

MONTEREY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 2, 2010

Please note:

- Meeting Date: All meetings will be held the LAST Thursday of each month (9 AM-10:30 AM) unless specified otherwise.
  - Meeting location: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2221 Garden Road, Monterey Expanded Dispatch Center behind CDF building. (Please park in front and walk down to Dispatch Center.)
  - **NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 27, 2011**
  - 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 so that projects move beyond discussion mode. Names in boldface type have agreed to take some action on or before the next meeting.**
  - Website: [www/FireSafe Monterey.org](http://www/FireSafeMonterey.org)
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1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the MFSC Steering Committee was called to order by President Kelly O'Brien at 9:03 AM
2. INTRODUCTIONS: Bob Bryant (former Lake Tahoe resident), Steve Daus (Big Sur PM), Hal Latta (Big Sur CERT), Lynne Semeria, HCFSC, Dick Ravich (CPOA Big Sur, CERT), Kelly O'Brien (President), Jeanie Lewis (RRV/HOA/Treasurer), Peter Harris (USFS), Mike Chiodini (BLM), Mike Caplin (CPOA, Palo Colorado),
3. ACTION ITEMS: Reports scheduled on the Agenda.
4. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Minutes from the meeting were October 28, 2010 were distributed to the group and reviewed *MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN MADE BY HAL LATA SECOND DICK RAVICH. APPROVED*
5. CORRESPONDENCE:  
Pacific Diversified Insurance coverage **ACTION: SECRETARY TO RECEIVE AND FILE IN ARCHIVES**
6. PROJECT SUMMARIES:
  - A. Insurance Status: Dick Ravich reports that the new policies have been received. They now also include the rider for crime coverage. Steve Daus also has the policy written for him. He points out that item L states that on any claim of alleged escape of pollutants i.e.: If wildfire occurs and claims are made that Big Sur Project caused it, the insurance company does not cover it. . He points out that the insurance company thus excludes the most likely outcome of the work we do.  
Dick asks if the MFSC is included in this policy. The answer is "No," **ACTION: THAT STEVE CHECK WITH SHANNON GWINN TO SEE IF MFSC COULD BE INCLUDED ON A RIDER. ACTION: DICK TO GIVE PENNY A COPY FOR THE INSURANCE ARCHIVAL FILES.**
  - B. Big Sur Grant:
    - a. Steve Daus reports that Steve Kerwin, the archeologist for BLM is withholding the compliance report on the grounds that it is required that he sees a field report. It has been pointed out to him that a memo exists between Cal Fire and all other agencies that affirms that the Cal Fire report is adequate and satisfies NEPA. Mr. Kerwin is

refusing to accept this and authorize that Big Sur has fulfilled the regulatory compliance as he chooses to understand it. Lynda Pollack in Sacramento has submitted this paperwork to Mr. Kerwin. Hal Latta of CERT has sent a letter showing where CERT has verified the field. Mr. Kerwin is also not responding to phone calls and e-mails from Chief Taylor of Cal Fire and Hal Latta of CERT and Project Manager Steve Daus. All of this is being documented. **ACTION: STEVED D'S QUARTERLY REPORT WILL NOTE SPECIFICALLY THE RETICENCE AND NON-RESPONSIVENESS OF THIS BLM ARCHEOLOGIST WHO APPEARS TO BE WORKING OUTSIDE HIS MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES TO APPROVE THE ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK.** There was then a discussion of what could be done to expedite a solution to this problem of Mr. Kerwin. Per Steve the field survey could start immediately although it would be better done in solid blocks and currently there are some landowners who have not replied. Areas have been flagged. However, the delay, over a year, has been such that many of the flags have been knocked down. Steve will start with #10 Water Company. He will also contact Nepenthe, Esalen and State Parks Matt Fusey. **ACTION: HAL LATA TO REQUEST FROM RANDY RICHTER A SIX MONTH EXTENSION.** Hal is to write it up and the MFSC will sign it. Steve also states that as long as we follow protocols etc. we can start the on Contractor Contracts...

- b. CERT Report: Hal Latta followed his ACTION ITEM and contacted Randy Richter who answered that as soon as next funds come in we shall receive them. Hal reports that he has officially written BLM's Kerwin naming Cal Fire as the lead agency. There has been no response from Mr. Kerwin.
- c. Carmel Highlands CFSC: Lynne Semeria reports that they are still waiting to get their money which is sitting at BLM. Their first quarterly report has been written and submitted. Mike Emmet was missed by the committee. Best wishes are sent to him for his good health...
- d. Rancho Tierra Grande: Lonni Trykowski reports that there is nothing new to report,

## 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. MC2WG: Kelly O'Brien reported on the special session of the Board on 11/29/10 to discuss incorporating the changes suggested for submission on December 7<sup>th</sup> to the MoCo Board of Supervisors. The CWPP included citizen recommendations of how they want the County to maintain work on firebreaks. Under duress, these recommendations were removed from the main body and put into a letter Appendix to be submitted along with the CWPP. The statement of priority of Life, Property and the Environment also had to be taken out. This list is now altered. The preservation of Life is no longer primary. Kelly reported that the MFSC representatives have been "dis-invited" to future meetings of the environmental group.

