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The Mission of the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council is to preserve Grizzly Flats' natural and manmade resources by informing, educating and mobilizing all residents and landowners to make their homes, properties, neighborhoods and the community fire safe, and to provide area-wide cooperation, innovation and action in an effort to buffer the Grizzly Flats Fire Safe Council's Sphere of Recognition from catastrophic wildfire

Minutes – February 4, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: Virtual - Zoom

- 1) Call to Order - the meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Mark Almer
- 2) Flag Salute - was led by Scott Edwards
- 3) Roll Call -Deirdre roll call - roll was taken by both Secretary Girardi and Chairman Almer
- 4) Timekeeper Volunteer - Ernie Lory volunteered to be the timekeeper.
- 5) Approval of the February 4, 2023 Agenda - Mel Kelley motioned and Roy Rodgers seconded the approval of the Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.
- 6) Approval of the January 7, 2023 Minutes - Mel Kelley Motioned and Roy Rodgers seconded the approval of the Minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously
- 7) Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Robin Kelley reported the current balance is \$53,450.38 less \$13,000 for reserves with an available balance of \$40,450.38. Title III balance is \$87.22 and the PG&E balance is \$2,432.73. Still have undesignated funds EDCF fund of \$15,000.
- 8) Public Comment – Limited to 3 minutes for items not already on the agenda. Rich Englefield was a guest. He said he enjoys listening to the meeting. Currently in Woodland WA and says not much about fire safety - rainy currently. No FSC as of now and may be considering forming a FSC and Murray Taylor may be working with him to form this.
- 9) Council Member Comments – Limited to 3 minutes for items not already on the agenda:  
There were no Council Member Comments

Special Presentation: Updated CWPP Priority List/Maps – Barry Callenberger, Specialist contractor for projects pertaining to fuel reduction and fire councils. Shared a powerpoint presentation on the GFFSC priorities (note: this included changes since the Caldor Fire).

1. Grizzly Flat (GF) Post Office (PO) to Somerset Post Office (PO)- in the works for some time and currently. 150 feet from road and runs from Grizzly Flat Post Office to Somerset Post Office
2. Applied for grant a few years ago to include: Woodpecker Acres and Forest Brook area - west of GF west of GF and GF40A (was GF 17) and 41A runs along to Consumes, and 41B and west of all of those regions. Clear roadside hazard - 150 feet on each side (Side note: Not sure when Sweeney will be repaired.) Callenberger made note about observing that the fires usually start in the canyon and run east. The advantage of addressing the roads is that fires can be fought from these breaks. Callenberger referenced maps during the presentation and explained that Woodpecker acres had originally a smaller amount of structures but, as noted on the map, there are now quite a few more structures above Sweeney and Woodpecker acres.

Priorities:

Number one priority is the Grizzly Flat Post Office to Somerset Post Office field break:

- Woodpecker acres, Forest Brook and Sweeney and Old School House fuel break and reduction within 300 foot field break however it may be 150 feet because of the difficulty getting all of the permissions (Right of Entry) from all of the homeowners on GF road but will try to work with them to accomplish this goal of 300 feet vs 150 feet.

Next project priority is to use the RCD for funding. Ernie: Mark Egbert and Ernie and Mark A. are working with RCD - meeting next Wednesday

- Callenberger noted that everyone needs to understand that nature will come back even though extreme fire is set back 5-10 years, the first to grow back is grass, brush, and small trees which are just as hazardous. People need to know that this is still a hazard as it was before the Caldor Fire. Reminded all that since most of the fires start in the canyon and run up the canyon NE and run east we still have fire issues and we still have structures. PO to PO is the priority and we need to work with homeowners about getting permissions..

Another priority:

- The Old School House to Sweeney is another priority and less of a concern about getting homeowners to get permissions.

Ernie Lory: RCD meeting with Ernie and Mark Egbert with Mark Almer and David Manske next Wednesday to come up with a plan how all of these priorities including the Caldor Reforestation and Restoration Project

Mark stated that he reached out to the Paradise FSC they had another fire - this is a reminder that there is still a fire hazard with the new growth that is just as much a hazard. Our continued work on fuel reduction should not stop.

Callenberger: the fuel breaks and reduction are a good beginning but this is the hard work that is needed to get done. Note how Hwy 50 is a way to see how Caldor will look in the future. Happy to help in any way.

Mark thanked Callenberger for attending and sharing plans.

