

## MONTEREY FIRE SAFE Council

### BOARD AND STEERING MEETING - JANUARY 27.2011

As directed by President O'Brien, both sections of the MFSC (Steering Committee and Board of directors) met in the Cal Fire Extended Dispatch Room at 9:00 AM to follow the Agenda as revised by the President.

**1 Call TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President O'Brien at **9:08 AM**.

#### **2 INTRODUCTIONS:**

Board Members present: Kelly O'Brien (President), Dick Ravich (Vice President), Jeanie Lewis (Treasurer), Penny Vieregge (Secretary), Mike Caplin (CPOA/Palo Colorado), Miguel Errea (MoCo Cattlemen), Hal Latta (Big Sur/CERT), Lynne Semeria (Highlands Community Fire Committee), Rob Thompson (TWM), Lonni Trykowski (RTG/HOA). Mike Chiodini (Advisor/BLM), Peter Harris (Advisor/USFS), Bob Taylor (Advisor/Cal Fire)

Non-Board Members Present: Eddie Bennett (CHFSC). Steve Dais (Big Sur PM), Mike Emmett (CHFSC), Robin Hamelin (Cal Fire/PB/CH/CYPRESS), Jonathan Pangburn (Cal Fire), Pam Peck (Big Sur Project Accountant), Pam Silkwood (Atty at Law), Catey Trenner (Cal Fire), Frank Pinney (Big Bob Sayre (Citizen/Big Sur), Edward Muniz z (MoCo Public Works)

**3 PRESENTATION:** Frank Pinney & Pam Silkwood *The Benefits of MaCo Installing both a Fire Warden and a Fuels Mitigation Officer.*

#### Summary.

- Both Pam Silkwood and Chief Pinney congratulate the working committee MC2WG for the MoCo Board of Supervisors' final sign off on the recommendations to the CWPP brought forward by the MFSC.
- History: The USFS *FIRESCAPE* program established by Joe Stutler in DesChutes County, a number of years ago has been successful in gaining both public involvement and funding success and is in inspiration to this present working group. Since Monterey County (MoCo) has no direct fire responsibilities. Chief Hutchinson has been working with MoCo to develop the roles of *Fire Warden* and *Fuel Mitigation Officer*. Having two positions separates enforcement from the mitigation process. These, leadership positions are needed in order to make a County wide plan work. The job descriptions have already been drawn up and read by MoCo officials. Cal Fire has offered to fill the *Fire Warden* position and the adjunct position (*Fuel Mitigation Officer*). Neither of these positions is salaried.
- Projected Roles of the MFSC:
- Advisory group: Chief Piney states that MFSC is the representation of fire consciousness in Monterey County. Its primary mission is "to provide education, implement and fund projects in accordance with the National and California Fire Plans, mobilize citizens and agencies to reduce costs and losses from wildfires, exchange information and foster fire prevention fire safety and overall public health and safety in the County of Monterey." Article 2, Section 2 - bylaws of MFSC. The *FIRESCAPE* group feels that the MFSC would be an important part of the MoCo planning process. Since its non-profit registration in 1997, MFSC has had the support (moral and financial) of suppression agencies, land owners, land management groups, utilities and insurance groups. There is, now, a growing awareness by the tourist and travel based organizations of the direct application of MFSC's fire safe planning work to their financial needs. Per Chief Pinney, MFSC had 'been the leading edge in the development of personal protection fire defensibility planning. Previous MFSC community public

programs, the Chipping project, workshops in fire defense planting and successful Grant applications, the investigations into portable Bio Mass units, the Presentations to Home Owner Associations, Road and Water associations, the recent campaigned for local input into the County CWPP have educated the and encourage people to, effectively, speak up for their needs. Chief Pinney believes that the MFSC is the organization to take the lead to enlighten the public as to what their needs and interests are. In while developing a plan for living in the wilderness interface.. Chief Piney states that working volunteers, such as the Big Sur Fire Brigade, can receive money from the Public Safety allocation of % % of the County Sales Tax (Proposition 172). This must be applied for each year ) the suggest MFSC, as a volunteer group, might also be eligible for these monies.

