discussion for K. Hartnett voucher:

Motion to approve K. Hartnett voucher: Matt Tremayne

Second: Mark Quillici

Ayes: Steve Yonker, Matt Tremayne, Mark Quillici

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. Continued Discussion with Possible Action: FIREWISE Community Activity for Crystal Springs, Woodfords and Shay Creek
 - a. An overview of FIREWISE was provided by Mr. Hartnett
 - b. Mr. Quillici reported on conversations with residents, and information provided to them.
 - i. Further report will be provided at the next AFSC meeting

XII. New Business

- A. Discussion with Possible Action: Requesting direction on presentation of BOF (Board of Forestry) fire-related building and site requirements to Planning Commission
 - a. Mr. Hartnett provided an overview of the BOF and a policy statement they will release.
 - b. Mr. Hartnett asked for approval from the AFSC to support the statement.
- B. Presentation: 2021 Beer Sales Report
 - a. Mr. Hartnett presented the final total of beer sales to the members
 - b. There was only 1 day of sales, for about 2 hours, due to the evacuation for the Tamarack Fire
- C. Discussion with Possible Action: Approval of letter to Alpine Chamber of Commerce
 - a. Mr. Hartnett presented a draft thank you letter for the donation of funds from sales of the glasses at the beer sales fundraiser.
 - b. The Board approved the letter
ACTION STEP: T. McAlpin will write and send the letter.
- D. Discussion with Possible Action: Next steps by AFSC after the Tamarack Fire
 - a. Mr. Hartnett asked members to propose next steps for the AFSC regarding the Tamarack Fire.
ACTION STEP: Members will forward ideas to Mr. Hartnett before the next meeting
- E. Discussion with Possible Action: Letter of Support to County "CALfire Fire Safe Grant" County Grants Coordinator
 - a. Mr. Hartnett presented a form letter in support of obtaining a County Grants Coordinator and asked if the AFSC would like to complete the letter of support and send it to the Board of Supervisors
Motion to approve completion and submittal of a support letter: Steve Yonker
Second: Matt Tremayne
Ayes: Steve Yonker, Matt Tremayne, Mark Quillici, Kris Hartnett
Motion carried
- F. Discussion: Evacuation plan / Frontline and/or AFSC list and other evacuation items
 - a. Alpine County currently has an evacuation checklist that was distributed with the latest evacuation maps
 - b. Frontline also has an evacuation checklist available.
 - c. Discussion occurred regarding revising/updating the current checklist
 - d. Mr. Hartnett asked for input from the members be sent to him so a checklist can be included in the next newsletter.

XIII. Member Report

- A. In response to public comment noted above, Matt Tremayne reported on his passion for fuels reduction and firefighting; the opinion was expressed that fuels reduction should be the focus of fuels reduction personnel, and firefighting should be the focus of the firefighters.
- B. Mr. Yonker stated there will be a community get-together to which he would like Mr. Hartnett to attend to provide information on FireWise.

XIV. Staff Report – T. McAlpin

- A. A question was recently posed asking why we have to pay taxes on beer sales if we're a non-profit organization

- a. T. McAlpin reported on the research completed to answer this question, and the development of a manual regarding tax exempt status and how it applies to the AFSC, how to file taxes, etc.
- b. The manual includes information about non-profit fundraisers in California
- c. The manual is available for review
ACTION STEP: T. McAlpin will research the tax exempt status of the AFSC at the State and Federal level to help determine the requirement to pay taxes on funds obtained through fundraising

XV. Coordinator Report

- A. Fuels Project status: Alpine Village, Hot Springs Road, Marklee Village, Shay Creek
 - a. A CEQA study is being completed on the remaining property
 - b. Some of these projects are on hold due to the grant application being denied
- B. Fall Newsletter
 - a. This is in the process of being developed
- C. Fall Burn Pile
 - a. It is questionable at this time if the burn pile will be available this season
- D. Fall Greens Waste Vouchers
 - a. Additional vouchers will be given to each member
 - b. A bulk mailing is being prepared about the greens waste program
- E. 2021 CALfire grant status
 - a. The grant was not approved
- F. California Insurance Commissioner Notifications
 - a. Literature was shared with the members
 - b. This is for public use only, regarding a method to be used to recoup the loss due to wildfire

XVI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned 7:25pm

Next regular meeting at 5:30 pm – Monday, November 15, 2021