## 10) Agency Reports

- A. BOS District 2 Supervisor – George Turnboo - not present
- B. Pioneer Fire Protection District – PFPD Chief Dave Whitt/Fire Marshal Ken Earle - not present
- C. El Dorado County Department of Transportation – Dep. Director Maint. Brian Mullens - not present
- D. Grizzly Flats Community Services District – District Manager Jodi Lauther - not present
- E. El Dorado County Sheriff's Office / OES – Deputy Greg Almos updated on the work after the storm. and the annex. recovering from the storms. Mark asked about the reminder about the EDSO alert system. Asked if Almos can tell more about the difference between the two alerts. Almos: Recently the sheriff's department sent out a WEA or IPAWS - anyone with cell -limited to the characters in alert they created a link - the link went to the 500,000 folks and crashed this system. They will not use IPAWS or WEA for this type of warning.
- F. El Dorado County Fire Safe Council – Ernie Lory - Couple of notes from January 18 meeting. They are still working on CAL Fire assessors (no longer evaluators) training sessions. Brief intro to wildfire prep and resilience and advisory committee and addressing grants for a large scale fire break work countywide. Maia Davis is the EDC fire safe council lead to coordinate with state grants. This type of coordinating office are focused mostly in counties located in the northern part of the state. Placerville FSC is holding an event on March 18 from 9:00-3:00. .Ernie will send out info at another time
- G. California Highway Patrol – Public Information Officer Andrew Brown -  
Brown: Shared that they are busy. He is the current public information officer for Placerville and GF. He presented information about motorcycles and OHV on public roads and highways and reminded residents about following the law about public roads.

Presented information about OHV and Motorcycle safety powerpoint. He gave reminders about the laws about helmet use and how this has increased more compliance. He shared info about DOT/SNELL Helmets safety standards compared to the "novelty" helmet - he encourages use of DOT helmets and is looking into the possibility of offering riders these types of helmets in the future. He next presented information about ebikes. All of the different types that are emerging and are easier to get. Also, there is the push in CA through the CA CALTrans about getting residents to consider multimodal type of transportation and they want to have it legal for residents to ride some type of short distance

transportation. The laws are behind the technology. People need to know the legal requirements. He showed a table with all of the versions of e-bike and the requirements. Finally, he presented information about motorcycles and OHV on county roads and USFS roads and stated that there are a lot of UTVs running around and while USFS does have some OHV roads that are specified the public needs to abide by the laws of the public roads and the CA vehicle code. OHV and side-by-sides and motorcycles are not street legal unless licensed for street use and not designed to be safely ridden on public roads especially when meeting other vehicles on the road. He reminded the public that taking an OHV from one's driveway to the OHV areas is not legal - they need to be trailered to these OHV riding areas. They are getting a lot of neighbor complaints about OHV on public roads and they are trying to respond to these complaints.

Mark noted that the previous Public Information Officer, Rob Smith, made Sergeant in the Sonora area.

H. U.S. Forest Service – Placerville Dist. Ranger Scot Rogers

Update on USFS - moving forward with Caldor Recovery Plans with NEPAs for mid-March 2023 for public review and work to start in summer 2024. Caldor recovery will be over 2 years and cover over 2000 acres that includes everything that needs to be done. The Caldor Fuel break is on pace to be completed summer 2023. Shaded fuel break is projected to be replanted including hazards on Bonetti and Plum creek up highway 50 and others that are connecting into GF fuel break. The NEPA is completed and ready for opponents but will be prepared by March 2023 and will be ready for hazard tree removal summer 2023.

Storm damage on one of the NF roads because the culvert failed and washed out but the crew was able to get this repaired and working on getting a more permanent fix.

Gates are going up and getting the landowners and emergency service access. These should be open most of the time because the conditions that require that they are closed have to meet a pretty high threshold.

Wildfire and Prevention committee - working with the whole country to tie all of the projects together.

USFS and Signs - Unfortunately there is a state statute. The state can only pay for signs that are county maintained roads. He will work with the county road department. The county did recommend a cheaper way to purchase from a company out of Sacramento. Talk to Pimlott about this. Maybe grant opportunities of flexible funds and work with GFFSC to get this project completed. Mark asked for clarification: does it sound like it's a funding issue? Are the signs allowed but the funding is the issue? Rogers says the USFS can put them up on the current posts but cost of the signs is the issue.

