

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MENDOCINO COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.**

Wednesday, August 22, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.

Ukiah Valley Fire District, 1500 S. State Street, Ukiah, California

President Colin Wilson called to order the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) at 5:35 p.m. Directors present were Colin Wilson, Suzanne Guido, Ronda Gott, Hal Wagenet, and Steve Leonard. Also present were Executive Director Julie Rogers (“Staff”), Cal Fire Battalion Chiefs David Barsi and Mark Tolbert, and Pat Collins and Nancy Hoon of the Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council. Directors absent were Robert Bruce and Mike Jani.

The Minutes of the June 27, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Executive Director Rogers reported on the following:

- “Living with Wildfire in Mendocino County.” This publication, which blanketed Mendocino County in July, was a huge success, motivating residents to install water tanks, put up address signs, and create “defensible space” around their homes. From 40,000 copies printed, 34,000 were mailed, and 1,500 copies remain undistributed.
- Elderly Defensible Space Clearing Project “Fire Safe Homes Mendocino!” funded by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County. This \$3,000 project will be completed in September and a project report submitted by October 1.
- New Fire Safe Council Employee. Lillian Hoika of the Robinson Creek Fire Safe Council has been hired for up to 30 hours a month. She successfully staffed the office during Julie’s vacation and continues to help with clerical tasks.
- New Local Fire Safe Councils. A dozen residents of Deerwood (east of Ukiah) have begun meeting weekly, and have interfaced with the Ukiah Valley Fire District and County Roads Department to resolve safety issues. The Caspar Fire Safe Council also continues to meet and expand, and is working with Fort Bragg and Mendocino Fire Departments to prepare for wildfire and other emergencies.
- Upcoming Projects. MCFSC donations other than membership dues are being held separately as “match” which the Allen-Heath Memorial Foundation has requested the MCFSC to seek, and will target the following projects: (1) improved road signage, (2) chipping services, and (3) identifying water supplies available for firefighting.
- Brooktrails Ridge Road Fuel Break. Staff worked with Chief Dave Barsi to reduce this grant project from \$116,748 requested to the \$36,063 actually awarded. The funding is provided by the U.S. Forest Service through the Western States Governors WUI Grant Program, and the work will be performed and managed by Cal Fire.
- Brooktrails Fuels Reduction Project (a second project). MCFSC has been awarded \$166,852 of BLM funding for 2008-2009 for vegetation reduction in Brooktrails. The work will be done by CAL FIRE crews and private contractors, beginning this winter.

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- Website Update. Mike Carter of Cherry Creek Ranch near Laytonville has improved our website with current information and new postings and links. Staff and the Board are very appreciative to Mr. Carter for donating his time and expertise.

President Wilson led discussion about health benefits and an appropriate vehicle for Staff. An Ad Hoc Health Benefits Committee consisting of President Wilson and Directors Jani and Wagenet was established; their findings will be reported at the board's next meeting. President Wilson reported that Mendocino Redwood Company may donate a vehicle to MCFSC this fall.

Director Wagenet reported on the status of Title II and Title III funding this year. He noted that MCFSC's "Living with Wildfire in Mendocino County" caught the attention of the Mendocino National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), which expressed interest in supporting next year's edition with Title II funds. Staff said she had already submitted two proposals to the RAC; subsequently, however, Mendocino County Supervisors had significantly reduced the funds available through the RAC, and she intended to reduce MCFSC's requests.

President Wilson volunteered to fill the recently-vacated position of Safety Officer until a permanent member could be appointed.

In the absence of Treasurer/CFO Mike Jani, Staff gave the Treasurer's Report. As of August 20, total funds in all accounts were \$51,670.51. Subtracting trust funds of \$2,541.08 held for Pine Mountain and Robinson Creek Fire Safe Councils yields an MCFSC funds balance of \$49,129.43. Restricted funds for grant projects were \$28,213.98 and unrestricted operating funds \$20,915.45. Details are included in a Financial Summary and Notes, Balance Sheet, and Statement of Income and Expenses.

President Wilson and Ronda Gott volunteered to head the Personnel Committee.

Membership Committee Chair Suzanne Guido reported 33 new memberships.

Pat Collins of Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council reported tremendous success and participation with their chipping and addressing grant program funded by BLM. New participants in the program are road association members, ten of whom have cleared brush along Ridgewood Road to Manzanita Flats, a potential evacuation/safety area. Thus far, Pine Mountain FSC has collected \$450 in chipping donations as match to the grant, and \$125 in house signage money.

Under Old Business, Director Gott reported on research regarding a request from The Wilderness Society for a letter from MCFSC supporting increased prescribed burning in the National Forest. As Mike Jani wished to participate, discussion was postponed.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 24, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Dated: October 15, 2007

Suzanne Guido, Secretary