

**MONTEREY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**  
**STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES FOR AUGUST 26, 2010**

**Please note:**

Meeting Date: All meetings will be held the LAST Thursday of each month (9:00 AM – 10:30 AM) unless specified otherwise.

Meeting Location: Cal Fire Headquarters, 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, in the Expanded Dispatch Center behind the main building. (Please park in the front and walk down to the Dispatch Center.

Board of Directors meeting will be held at 10:45 AM following the regular Monterey Fire Safe Council (MFSC) meeting.

**BOLD TYPE: Current issues, action plans and people responsible for these actions appear in bold type so that projects can be followed through.**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order by President O'Brien at 9:01AM. Present were:

Mike Caplin (Palo Colorado)	Miguel Errea (MoCo Cattlemen's Assoc)
Peter Harris (USFS)	Jeanie Lewis (RRV/HOA, treasurer)
Kelly O'Brien (Jamesburg/Cachagua, Pres.)	Dick Ravich (Big Sur, Vice Pres,)
Lynne Semeria (Carmel Highlands)	.Bob Taylor (Cal Fire)
Rob Thompson (TWM)	Penny Vieregge (Big Sur, Secretary)
Tom DiBartolo (PG&E) Manager)	Steve Daus (Grant Project Supervisor.
Jonathan Pangburn (Cal Fire)	Edward Muñiz (MoCo Public Works)

2. ACTION ITEMS: (All items completed)

3. CORESSPONDENCE:

- Center of Biological Diversity: repeating the fallacious arguments against the MFSC recommendations for the CWPP that are being put out by the Sierra Club and Ventana Wilderness Society.
- Letter from Sarah Godfrey (former Vice President of MFSC requesting that her signature be removed from the letter of approval and repeating the Sierra Club and VWS erroneous information. (See Committee Reports C)

4. REVIEW OF MINUTES: The minutes of July 29, 2010 were reviewed.

**CORRECTIONS:**

**# 3 item 5 – delete STATE PARKS**

**#5c – 1<sup>ST</sup> line – change LOCAL to Monterey County**

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED MADE BY DICK RAVICH SECOND MIKE CAPLIN.  
APPROVED.**

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS;

- A. Strategic Planning Committee: - This *Committee is tasked to Review Grants, identify Community Needs, Work with HOA and Road Assoc etc. The Grants Committee reports to Strategic Planning.*

Per Kelly O. this is still being worked on. Lynne Semeria is not committed to the Chairmanship. Kelly's re-organization chart shall more clearly define the roles. ONGOING

- B. Grant Writing – (See #6<sub>b</sub>) - Lynn Semeria

Dick Ravich is working with Jonathan Pangburn on a multi-community grant.

C. Public information/education:

a. Project Wildfire

Status Update – Kelley O'Brien

The project is still in the concept stage and, as yet, no funding is available, Kelly suggest that it be removed from the Agenda.

Website –Status Update - Kelly O'Brien

The site is now updated except for the currently most important item i.e.: the information output page and the input page for comments on the CWPP. Kelly continues to work with Webmaster Goettel.

C MC2WG

a. Status Update –Mike Caplin

Sara\_Godfrey's letter, repeating much of the misinformation put out by some environmental groups, underscores our responsibility to respond to the Board of Supervisors in a unified manner. Kelly informs the committee that a few months ago at an 'in camera' meeting with members of the Board of Supervisors and MoCo staff MFSC was asked not to go public with the CWPP recommendations. Our respect and trust for these two Monterey County groups was such that we agreed. Unfortunately, some chapters of the Sierra Club and the Ventana Wilderness Society were under no such agreement. Officials and the public have been flooded with misinformation about the recommendations offered by MFSC while, after a letter to the Board of Supervisors from Gary Patton's law firm hinting at a possible lawsuit, the Board of Supervisors has delayed putting the signing of the recommendations on the Agenda. Instead, a 'Workshop' was scheduled than postponed to September 21<sup>st</sup>. At this point in time the MFSC must decide if we are willing to fight for the recommendations as written or do we give way to the concerted attacks from the environmental groups and start to take the recommendations apart in order to pacify them. We understand that the years of work these groups have done do get environmental controls into law have developed into a hyper alertness to any possible indication that such laws, now routinely applied over wide swatches of varied territory might and could be improved with local public input. This input takes into consideration that agricultural valleys differ from mountain wilderness, marshes and ocean shores and is also concerned with saving lives, particularly of fire fighters, and property as well as guarding and honoring the environment. Intelligent and controlled preparation of planting to protect the land could avoid the total devastation now experienced with our raging forest fires. It is noted that having a signed CWPP is essential to getting Grants to develop public workshops for environmental oriented education in protecting homes and lives through planting management. Continuing this discussion involves policy decisions for the MFSC. This subject is carried over to the Board Agenda. As usual, all interested parties are invited to stay and participate.

