

**MONTEREY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

January 28, 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: 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)
- 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/FireSafeMonterey.org](http://www.FireSafeMonterey.org)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Chair Rob Thompson at 9:03 AM

2. **INTRODUCTIONS:** The following were introduced:

Frank Pinney: (Big Sur/BSVFB)	Lonni Trykowski (RTGA/HOA)
Richard Ravich (Big Sur/CERT)	Michael Emmett (CHFSC/CERT)
Lynne Semeria (CH/FSC)	Robert Taylor (Cal Fire)
Jeanie Lewis (RRV/HOAR)	John Romandia (Black Cat Construction)
Paul Pilotte (Fire-SR/CV)	Edward Muñiz (MoCoPublic Works)
Steve Daus (DES/Big Sur)	Mike Chiodini (BLM)
Joe Rawitzer (UCCTF/MSBRIA)	Pete Harris (USFS)
Penny Vieregge (Big Sur/Secretary)	

3. **ACTION ITEMS:** (reports are AGENDA items)

4. **REVIEW OF MINUTES:** The minutes of December 10, 2010 were reviewed. *MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS READ MADE BY DICK RAVICH SECOND LONNI TRYKOWSKI. APPROVED*

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Announcement of the Annual meeting and BBQ of the MONTEREY-SAN BENITO RANGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION WILDLAND FIRE SAFE COUNCIL (MSBRIAWFSC) on FEBRUARY 27, 2010 at the Swiss Rifle Club in Gonzales.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Strategic Planning Committee:: (see 6B)

B. Public Information/Education Workshops:

1. Rob Thompson/Lynne Semeria report that the January 23rd was beautifully organized and packed with necessary information. The Workbook alone, distributed by Amber Gardner of the Sacramento Fire Safe Council, was invaluable. Lynne also reported that the Carmel Highlands group had previously attended a similar workshop in Milpetis. Monterey Donut Co. donated the partners of MFSC coffee. **ACTION: PENNY V. TO WRITE THANKK YOU NOTE. ACTION: THESE MEETING NEED MORE PRE PUBLICIZING.**

2. Fire Clearance Workshops scheduling: (No Report)

a. MC2WG: Dick Ravich reports that the MFSC recommendations for a Monterey County CWPP has been signed off by every requested Agency. The previous posting on the MFSC Website with a request for comments by 1/22/10 brought in many responses. These have been reviewed. The finalized document will be posted on the Web This document is now with the MoCo legal staff for review. It is noted that since the MoCo Board of Supervisors received a letter on August 30, 2009 from the attorney for the local chapter of the Sierra Club (Ventana Chapter) expressing that chapter's concern around the legal decisions which state that local groups receiving funds through the Fire Councils are not required to file a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) report the Board has withdrawn its enthusiasm and balked at signing what is essentially a recommendation of inputs in to the MoCo CWPP which take into consideration the many environmental differences of areas in Monterey County and the need for local input (see #2b for an overview of MFSC attempts to meet with the local chapter representatives to define common goals to work toward needed fire clearance for safety and to lessen the destructiveness and loss of homes while continuing to honor the environment.

b. Update of MFSC contact/development with the Ventana Chapter fo Sierra Club: Hal Latta (chief of CERT and member of the Big Sur Fire Brigade reports that after three months of attempting to set up a meeting with the reps of the local chapter (Ventana) to discuss their concerns and try to work out common ground, he must admit to failure. Some members of the Ventana Chapter who have been working with the MFSC's recommendations for the MoCo CWPP report frustration over not being able to get a date for a local meeting and general non-responsiveness from their local reps. Contact with the National Headquarters of the Sierra Club indicate no knowledge of the activities of the local Ventana Chapter around the MFSC's recommendations regarding the CWPP. It is with regret that the Council decides that three months is long enough to work at setting up a meeting and it is time to direct our energies elsewhere. **ACTION: HAL LATTA TO SET UP A MEETING SOONEST WITH THE COMMITTEE.**

3. **PROJECT SUMMARIES:**

a. Big Sur Grant Funds Update: Steve Daus reports that, as yet, no funds have been deposited. Randy Richter has acknowledged receipt of the sub-award agreement that was signed and sent in. **ACTION: ON FEBRUARY 1ST STEVE SHALL SUBMIT AN INVOICE TO THE MFSC.** CCs will go to Randy Richter and Amber Gardiner. This may implement the deposit of the promised funds since it shows that work has been done and invoices are starting to come in. **ACTION: PENNY TO GET A COPY OF THE SUBAWARD AGREEMENT TO FRANK PINNEY.** Steve again states that the core of the project decisions is based on the environment – what is looked for and how you protect it.

b. Carmel Highlands: Community rep Lynne Semerias states that after attending the two Grant writing workshops the group realized how complicated it is to apply for grants particularly when it comes to fiscal sponsors who must have a 5013c. The group which calls itself the Carmel Highlands Fire Safe Council, gave a presentation of the work and requests that the MFSC become their fiscal sponsor. A handout of their goals was given to the members. Rob T. made sure that their group knew that if we became fiscal sponsors we would give guidance in the writing of the Grant, oversee the financial accountability required by the Grant and see that the quarterly reports and tax reports are presented in a timely manner. Our fee is 15 %, of the Grant, which can be written into the Grant Application. The Carmel Highlands group must assume the responsibility for In-Kind contributions which can be either money or work time to match the Grant and work supervision/contracts. Michael Emmet and Lynne formally request that we umbrella them. *MOTION THAT THE MFSC STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD THAT WE ACCEPT FISCAL SPONSORSHIP OF THE CARMEL HIGHLAND GROUP. APPROVED.*

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A Approved Contractors' List: John Romandia of Black Cat Construction, who has done pro-bono demonstrations of environmentally sound brush cutting, masticating etc for the Council suggests that our Website might consider an approved contractors list. The Steering Committee agrees. **ACTION: ROB T. TO SET UP AND INFORM WEBMASTER.**

5. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- 6. ADJOURNMENT:** *MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY PENNY VIEREGGE SECOND DICK RAVICH. APPROVED. THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:18 AM.*

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Vieregge, Secretary MFSC