

MONTEREY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR MARCH 25, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Pro Tem Richard Ravich at 9:10 AM.
2. INTRODUCTIONS: Those present were:

Sarah Godfrey (BSLT)	Kelly O'Brien (MC2WG)
Richard Ravich (Big Sur)	Steve Daus (DES)
Lonni Trykowski (RTG/HOA)	Hal Latta (BS/CERT)
Lynne Semeria (HCPSC)	Bob Taylor (Cal Fire)
Jennie Lewis (RRV/HOA)	Thomas Di Bartolo
(PG&E/DRG)	
Mike Caplin (Palo Colorado)	Miguel Errea (SBCA)
Joe Rawitzer (Cachagua)	F. Zabrowski (HSFS)
Penny Vieregge (Big Sur)	
3. ACTION ITEMS: February 25th ACTION ITEMS reported on with the exception of those that had been placed on the March Agenda.
4. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2010 were read.
MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS READ MADE BY STEVE DAUS SECOND MIKE CAPLIN. APPROVED
5. CORRESPONDENCE:

From Tom Hopkins about Assemblyman Bill Monning's Bill (AB2074) noted and placed on the Agenda for discussion.
6. COMMITTEE REPORTS;
 - A. Strategic Planning Committee: (No Report)
 - a. Status update - Monterey County Grant Writing Workshops – Rob Thompson
 - B. MC2WG:
 1. Report on a meeting with Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter – Kelly O'Brien: The development of suggestions for a local input into the County CWPP has passed through (1) the public input stage, (2) the signing-off and backing of Fire Chiefs and involved Agencies. Through these steps the County had been very supportive. Once the County had received a letter from an Attorney connected with the local Ventana

Chapter of the Sierra Club implying a lawsuit if the Board of Supervisors signed onto the MC2WG presented document with its suggested/recommendations for the Monterey County Wildland Protection Plan (CWPP), support seems no longer forthcoming. The MC2WG group met with Supervisor Dave Potter, whose staff has recommended to County that they do sign the local CWPP as it is presented. Kelly reports that Supervisor Potter is putting together a meeting with people who attended this meeting plus County staff to discuss whether the County will sign or not and if not, what their reasons are for not signing. Over the last five months, MFSC attempts to meet with Ventana Chapter reps to learn that Chapter's concerns have been unsuccessful. Kelly also reports that this time she has been successful at setting up a meeting with Julie Ingals of the local Ventana Chapter.

Joe Rawitzer reports that he has set up a personal meeting with Michael Endicott of the CA State Sierra Club. **ACTION: JOE IS REQUESTED TO BRING HIS REPORT TO THE APRIL MEETING.**

C. Public Education. – Kelly O'Brien

1. Active Media Presence: Jo Sutliff of Deschutes County has had success with an umbrella name for all group publications/websites working with the Fire Safe Council. ..Deschutes County uses FIRE SAFE. Kelly suggests **PROJECT WILDFIRE** with source name attached i.e.: **PROJECT WILDFIRE, CARMEL HIGHLANDS, and PROJECT WILDFIRE – CACHGUA.** **ACTION: PENNY TO PUT THIS ON APRIL AGENDA.**
2. Bio Mass disposal: Deschutes County has established central locations for locals to bring their biomass for treatment. Disposal has long been a problem, particularly for Big Sur. Kelly is investigating a Salinas business which has a Bio Mass portable unit. **ACTION: KELLY WILL ALSO INVESTIGATE WATSONVILLE GOODWOOD** group (Ed Muñiz has their flier) which came to the Council a few years ago when they were starting up... summitviews.com (831) 872-841 (?).
3. CA 2010 Strategic Fire Plan:
Joe Rawitzer reports that Chair Diane Kehoe is actively seeking input into the draft plan, particularly from Fire Safe Councils. The cut off date is April 1st. Joe praises MC2WG's local CWPP plan. He is concerned about the priority list and asks who and how priorities are established. Jonathan Pangburn responds that currently he makes the final decision on priority by taking into account fire history, cost suppression and "where we can get the biggest bang for the buck". Steve Daus has already written a policy and procedure to establish

priorities from a local viewpoint. The CFWPP sets up where the work should be done. The applications are then submitted to the Grantor. The evaluation process is internal to the grantor, in this case Cal Fire.