6. PROJECT SUMMARIES:

A. Big Sur Grant

a. Big Sur Fuel Reduction status update : Steve Daus-

Now that the Grant deposit, due July 12th, has been made the program is back on line. Steve has another package of owners' letters that are going out (see July 2010 Minutes). This 2<sup>nd</sup> contact is a presentation of Steve's recommendation for their property. Once mailed, approximately 187 of our required 200 contacts have been made. This is 83% of the required level of the Grant. Once some small adjustments are done we should be able to develop the Contractor Bid packages and send them out. Steve also reports that he has a meeting with Carl Holms and will present him with a full set of maps and show him that the process we are using depends heavily on specific documentation for individual parcels using maps, diagrams, pre operational archaeology reports. Wetlands species etc. Steve plans to create an open file, which Carl can access, that will be continually updated as we get the parcels on line. **ACTION: STEVE TO ASK CARL FOR THE TERMS OF THE LANDSCAPING PERMIT – HOW LONG IS IT GOOD FOR.** Steve is including a document using the principle of the mosaic approach for a defense against wild fires. He emphasizes that this approach does not significantly impact the visuals of a landscape. He is in communication with the environmental coordinator of CA state council and with BLM. **ACTION: STEVE IS PUTTING TOGETHER A SERIES OF WHITE PAPERS.** Chief Taylor states that all of the preliminary work

will be completed and submitted within a week. Kelly O. would like to develop a presentation of the Big Sur Project as a job case study in support of the umbrella aspect of Monterey County. Steve may be asked to work on this project in the future. Dick Ravich points out that it has been one year since we received the Grant. We only have a year left in which to complete the project. He ask if we might consider asking for an extension. Steve and Bob Taylor respond in the negative.

b. CERT status update – Hal Latta (no report)

B. Carmel Highlands Community - Lynne Semeria reports that she attended a Grant workshop in Milpitas which is helping her to write another Grant application. She hopes to get letter of acceptance in two weeks. She notes that the BLM has only 1/3 of Grants allocation money then they received last year. Two grant applications have been accepted. Grant money should start being deposited in September of October she was informed that if she changed one thing in the WUI Grant application they will consider it. Carmel Highlands changed and re-submitted. **ACTION: LYNNE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH RANDY RICHTER TO CLARIFY WHETHER HE SAID NO THAT WE CAN'T USE GRANT MONEY FROM ONE GRANT TO WRITE ANOTHER GRANT OR USE OUT 15% ADMINISTRATION MONIES TO HIRE A GRANT WRITER.**

Lynne is frequently in touch with Joe Stutler for guidance during this process. However, unlike Monterey, his group has the Sierra Club working with them from the very beginning. Unlike the MFSC situation in which the local Sierra Club after ignoring two years of public information workshops has now stepped in demanding revisions. Joe's group also has support from the County Board of Supervisors. Other differences are that Oregon has no CEQA and does not require permits for driveways, fuel breaks and removal of less than 50 cubic yards. This frees up money for defense against fires while still honoring the environment.

It is hoped that the MFSC can create a matrix that other Councils can use in which criteria can be checked and come up with the same results

C. RTG Status Update: Lonni Trykowski- (No Report)

D. Jamesburg/Cachagua: Kelly O. (who lives in Jamesburg) reports that, as far as she knows, there has been no action on revision of the local CWPP. All are waiting for the results of the MoCo Board of Supervisors meeting. No action reported.

E. MFSC Project Atlas – Joe Rawitzer: (No Update or Report)

7. **OLD BUSINESS:** Steve Daus reports that Alan Thompson of Santa Clara FSC will bring a 20 minute presentation to our September meeting if one of our members attends their Sept. 14 meeting. **ACTION: KELLY VOLUNTEERS TO ATTEND.** Company would be nice.

9. **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** *MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY MIGUEL ERREA SECOND PENNY VIERGE* APPROVED. The meeting was adjourned at 10.43.

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny Vieregge, Secretary