



Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
TIME: 9:30 AM
LOCATION: Mariposa County Fire Department Head Quarters
4802 Highway 140 (Executive Meeting Room)
Mariposa, CA 95338

1. **Roll Call** - Steve Ward, Barbara Cone, Melinda Barrett, Pat Lange, Mike Keyser, Russ Marks, Tara Fouch-Moore, Debbie Peters, Fadzayi Mashiri, Dan Buckley
2. **Committee approved updated Resolution 2021-01 allowing for mixed in person and telecommunication meeting to occur.** Motion to approve by Barbara, second by Tara, committee approved unanimous vote in the affirmative.
3. **Approval of Minutes: August 17, 2022**
Noted correction by Russ Marks, 1.5 million gallons of water taken from MPUD and 1.1 million gallons of untreated water taken from Bootjack storage tank for support of Oak Incident. Minutes accepted with noted corrections, Motion by Melinda, second Russ Marks, unanimous affirmative.
4. **Public comments** None noted or brought forward
5. **Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - a. **Mcfac secretary position. Laura Norman retirement**
Chair asked for any nominations or secretary or volunteers. No input from Committee, Chair is delegated those responsibilities.
 - b. **Recognize Dave Angelini resignation and Gary Colliver as replacement** Chair recognized Dave for his services and welcomed Gary onto the committee.
 - c. **Update on MCFAC update to the Board and approved recommendations of bi-laws**
Chair updated the committee the committee approved edits to Exhibit a regarding the bylaws and voting vs Ex-Official members and terms of citizen committee members was accepted/approved by the BOS. We now need 7 (50% +1) for quorum. Also mentioned to the Board that MCFAC recommended a specific county position of a Pre-Fire style position such as CALFIRE has to assist with the workload of coordination, GIS, Grant management for fire. This recommendation comes as MCFAC committee members are to impacted in their daily duties to participate and dedicate time away from their normal duties towards MCFAC adhoc group projects.
 - d. **Title 3 fund discussion**
Chair updated committee on Title III funds allocation to MFSC for Lushmeadows ladder fuels reduction project, RCD Home Hardening Project, and Mariposa Trails improvement project. Chair need to secure agreement with RCD and Mariposa Trails, agreement was done between county and MFSC. Melinda requested Chair get her the template agreement utilized and she'll fill it out to expedite the process. Once agreements are approved invoices should be forwarded to County Fire to process from the Title III funding line.
 - e. **Fire Wise Communities discussion**
Chair announced he's been working with Supervisor Smallcomb on possible dates to promote and provide information to interested communities on how to become a Firewise Community. Keyser mentioned he didn't know how much Firewise Communities really helped in the insurance realm. Melinda and Barbara mentioned they supported Firewise communities and felt the neighbor interaction and planning was the most beneficial.

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Initial dates being recommended are October 20 and maybe 27 or 25 both Mariposa and then Coulterville or Greeley Hill. Will have panel of current Firewise members to speak on their experiences. Chair mentioned having Chief Potkey, Chief Lindo or a CALFIRE rep from land use planning present to explain their involvement of the process noting it's primarily on the community members not CALFIRE to organize. Melinda mentioned that when she or others attempted to contact the number on CALFIRE website they have gotten no response. Melinda also requested the Chair keep the committee informed on these meetings as they get firmed up.

f. Mariposa County Fire Department Service Levels discussion.

Chair gave presentation given to the committee regarding County Fire Service levels and options for staffing improved service levels. Russ commented on supporting the options through community input as well as choosing not to respond to calls due to CALFIRE HQ availability and other work commitments. Barbara cautioned that paid union employees and volunteers doing the same job could be an issue. Chair acknowledged but also stated it being done in several other counties. Debbie stated she didn't think community support for a fee or tax if the board had control over how it was spent but possibly if designated to specific use only. Committee supported the idea of taking the presentation to community groups to find out what the public wants.

g. CALFIRE County Coordinator Position discussion.

Chair stated there is a Grant for a County Coordinator Position that can be utilized to coordinate and help manage grants for the County and be point of contact for MCFAC. The County has just hired a county grant writer but that position won't be started for a month or so and this person probably will be significantly impacted. Wes Smith gave myself and Chief Bernard a template and we are just waiting for the grant period to open so we can consider pursuing it.

1. Updates and Activity Reports and Future Items

- a. *Members – MCFSC Barbara stated Stumpfield project is completed just typing up the report, Wager project started back up due to favorable weather fire conditions, CEQA/NEPA process cleared for Alta Vista project, contract back from state for Mt. Bullion and community brush and chip, still awaiting a county contract to get an office and write the Bumgardner Ridge fuel break so no billable mean for that or Mariposa Creek Parkway slopes, starting to gather information LIDAR plans, and interested parties in Lushmeadows for that project with a lot of citizen interest and support from County GIS. CALFIRE FC Keyser mentioned the 160 acre parcel in Midpines planned to be utilized for fuel reduction and training grounds through a FEMA grant for the County. At this point is landlocked with no easement permission from neighboring business owners. Working through the process but currently in a standstill. There is options and Russ may have some ideas to help move access forward. MCRCD Melinda will start home hardening as soon as she gets Title III funds, working on a Technical Assistance Grant through CALFIRE to assist with Oak recovery in addition to what County is doing outside of the cleanup,*



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Bootjack tank grant project is completed and DWR gave evaluation of straight A grades with acknowledgement of finishing early and grant documentation was exceptional. This will be very beneficial for future grants for sure. Russ asked Barbara to remind folks to keep chipping piles off easements to allow for shoulder maintenance and Barbara agreed and will continue to support. Still waiting for confirmation of adopted Fire Safe Regulations to answer questions regarding access and secondary egress requirements. County got approval letter to purchase a masticator and awarded a grant to upgrade water system in Coulterville. Tanks will remain same size but system will be upgraded. Indian Council Tara site tour of priest allotment and looking for funding for fuel reduction out there as well as asking for monies to assist work development for their crew, committee chair mentioned that if Indian Council can show projects tied to the CWPP they may potentially give recommendation to the board to support those efforts. Fadzayi recruited a couple new Fire Advisors, 1st is Alison going out and trying to meet as many people as she can and learn the area. Also other advisor is Cindy Chan based in Tuolumne but covering Mariposa towards forest products for bio mass. No other report outs noted.

2. Adjourn Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM

Agenda Documents Download link:

<https://www.mariposacounty.org/DocumentCenter/Index/2715>

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