



## Amador Fire Safe Council

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*“The Mission of the Amador County Fire Safe Council is to protect the people of Amador County and their property from the effects of catastrophic wildfire through education, cooperation, innovation and action. “*

Amador Fire Safe Council  
Executive Board of Directors Meeting

**MINUTES**

May 20, 2015

Amador County Agriculture Department Conference Room  
12200 – B Airport Road, Martell

Attendance: Amy Rocha, Secretary, NRCS; Rebecca Brown, Steve Bonner, John Heissenbuttel, Helen Page, Jan Bray, Proxy from Connie to Jan, Paul to Jan, Elena to Helen.

1. Call to Order – 3:02 pm by Chairperson Steve B.
2. Agenda – Motion to approve HP; Second RB; MPU (Motion Passed Unanimously)
3. Introductions -
4. Minutes – Motion to approve RB; 2<sup>nd</sup> JB: MPU
5. Treasurer’s Report
  - A. Elena was not present. Report emailed to board.
  - B. Questions arose about report. What does the 3 \* stand for, didn’t see any reference on report. Explanation of the negatives. We also would like accurate grant end dates shown on the report where applicable.
  - C. NFF grant – invoices to both districts of Forest Service for reimbursement. Need explanation of negatives.
6. Executive Director’s report – No Report
  - A. Went over email to Steve and Rebecca about projects in hopper.
  - B. PGE grant – Check/Contract by Mid May. Letters to the first two neighborhoods sent.

- i. Due to the very short turn around – Cathy proposed using Chips Chips and moving their work to the first of the grant.
  - ii. Considerable discussion about the use of contractors without sending out RFP.
  - iii. It was the boards recommendation that at least a portion of the PGE grant needs to go out to bid.
  - iv. First two neighborhoods are Moonlight Ridge Road area and Gold Creek Trail in Volcano.
  - v. Wanted to follow up with Cathy about what the components are for this PGE grant.
  - vi. What was the actual proposal for the use of Chips.
- C. CAFSC Low Income Senior – No money, no timeline to get money. Cathy has been giving out general info and eligibility requirements. Not taking down any names yet since there is no money.
- D. No money yet from Western States WUI
- E. No Treasurer’s report – Did receive a balance sheet
- F. No written ED report – did receive emails about status of a few things.
- 7. AFSC invoices Confirmation – No Invoices to confirm.
- 8. Announcements – Jan Bray suggested we form a grant committee.
- 9. Committee/Grant Reviews –
  - A. Public Events – 2 good events –
    - i. Lockwood Fire – about 100 people, defensible space and how to build a burn pile.
    - ii. Smoke Panel – Talked about choices to get rid of yard debris. Public Health, AFD, FS and Air District participated.
    - iii. Before and After the Fire – Becky Estes & Hugh Saford – Decent turn out – interesting presentation.
    - iv. Public Event – Monday Night Dinner at the Pub with raffle or silent auction. Control/Prescribed burning workshop, Maybe Fire & Water workshop which would include info about insect/drought damage to trees and standing dead fuel and funding opportunities.
  - B. ACCG –
    - i. Alternative uses for pine needles – Blue Berries need them 6 or so blueberry growers in Calaveras County – Chips has offered to pick up pine needles in at least 5 yard at a time loads and to stock pile at the Wilseyville site. Pine needles would need to be only needles, within 20 miles of Wilseyville site and have at least 5 yards at a time. NEED to clarify with Steve Wilenski about logistics and how much pine needles they might get. Who is paying for fuel for those deliveries.

- ii. Spotted Owl Presentation – Sierra Forest Legacy – From a settlement agreement between Forest Service and Sierra Forest Legacy Interim recommendations made which are even more restrictive and enlarge protected areas for the Spotted Owl.
- iii. RFP for new Admin for ACCG closed on Monday. Received only 4 proposals planning to make a selection prior to next meeting. Gweyn, Jan, Katherine, Kendal and John on selection committee. Was curious why AFSC didn't apply.

#### 10. Old Business

- A. Title III – was going to be May 28<sup>th</sup> but moved to June 23<sup>rd</sup> due to scheduling conflicts between John H and Cathy. Will get on June 23<sup>rd</sup> BOS agenda. Packet will need to be to Jennifer Burns by at least the 18<sup>th</sup>. Preferred ASAP – Get on Agenda and talk to them ASAP. Need to get final revisions of cover letter and get final packets together.
- B. New Board Member – Richard Yarnell – Tabled
- C. Officer Nominations – Tabled

#### 11. New Business –

- A. Grant Committee – Need to form and be put on next agenda.

#### 12. Public Comments –

- A. J. Heisenbuttal – GHG grant – requesting a letter of support for GHG grant –
  - i. Local group of Foresters in Amador County – Grant going through County BOS – County roads benefitting from brushing. Making larger Fire Breaks and better escape routes. Grant request will be between \$500,000-\$750,000. 50 miles of County Roads 30 feet off on each side of road. Need letter back to John H by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Priorities established by County Public Works and their priorities. Meets with CalFire unit Objectives. Didn't specifically talk with CalFire since they are the granting organization. Lines up with high Fire Risk areas and also used the MACA study. Only 11 county roads. ~ 50 miles of road, \$3500 per mile which translates to about \$2000 per acre, using 50 ft clearance per mile of road comes to Just over 300 acres treated.  $300 \times \$2000 =$  just over \$600,000 for ground work. AR did calculations, rough and not necessarily what will be used in grant. Just ballpark.
  - ii. Move to Approve letter of support. Jan Abstains. HP moved: 2<sup>nd</sup> RB. MPU with 1 abstention.

#### 13. Next Meeting – June 17, 2015.

#### 14. Adjourn HP moved. RB 2<sup>nd</sup>. 4:15 pm.