7. PROJECT SUMMARIES:

A. Big Sur Grant: Steve Daus

a. Big Sur Fuel Reduction status update of regulatory problems :

Format: Steve Daus (Project Manager) reports that he has been working closely with Chief Taylor on possible compliance with CEQA. All the date is now completed. It now goes to Chief Taylor of CAL FIRE then to the state Clearing House where it can either be open to more public input for 45 days although it could also go to a notice of exemption and work could be started.

Plan Survey Report: Steve is working to include this in the prepared CEQA report. He states that it is likely we may need a tree removal permit from the County.

General Grant: Communications with concerned landowners and CERT has already taken place. The parcels involved are on a photographic base for field use. Full ownership lists are moving forward quickly in involving landowners. There has already been one Coastlands meeting and four other areas are scheduled in April. Esalen is starting to participate. Reports on this can be found under TASKS in Steve's written reports.

Budget: There are two areas – the Project Manager Contract and Operational Budget line items. **ACTION: STEVE TO SHOW THIS ON HIS INVOICES.** The Operational budget involves environmental work plus a matched budget. This next reporting period will be submitting initial study results to State Clearing House. **ACTION: STEVE TO RESEARCH THE TREE REMOVAL PROJECT FOR THIS NEXT WORK PERIOD.** This would indicate any significant impact although most of the concentration is on brush and oak types, ground thinning and lateral trimming. A tree Removal permit could be a large piece of it could be minimal. Big Sur is maintaining good working relationships with all involved.

b. CERT status update – Hal Latta

Hal gives further information on the four area community meeting on April 11th. Letters have been sent out. He is hoping for a large turnout in spite of so much absentee ownership. A community buy in is essential.

c. Contract for Steve Daus: A law firm draft contract has been given to Steve with copies to the Board.

d. Book Keeper: a Letter of Agreement is all that is need for Pam Peck, an attorney is not necessary

B. Carmel Highlands Community - Lynne Semeria

Their Grant application got in on time and they are waiting to hear

C. RTG Status Update: Lonni Trykowski

Status remains the same – they have the letter of award for \$47,033 but still no check They will not start the Chipping Program until the money is in their hands. The community now has a fire break surrounding it thanks to Cal Fire and Monterey County's Ed Muñiz for their crews. The university which owns the last canyon has committed to putting in its money. Per Chief Taylor, Chief Pillotte is now working with RTG/HOA on developing a local CWPP.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Report (update) on AB2074 – bill submitted by Assemblyman Bill Monning expanding State Park Federal Wilderness designation for area of East Molera abutting Ventana Wilderness. **ACTION: ALL CHECK MIKE CAPLIN E-MAIL OF CORROSPENDENCE WITH TOM HOPKINS OF THE VENTANA WILDERNESS ALLIANCE.** During the Marble Cone and Kirk fires, fire breaks were established to protect Palo Colorado and other residential areas to the north. In the writing of the original Ventana Wilderness Act fire breaks were deliberately kept apart from the wilderness designation. One of the MFSC recommendations in the local CWPP that the Council is presenting is that these fire breaks be maintained as they are with sufficient side clearances to protect firefighters and evacuees. There is concern that Bill AB2074 will not only block appropriate maintenance of these defenses but under Federal jurisdiction only hand crews can be used during a fire inside a designated Wilderness Area. Historically it has taken time to ask for and obtain permission to bring in motorized help during even a major Incident. **ACTION: THE FIRST PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON THIS BILL WILL BE AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BIG SUR MULTI-AGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL** Unfortunately this takes place tomorrow morning at 10 AM at the conference room in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. .

9. GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Steve Daus, Project Manager of the Big Sur Fuel Reduction Grant is drafting a letter to the County Staff seeking clarity on historical decisions involving the Big Sur Land Use Plan. Hal Latta (CERT) requests that the draft also be run past Frank Pinney, retired Chief of the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade for his input. Steve agrees. This is part of an ongoing discussion with County Planners.

Joe Rawitzer offers to produce a project atlas of CWPP type projects current, pending or proposed. This data base would be available to all through the MFSC Website. His offer as a volunteer is accepted. He will bring a sample back to the Council for feedback. **ACTION: PENNUY TO PUT ON APRIL AGENDA**

10. ADJOURNMENT MOTION *TO ADJOURN MADE BY THOMAS DI BARTOLO SECOND MIGUEL ERREA. APPROVED.* The Steering Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Vieregge, Secretary MFSC