



Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee

MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday AUGUST 17, 2022
TIME: 9:30 AM
LOCATION: Go To Meeting/Call in – Conference Meeting (see below for participation information)
Host Location – Mariposa County Government Center
5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa, CA 95338
Lower Floor, Development Services

- 1. Roll Call:** Steve Ward, Steve Engfer, Barbara Cone, Melinda Barrett, Dave Angelini, Hannah Harrison, Wes Smith, Mike Keyser, Ron Plummer SNF, Russ Marks, Tara Fouch-Moore, Deron Mills, Fadzayi Mashiri, Local Citizen Gary Colliver, Laura Norman, and Marshall Long.

Meeting called to order at 9:32.

- 2. Resolution:** At the beginning of each meeting we will vote on whether we want to have an all in-person meeting or only teleconference. The public will have the option to call in for either format.
ACTION- *Motion to meet by teleconference on this day. Approved.*

- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of May 18 and June 15, 2022

ACTION- *Motion to approve May Minutes. Approved.*

ACTION- *Motion to approve June Minutes. Approved.*

- 4. Public comments - none**

- 5. Discussion and Possible Action:**

- a. Discussion and potential recommendations to the BOS on MCFAC membership seat status, full voting seats v. Ex-Officio and quorum for the MCFAC. Recommendation by MCFAC for BOS meeting in September 2022.

Ward sent letters to agencies/entities asking if they want to be ex-officio or voting members of MCFAC. Letters went to both Forests, BLM, American Indian Council, YNP, PG&E, Caltrans, and Farm Bureau.

Ex-Officio responses: 2 USFS, BLM, YNP, PG&E, Caltrans, Farm Bureau, County Fire, 2

Supervisors

Voting members: American Indian Council, CAL FIRE, FSC, RCD, Planning Dept, Public Works, County OES, SWIFT, 2 public members, UCCE, and Sierra Tel

Quorum: 50% + 1 = 7 members

ACTION: *Motion to move the item forward to request changes with BOS, County Fire staff put changes together as discussed, with voting and ex-officio memberships as described as an amendment to the current MCFAC membership resolution. Approved.*

- b. County Committee Guidelines Policy Adhoc committee- request for MCFAC recommendation to the BOS on draft changes to the County's Resolution.

TABLED. *Marshall has not gotten any answers from County Council yet. Discuss at Sept meeting.*

- c. Discussion and possible action on applying for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program. Who will take the lead on applying if decision is made to do so?

Grant: Federal funds giving priority to at-risk communities from drought and wildfire, low income, up to \$10M for projects outlined in the CWPP, no minimum.

Offers planning money for CWPP, could help develop community specific CWPPs, very good fit on eligibility, could supplement FEMA water tank grant, and a lot of other projects. Problem is having the time and resources to apply right now. RCD, FSC, SS Miwuk or AICMC, and County Govt are eligible.



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Missing opportunities due to bandwidth. Recommend adding people to be able to take advantage and make CWPP effective. Grant has 5 year timeframe. A hire could write grants to fund their own position for future. \$250,000 toward planning of CWPP could include a consultant to work with Planning Dept staff to implement smaller community CWPPs. Less labor commitment could be more appealing. Agree on one high priority project to accomplish. Ask for more County staff to work on these projects. County currently has an unfilled Grant Coordinator position. If County Fire wants a grant write there will be funding available in Oct/Nov and OES has Tuolumne County's templates. BOS seems open to a grant coordinator in County Fire. Application due Oct 7th, announce awards by end of 2022, with projects starting in 2023.

Adhoc: Steve Engfer, Melinda Barrett, Tara Fouch-Moore, Barbara Cone, Mike Keyser

d. Project updates or new grants filed for or received and any needed coordination.

Dave Angelini – moved to Nevada, no longer able to represent the County as a public member.

CAL FIRE – No project updates. There will be another round of Wildfire Protection Grants. We could clear a lot of county roads with \$10M with Defense Grant. If MMU applies it won't be specific to Mariposa County.

*FSC – nervous about timeline for Wildfire Prevention Grants. Need County contract to proceed. Stumpfield Fuel Break is completed. All other projects moving along. *Public Works directing people to FSC for Oak Fire tree removal. Brush & chip not available until winter of defensible space only.*

RCD – 3 new grants: 3rd Forest Health Grant from CAL FIRE for \$5M continue fuels reduction and biomass removal; Governor's Office of Planning & Research regional grant applied for by Tuolumne County to cover 5 Sierra counties; and California Assn of RCDs to provide technical assistance to private landowners, hopefully to help Oak Fire residents. Hire AmeriCorps or similar to do work for landowners. A new grant in cooperation with SS Miwuk for Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration to fund the Tribe's pollinator team.

Planning – FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant submitted my Mikey Goralnik has been moving along for Midpines Strategic Fuel Reduction project. Mikey is looking for information. Please respond to him with your comments.

Public Works – Contractor doing roadside brushing on Colorado Rd going well. MPD has delivered 1.5M gallons of treated water, and as of this day 1.1M gallons of untreated water. The savings of having the Bootjack tanks was significant for Mariposa Pines and Ponderosa Basin.

UCCE – New Fire Advisor starts work on Monday. Will introduce her around County. Looking forward to getting projects going and taking advantage of Fire Prevention Grants.

AICMC – Through County grant they hired a Tribal Case Manager for Oak Fire resources. Surveying at Sarah Priest Allotment. Submitted pre-proposal to Sierra Nevada Conservancy to do full 160 acre allotment fuels reduction project. Trying to build in funding to do workforce development with the goal of having their own tribal conservation corps.

Sierra Tel – It is Laura's last meeting. Need to replace the Secretary. Appreciation to Laura for covering these duties.



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SNF – Tied up with Washburn and Oak Fire clean up

County Fire – Reserve firefighters have been hired. 2 in training and 1 finishing labs to be cleared for hiring as an employee. Interviewing 9 applicants on Aug 22nd. Looking to hire a 4th. Doing a presentation on Tuesday to the BOS regarding staffing for the future. Still waiting on fuel reduction equipment that was ordered to come in; skid steer and masticator. Working with Supervisor Smallcombe to schedule dates for Firewise community discussions. Need to work on update for Pre-Fire Engineer position for our county. Hopefully a grant coordinated position that OES reported. Midpines 320 acres is in agreement between County and CAL FIRE to make it a training ground for tree dropping and fuel brushing. Title III funding projects have been approved by BOS for \$108,000.

6. Updates, Activity Reports and Future Items

- a. Members –
- b. Any future agenda items: None

7. Adjourn

Adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Agenda Documents Download link: <https://www.mariposacounty.org/DocumentCenter/Index/2715>

- If you require a hard copy of the agenda please notify Cathy Garrett, County Fire Department: cgarrett@mariposacounty.org