

**MONTEREY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 24, 2009

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 9:05 A.M.
2. **INTRODUCTIONS: Those present were introduced as follows:**

Pete Harris	Steve Daus
Mike Chiodini (BLM)	Miguel Errea (MCCA)
Penny Vieregge (Big Sur/MFSC)	Tom Di Bartolo (Davey/PG&S)
Mike Caplin	Robin Hamelin (Cal Fire)
Lynn Samaria (CHPAT)	Bob Taylor (Cal Fire)
Richard Ravich	

3. **REVIEW OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the August 27, 2009 Steering Committee meeting were reviewed

- a. **CORRECTION:** From Mike Caplin, a suggestion to change Section 5, Public Education/Workshops opening paragraph to *There was an enthusiastic discussion on the Council developing a pamphlet with color photos of the State and Federal threatened and endangered species that occur in Monterey County, which need to be avoided by those performing fuel reduction work. Ideally, pamphlets will be developed for different portions of the County showing the threatened and endangered species specific to that area, so people will not be distracted by species not found in their area:* The paragraph would then continue. Mike Caplin, Mike Filbin etc
- b. Correct spelling – Kelly O'Brien

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED MADE BY TOM DI BARTOLO SECOND PETE HARRIS. APPROVED..

3. **ACTION ITEMS:** (See Action List)

4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

ACTION: JEANIE LEWIS TO SEND CARD AND FLOWERS TO LONNI TRYKOWSKI EXPRESSING THE COUNCIL'S BEST WISHES.

Copy of letter sent to Board of Supervisors by Sierra Club threatening a lawsuit was shared (Copy to be available on the Council Website)

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Strategic Planning Committee

- i. Grant Overview: Rob Thompson reports that the focus is on the Big Sur Grant, to establish a bank account, have the RFP ready, hire a financial accountant, and get Chuck Winge in the loop. CERT is heavily involved. (See section #7 PROJECT SUMMARIES)

B. Public Information/Education:

I. Website: Chuck Winge obtained the password and user (GO DADDY). Lisa Goettel has that information and is moving forward.

ii Education:

- a. Workshops: Fire Wise Workshop in Pebble Beach had a low turnout but much information with local news channels carrying the meeting.. Prunedale also had a low turnout. Big Sur is this Saturday with a field trip to a State Parks area focused on management of SOD. All involved agree that the Council is moving in the right direction in educating shareholders on reasonable measures on their property. The two hour format is working very well. The Insurance agent is most helpful. These 3 workshops have used up the \$1000 Grant which Paul Robbins obtained for Workshops. **ACTION: ROB T. TO INFORM PAUL R. OF MINOR CORRECTIONS IN THE HANDOUTS. ACTION: PENNY V. TO TRY TO FIND A VIDEOGRAPHER FOR SATURDAY.**

- b. Pamphlet: Mike Caplin, Mike Filbert, Dick Ravich, Rob Thompson

Mike C. suggests that the target audience is people/shareholders doing their own fuel reduction. The group suggests that these pamphlets be organized by a physical description of the habitat first i.e.: where you are most likely to find the species and the accessibility of that area, wetlands different from ridges/valley. Suggestions include separate handouts for each quarter of the County or by Fire District (each one willing to distribute). Mike Chiodini reports that the BLM website has the needed information for boundary lines of fire districts and could easily pull out the species. However, this is only for Federal lands. There was a discussion about trying to use a GIS created overlay. Jonathan (State Parks) might be able to investigate thus easing the load on Katie. **ACTION: CHIEF TAYLOR WILL HELP MIKE CAPLIN TO OVERLAY THIS, IF POSSIBLE.** Then a brief recommendation on best practices with follow up of treatment to control non-invasive weeds. The only species involved are those that can be taken for management and fire control measures. Photo search is more easily done by Latin name. **ACTION: GROUP TO CHECK ON ANY COPYRIGHT INVOLVING REPRODUCTION BY A NON-PROFIT.** University grad students might be enticed into this work. **ACTION: ROB T. TO CONTACT LADY**

**PROFESSOR OF CSUMB. STEVE DAUS EMAIL
ADDRESS OF CHRIS DICUS OF CAL POLY. ACTION:
PENNY V. TO PUT THESE NAMES INTO STEERING
CONTACT E-MAIL LIST.**