- I. CAL FIRE, Amador-El Dorado Unit –Battalion Chief Josh Vickers - not present
- J. Neighboring Fire Safe Councils
  - 1. Aukum/Fairplay - not present
  - 2. Omo Ranch - having a chipper day on March 4 and 9-3. They will have 2 chippers - one for smaller and one for larger size. The wine signage is completed and will be submitted to the graphics people next meeting on Feb 9 by 5:00pm and will be submitted. Robin will report back to GFFSC the result of this project. Also, GFFSC and other FSCs may be interested in Fair Play's bulletin boards that were removed and will be disposed of. If interested, contact the Fair Play parks and recreation department.
  - 3. Sand Ridge - not present
- K. Long Term Recovery Group – Jennifer Hibbard discussed that she would like to table discussions about the potential grant until next month. However, working with CalHomes and the county to get up to 20 people to rebuild by obtaining a loan that would cover  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the cost of rebuilding for up to \$150,000 which would be in the form of a low interest, long term loan. The West Slope Foundation is also giving out heaters, blankets, tarps for a total of \$10,000 of winter needs. Next, they will be targeting spring needs. They are working with the people who are living in temporary homes and trailers and working on getting disaster supplies and evac kits along and tie in with all of the FSCs and resilience county wide. Does not want to supplant the current work but wants to be here to assist. Any questions and ideas, contact Jennifer and West Slope Foundation. 274 households in the database - about  $\frac{1}{2}$  that were devastated. The West Slope Foundation continues to reach out to meet the needs of community members who were devastated by the Caldor Fire. Excited about the CERT training with Chief Whitt. They are opening up the south county FSC to get CERT team trained and up to speed before the summer and start training this month and March. Mark: We will get this out to folks. Jennifer: this will go out to 20 people - targeted. Mark: will work with Chief Whitt to see how to target the first 20.

## 11) Old Business

- A. GFFSC Vacancies – Mark Almer – Discussion/Action -Mark Almer have advertise on social media - let us know if you know anyone
- B. Time Sheet Submittal – David Manske – Discussion/Action - trickle coming in - get the timesheets in. questions to David.
- C. Routes out of the Community Signage - Mark Almer – Discussion/Action - Scot Rogers covered the issue - return this to March 2023 meeting
- D. Annual Firewise Day/BBQ – Mark Almer – Discussion/Action - Executive Board discussed ideas and dates. One idea was June 3 after the GFFSC meeting from 3-6 or 4-7. Another idea was to tag on with a dessert at one of the Burger Nights. David shared that the issue is that the folks who go to Burger Night are not the same folks who attend the GFFSC meetings thus the E-Board was thinking of ways that

we could have both groups attend the Annual Firewise Day. Mark shared that because we don't have all members present at the meeting it is difficult to know who would be available and what time is best for most of the members to be present to help at this event.

Other ideas came from present members:

Jennifer presented the idea of having it at the Fireman's Hall and inviting all county FSC. Shilela and David: Parking can be an issue at this location but the location has tons of chairs and tables that can be used on location or used at another venue.

Sheila cautioned about including other FSC due to calendar issues and other county events.

Scott Edwards from Camino FSC shared that he would be interested in being part of this to help his new FSC get an idea of how to promote their FSC.

Many other ideas were shared by council members in the way of the type of catering trucks/food, location, times, the event being only a GFFSC or a countywide FSC, etc.

Shiela said that she would see if Omo Ranch FSC would be interested in co-facilitating this event at the next Omo Ranch FSC meeting February 9th.

Mark wrapped up the discussion by letting council members know that the E-Board will consider all of the ideas and discuss plans for this event and present these at the next meeting in March.

## **12) New Business**

- A. Community Clean-Up Day – Craig Heinrich and Robin Kelley – Discussion / Action - Robin and Craig were both absent and this item will be returned to the March 2023 agenda under New Business 12A.

## **13) Committee Reports**

- A. Public Education - Mark Almer / Jennifer Hibbard - MA: no information but Jennifer reminded the council that what is coming in the way of the grant and West Slope will help with funding many events and plans.
- B. Defensible Space – Robin Kelley / Liz Lawless / David Manske - David: nothing to share
- C. Grants – Ernie Lory / David Manske - Ernie: David, Mark Almer, RCD, and Ernie will meet about Barry Callenberger's priorities and discuss how to incorporate these projects into a cohesive countywide program. Ernie reported that the RCD contractors are off right now as of January 7 but they will be continuing to work on Sciaroni road and Winding way. The contractors will be burning when they return. There is a CAL Fire website with info about burning. This site has all of the permits for large piles but does not provide the public with the particular day and time that burning will be done.
- D. Fundraising – Robin Kelley / David Manske / Jennifer Hibbard - David expressed that since he is on many of the medical calls it is a concern that the signs on many of the homes are not posted or are not visible. People need to have reflective signs that can be seen from both sides of the road. Many of the medical issues are the older residents and the first responders are having a difficult time responding to these due to the fact that they cannot quickly locate these homes because they do not have reflective address signs. David has these at a reasonable cost. Mark expressed that same concern, quoting someone who said that if you live in the district long enough you will become a customer of the fire district so we all should have reflective addresses. Jennifer asked

David how much the signs cost and how many homes would need these. David responded that each sign is approximately \$10-12 and there are about 300-400 homes.  
E. Website – Jennifer Hibbard / Robin Kelley / David Manske - Jennifer is training the EBoard on Feb 24 with a backend tutorial.

**14) Public Announcements** - No comments

**15) For the Good of the Order** - No comments

**16) Adjourn** - 11:42 Mel motioned and David seconded

Respectfully submitted,

*Deirdre Marsh-Girardi*

Deirdre Girardi

Secretary