- Public Awareness and Expanded Community Partnerships: Both Chief Hamelin and Chief Taylor feel the Air District would have much in common with these plans. Jonathan Pangburn points out the NRCS, RCD and RCND have resources and there are already existing grounds for working together as shaped by Mendocino County. The MFSC is already building on our link to law enforcement supporting brush clearing jobs for the Rancho Cielo 'youth at risk' with clearing and chipping programs.

**4. DISCUSSION OF KEY POINTS OF THE PRESENTATION AND QUESTIONS:** This presentation was received with interested enthusiasm by the MFSC group. President O'Brien asks how MFSC can access Prop 172 funds. Chief Taylor responds that, as far as he knows, the CCC money and authorization in MoCo has been lost. Cal Fire has been donating tools to the Rancho Cielo group.

**ACTION ITEM: KELLY O'BRIEN TO PUBLISH ON WEBSITE THE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOC AND RANCHO CIELO YOUTH CAMPUS "GREAT BALLS OF FIRE" APRIL, 2011 GOLF TOURNAMENT DATE.**

Kelly informs us that James Hill will assist us by sponsoring Pam Silkwood as legal counsel with limited hours. *MOTION TO SEND JAMES HILL A THANK YOU LETTER FROM THE MFSC ALONG WITH ANOTHER LETTER TO THE LAW FIRM OF PAM SILKWOOD MADE BY MIKE CAPLIN SECOND MIGUEL ERREA.*

*APPROVED. ACTION: KELLY O. TO DO THIS.* ACTION ITEM: LYNNE SEMERIA/JONATHAN PANGBURN CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI COMMUNITY GRANTS. (feb agenda item) ,Edward Muniz points out that, in his experience, funding agencies like to award Grants to a clearly defined project showing how the proposal fits into a larger, overall plan and is developed and articulated at a local level.

Pam Silkwood spoke of the need for developing a bio-mass program for MoCo. MFSC began researching these two years ago. This project has faltered as our focus went elsewhere

*\*Ten minute break \**

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Chuck Winge's 12/10/10 e-mail to the Board listed the three annual tax returns filed. *(Secretary's note: At this time Mr. Winge was not present. He arrived an hour later at what would have been the regular schedule of the MFSC Board. He was not called upon to report on an upgraded financial template for the MFSC.*

A. MFSC Financial Report - Jeanie Lewis

<u>MFSC Account \$12,730.18</u>	<u>Big Sur Grant (See 5B</u>
<u>RTG \$9,205.33</u>	<u>CHFSC \$15,644.25</u>

Jeanie reports that although, in the past the PG&E Grant OF \$2,500 was always used for Administration, this year the application Sonja put in is restricted to hiring a Grant Writing/ Strategic Planning person. Jeanie needs clarification. She also would like clarification on Sonja's invoice. Since Sonia was not present, clarification was not available. *(Secretary's note: Sonja's invoice was approved).*

B. Big Sur Grant Account: Pam Peck reports that \$49,237 of the Grant has been paid to date. Steve Daus is complete for Environmental Compliance to date. Pam points out that she has

difficulties monitoring this Grant since she has access only to the environmental compliance portion. She requests that she see the entire amount for purposes of accuracy in accounting. It is noted that Jeanie B. uses Excel while Pam is using Quick Books. **ACTION: PAM TO SET UP A MEETING BETWEEN CHUCK, WINGE, JEANIE LEWIS, DICK RAVICH AND HERSELF REGARDING THESE PROBLEMS.**

**C. Invoices Received:**

Steve Daus (PM/CERT \$2,236.79  
Sonja C. Koehler \$127.50

Penny Vieregge: \$306.25  
Cindy Reeves: (no invoice)