C. MC2WG: Mike Caplin reports that more than 240 public input comments have been received. All have been read by the group with great interest and have had an effect of the document being constructed. Mike C. hopes that before next Tuesday there will be a clean draft ready for presentation for fresh input/comments. The final draft of this phase of the document should be ready to go out into the world by the end of October. Per Dick Ravish, conversations with County have been encouraging. Carl Holmes's staff has been providing input from County Supervisors, Planning staff and County Council. Support from Cal Fire has been tremendous. Sherry Tune (Parks District Ranger) has been attending all meetings. MFSC has received a copy of a letter sent by the Sierra Club to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors apparently threatening a lawsuit if the regulatory framework section is altered. The entire Council has not seen this letter. (**ACTION: STEVE DAUS TO EXPORT A COPY THROUGH BUZZWORD FOR COMMENTS.**) Several people have expressed interest in joining the group. **ACTION: MIKE CHIODINI TO E-MAIL TIM JENSON'S ADDRESS TO MIKE CAPLIN.** Per Dick R, the focus of the last three months twice weekly meetings is to get one document clear and complete for presentation by the end of October. This is a firm deadline. He emphasized that this is a living document and work shall continue on it. The Fire Chiefs' Association has informed the group that rather than in Association sign off, the Chiefs wish to sign individually for their districts. MC2WG has decided that although this extends the timetable, the individual signatures will be worth the time devoted to getting them.

6. **PROJECT :**

A. Big Sur: Steve Daus Status Update:

i. **Local CWPP:** There is now an administrative group working. In three weeks they plan to submit a locally focused CWPP to the technical agencies and other working groups for input on their technical draft modifications. Once this input is clear they will put the adoption out to the public and stakeholders, probably by the first of 2010. They want to link their planning document to what protections will be in the implementation stage. There is high praise to the Big Sur Land Trust input for balance and making the document stronger.

ii. Grant: Nothing more has been heard on funding. The authorization letter will go through Chief Taylor.

iii/ Special Meeting. Dick Ravich reports that Sarah Godfrey was an organizing force on policy and procedure for administration and processing of the Grant. Special thanks to her from the group. The results are:

- MFSC will act as fiscal sponsor, issue the RFP for a project manager (open bids required by law) and pay the Project Manager (PM).
- CERT will act as the administrative sponsor of the Grant. The Project Manager (PM) will report to CERT on the bids on projects and performance of the project. The PM will provide before and after photos, inform the landowners of their responsibility and what can and can't be done. Once the work is performed there will be a bookkeeper to pay invoices. The PM receives invoices, confirms the work was done, OKs the invoice and gives it to the bookkeeper who will then pay the contractor. Eleven areas in Big Sur have already been identified for this work. Each has an account in Kwikbook. The bookkeeper keeps track of the budget. Quarterly reporting on work that has been done will be taken care of by CERT.
- USFS will be the lead consulting agency. It should be noted that this Grant goes through two non-profit organizations. No official agency is directly involved and no Federal lands are involved. The planned work is all on private property. Currently, under 4291 the County is acknowledging that the land use plan for Big Sur does not need a permit for this work. Only endangered species and national historic preservation are of primary consideration. Defensible space is not limited to 100 feet. There was discussion around the Sierra Club's threatened lawsuit to overturn 4291. Other Fire Safe Councils are facing similar situations and are also aware that 4291 has not yet been challenged in the courts. The Council and Steve Dause would like clarification on this issue. **ACTION: ROB THOMPSON AND DICK RAVICH ARE TO**

ARRANGE A MEETING WITH LEGAL COUNCIL AND SOLICITERS TO ALSO INCLUDE USFS, BLM, STEVE DAUS AND MFSC. ACTION: STEVE DAUS TO ATTEND THE TUESDAY MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP AT THE CARMEL HIGHLAND FIREHOUSE.

- CERT will have a rep attending future Board meetings to give a status update (Hal Latta)

iii: RTG demo garden: Cindy Reeves informs us that the Chipping Grant is now completely funded at \$52,400.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Financial Overseer: Chuck Winge will report at the October Board meeting.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

In future, the species pamphlet group will be found under **COMMITTEE REPORTS – Public Education**

9. **PRESENTATIONS:** (None)

10. **GOOD OF THE ORDER:** (None)

11. **ADJOURNMENT: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT WAS MADE BY DICK RAVICH SECOND PENNY VIEREGGE. APPROVED.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:38.

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 29, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Vieregge
MFSC Secretary