A.sub-group task force is now working in the science section. It is expected that this will take a few months. Kelly states that MFSC has accepted the offer of the Sierra Club to pay for 16 hours of the services of Dr. Stephens as a science advisor. Hal Latta expresses concern for the neutrality of Dr. Stephens and are they are paying for a study of fire behavior or just a focus on ecology. Kelly and Steve Daus both speak highly of Dr Stephan's integrity... His input is for consideration only. The MFSC in its acceptance of the offer is on record as having the right to review his work and express any reservations we might have.

### B. Public Information and Education:

- a. Kelly O'Brien reports that the DONATION button is still not in operation. She cites the intense focus on bringing the CWPP in shape for the BOS. Mike Caplin urges that the Website now include a CWPP archive area which would give access to the January and September drafts that were signed by the Agencies as well as the present November draft after the meetings with the Environmental groups,. He also points out that scanned images are low quality and you can't search them. All agree that everything should be

searchable. ACTION: DICK RAVICH WILL GET A WORD COPY FROM PAM SILKWOOD, PUT IN INTO A PDF AND COMPRESS FOR CLARITY ON SITE.

- b. **Presentations Reports – Dick Ravich (Meeting of the MoCo Law Chiefs) Kelly O’Brien (ADA)** After Dick’s presentation of the CWPP soliciting their support the group voted to read the document before signing their approval. Dick pointed out that while Sheriff Kanalakis has signed his approval, all the others at the presentation are city chiefs and the concerns of a CWPP do not, really, apply to them. Cities are about 1% of County. However, MFSC has now established a connection with MoCo Law Chiefs. The presentation to the Air quality group Citizen Advisory Group found them very interested in the recommendation of this CWPP. One member of the group asked about the application of CEQA. Kelly responded that we believe that CEQA doesn’t apply. She pointed out that there are 60 CWPPs in California that have not had to deal with CEQA. Kelly also provide before and after pictures of fires. Some of the ADA members felt that this sort of life and property safety work it should have been started a year ago. There was some discussion around the current push for homeowners to be faced with another required permit and another fee when currently on allowed burn days the homeowner simply notifies the fire department of the burn action. One of Kelly’s suggestions was that there is an incorporation of a “one-stop-shop for permits” with, perhaps, a nominal fee. Other fire districts have this already in place. At the end of the meeting, Kelly was invited to participate in the ADA smoke management. With regret, due to her complete commitment to the MFSC, the CWPP and running her own business, she had to decline.
- c. Workshops: Since MFSC has received no money we are not able to give workshops.
- d. Strategic Planning – Sonja C. Koehler –  
A Grant Status/Fund Raising Sonja Koehler  
Networking: Lynne Semeria is working with Advisor Jonathan Pangburn. On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, following the Special Session, they presented a Grant Writing Workshop to interested parties.

8. **OLD BUSINESS:** (None)

9. **NEW BUSINESS:** (None)

10. **GOOD OF THE ORDER** Bob Bryant spoke, having moved here from Tahoe after working on their mitigation plan recognizing the needs of landowners to protect their property while still caring for the environment, also spoke of his work with El Dorado and Placer County mitigation plans. He offers his services along with his experience. He compliments MGSC for the work it is persisting in continuing. He also mentions that FEMA will no longer supply Federal funding to Agencies that are not doing what they should be doing. He urges us to apply for an extension on the Big Sur Grant. He also urges the Council to track down where the Grant money is. Whose bank account is holding it? Upon moving to Monterey County he was shocked to discover that there are areas which insurance companies deny coverage. If some areas are doing fuel reduction it needs to be re-categorized so that insurance companies can change their classification and rates. He shared before and after photographs of areas which have practiced fuel mitigation. Mr. Bryant, and his experience, are welcomed to the MFSC. **ACTION: SECRETARY TO ADD HIS NAME TO THE CONTACT LIST.**

11. : **ADJOURNMENT:** A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY LONNI TRYKOWSKI SECOND BY DICK RAVICH. APPROVED. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM

**NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 27, 2010**  
**USUAL PLACE AND TIME**

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny Vieregge,  
Secretary, MFSC