**D. Authorization to Pay Invoices:**

*MOTION TO PA Y THE INVOICES OF SONJA KOEHLER AND PENNY VIEREGGE FROM Administration ACCOUNT MADE BY DICK RA VICH, SECOND HAL LA TTA. APPROVED*  
*MOTION TO PAY STEVE DAUS FROM THE BIG SUR GRANT ACCOUNT MADE BY DICK RAVICH, SECOND HAL LA TTA. APPROVED*  
*MOTION BY EMAIL TO PA Y PACIFIC DIVERSIFIED FROM Administration HAD BEEN ALREADY APPROVED.*

**6. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:** *MOTION TO ACCEPT THEBOARD MINUTS OF 12/10/10 AS WRITTEN MADE BY DICK RAVICH SECOND HAL LATTA. APPROVED*

**7. DISCUSSION OF A NEW MEETING FORMAT STRUCTURE AND BYLAWS REVISION FOR MFSC AS OUTLINED BY PRESIDENT O'BRIEN:**

President O'Brien spoke of her plans for re-organization She repeated the points that had been e-mailed to the Board. Two of these points concerned a new meeting format and dissolution of the Steering Committee. President O'Brien stated that she would entertain two motions: (1) To adopt a three month trial of her meeting format, and (2) To focus MFSC activity toward creating a strategic plan and restructuring our organization. An immediate discussion of both motions indicated that the group wished to continue the Steering Committee and was willing that the Board meet early, in executive council, primarily for financial purposes. *THERE WAS NO MOTION MADE ON #1.*

*A MOTION TO ADOPT FOCUSED ACTIVITY TO CREATE A STRA TEGIC PLAN AND LOOK INTO THE RE-STRUCTURING OF MFSC AND ITS Organization (#2) WAS MADE BY MIKE CAPLIN SECOND LONI TRYKOWSKI. APPROVED. A MOTION TO RE-FORM A COMMITTEE TO CREATE A STRATEGIC PLAN (see Director Manual of 2005 and 2010 Development Committee) WAS MADE BY HAL LATTA SECOND PENNY VIEREGGE. APPROVED.* Jonathan Pangburn, Frank Pinney, Kelly O'Brien and Edward Muniz volunteered to be on this Committee. Penny Vieregge noted that someone should take notes and offered her services. **ACTION: THE SECRETARY TO E-MAIL THE COMBINED STEERING AND BOARD NOTES TO ALL MAILING CONTACTS TO INFORM THEM OF THE NEW TIME AND FORMAT AS DETERMINED BY THE PRESIDENT.**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Tom Hopkins of the Ventana Wilderness Alliance. Demanding that MFSC inform his organization of any meetings whose focus was the development of a local CWPP. Michael Emmett pointed out that these would be local groups calling their own meetings, which are not handled by the MFSC. It is up to local communities to send out their stakeholder meetings notice. No action necessary.

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Vice-President Dick Ravich continued the meeting as Chairman

**9. PROJECT SUMMARIES**

**A. Big Sur Grant:**

a Status Update - Steve Daus reports that the work with the road associations is completed. There has been 2 days of fieldwork laying out the treatment and resource areas. The forty acres now addresses the entire line between private property and Molera State Pare, He is working closely with Linda Pollack of BLM who now has the power to give approval. The previous archeologist has been assigned elsewhere. The remaining areas will have archeological studies done.

Steve is looking at how to structure this to get the money released. Bob Sayre recommends keeping Amber Gardiner of CA/FSC apprised of our needs. **ACTION: STEVE D. WILL PREPARE AN AREA LINEAGE THAT HAS PARTICIPATING OWNERSHIPS OF EACH PROJECT BLOCKS WITH FIGURES AND AN ASSIGNED SCHEDULE OF WORK AND TURN THIS INTO LINDA POLLACK.** He also will be sending Linda Pollack a general location map and topo of the survey in a finalized version so that she can issue the compliance.

**ACTION: STEVE TO GET RFPs OUT TO BOB SAYRE.** Steve reminds us that it is imperative that we get the matching funds (No discussion). He also reports that CA/FSC has refused to put his quarterly report on their Website. (No discussion) Steve reminds us that Big Sur is also developing a local CWPP. The committee is aware that the Big Sur language must be consistent with the County CWPP. The first draft will be technically checked then put out to the public.

- b. CERT - Hal Latta reports that Randy Richter has refused a six month extension. He may offer a three month extension which will apply in February and extend our ability to January of 2012. **ACTION: HAL TO CONTINUE TO ASK RANDY R. FOR AN EXTENSION AND MONEY TO COVER IT AT \$1800 AN ACRE. ACTION: STEVE D. TO SPEND A WEEK TO DO A FIELD LAYOUT AND ARCH. SEARCH.** It is suggested that once this is done Hal ask that the entire remaining Grant Monies be deposited into the account.

B. Carmel Highlands Fire Committee: Lynne Semeria and Michael Emmett report that the group is working on public education. An educational FAIR is being planned for May of 2011.

Lynne also reports a letter from Tom Hopkins concerning the Highland's development of a local CWPP. The Sierra Club and the Ventana Wilderness Alliance recommend that local communities interested in some type of fire planning use what is already in place and focus on a detailed 'scope of work'. He urges the CHFSC to follow this method.

e. Rancho Tierra Grande: Lonni Trykowski reports that the work is progressing as planned. The University has put up the money for their portion. The Chipping. Grant has been approved but no money has been deposited. Lonni would like an accounting from MoCo of how much money has been taken in taxes and what proportion should be deposited into the RTG account. **ACTION: LONNI TO CALL CINDY REEVES TONIGHT TO ASK WHERE THE MONEY IS.**

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### Strategic Planning

A. . Grants Status Update: Sonja Koehler reports the PG&E Grant of \$2500 was funded in January. Applications have been made to the Community Foundation and Yellow Brick Road for a total of \$4500. All applications were presented as restricted to support a Strategic Planning/grant writing person. The current contract between MFSC and Sonja K. is now completed. She is available to discuss another contract.

**ACTION:** The Grant Writing Committee (Lynne 5., Jonathan 1', Sonja K.) will be meeting directly after this meeting. They are reminded that the ever popular Chipping Program needs to be re-energized. Multi Community Grant writing is also to be developed.

- b. Committee for Strategic Planning: Chief Pinney recommends that the Committee focus on 'scope of work' rather than a political/legal framework
- B. MC2WG Jonathan Pangburn reports that he and Dr. Stevens are continuing to work on the science component. He has persuaded the environmental groups to put in a place holder. Mike Caplin speaks to the many inconsistencies of language, particularly in Section 7, specifically the mix-up of Wildland Urban Interface and Urban Wildland Interface. Although historically the document included more than vegetation Mike feels that the focus, now, should be on vegetation. **ACTION: JONATHAN P. WILL TAKE THE EXISTING DOCUMENT TO DR. STEVENS AND WORK WITH HIM TO CHANGE SOME LANGUAGE SO IT IS CONSISTANT.** He will then resubmit to the environmental groups and will bring the result back to MFSC. Both he and Michael Emmett are considered representatives of the MFSC and speak for it.
- Pam Silkwood suggests that we turn in the signatory copy as it stands. She urges that a duplicate be kept in the Archives.
- C. Public Information/Education
- a. Website - Kelly O'Brien **ACTION: THE DONATION BUTTON STILL NEEDS TO BE PUT INTO OPERATION.**

ACTION: SEE SEC. 4 KELLY O'BRIEN ACTION.

- b. Workshops: Defensive Planting/Grant Writing (not discussed)
  - c. Presentations: Outreach to shareholder (not discussed)
10. OLD BUSINESS: A reminder to document all In-Kind volunteer work. Forms are available upon request. Feb agenda - offer again
11. NEW BUSINESS: Bob Sayre asks the Council to support an ordinance to ban single use plastic bags in MoCo. The BOD decides that this is beyond our scope of interest. Individuals are welcome to sign.
12. GOOD OF THE ORDER: In March 23, 2011, Chief Taylor will firmly retire on this occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.
13. ADJOURNMENT: *MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY PENNY VIEREGGE SECOND DICK RAV/CH. APPROVED.* The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

*Respect fully submitted,  
Penny Vieregge, Secretary, MFSC*