



Amador Fire Safe Council

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March 20, 2019
Amador County Ag. Building, Large Conference Room
12200 Airport Rd # B, Jackson, CA 95642
1500-1700 hours

Minutes

In Attendance:

Directors: Pat Minyard, John Heissenbuttel, Jan Bray, Jay Francis, Connie Gonsalves. Frank Leschinsky proxy to Jan Bray, Paul Maben proxy to John Heissenbuttel.

Coordinator: Absent due to illness: Amanda Watson.

Agency: AFD PD BC Ryan Hamre. CAL FIRE/Chief Rob Withrow

Public: See sign-up sheet. Robert Deakin/SR Road, Larry Fausen, Mike Akanowski/Happy Trails Road Fund, Dick & Therese Stamm/SC & Pioneer, Jill Micheau, Jeff Freeman, Paul Merkel, Dennis Manner, John Labuda.

Meeting called to order by Chair Pat Minyard at 1501 hours. Action items are noted in yellow. "MPU" = Motion Passed Unanimously.

- I. Approve/Modify Agenda – agenda approved unanimously.
- II. Approved January 2019 Minutes – unanimous approval.
- III. Introductions (many public members).
- IV. Treasurers Report - John states there is \$34,162.25 in the grants account. For the April meeting, a draft budget needs to be reviewed/approved.
- V. Coordinator Report – Pat for Amanda
 - a. Reviewed Coordinator Report from February 19 to March 19. Mother Lode Newcomers luncheon was March 7. CAL FIRE meetings have been held upcountry. Future meetings: March 27 @ River Pines @ 1830 hours, Pine Grove Town Hall April 11 @ 1800 hours and Lockwood FS 152 April 30 @ 1800 hours. Earth Day is to be held April 27 – possibly at Detert Park (Emily Beals organizer).
 - b. Grant Updates:
 - 2019 PG&E: Charity grant funds will be continued – great news!
 - c. Mitchell Mine FB: A few more Rights of Entry came in – bringing total to nearly 60%. More door-to-door help by CAL FIRE will happen. We need more outreach

via neighbors. RFP for remaining CEQA is currently open and Grant Committee will decide soon on a Contractor.

- d. AmCo Fuels Reduction Collaborative meeting – 0830-1230 on March 26, 2019.
 - e. Title III County funds. Website Development - about \$6300 available to spend on website, and/or outreach materials. Amanda will send Chuck Iley an update for the AmCo Board of Supervisors. **Include a tab on Website for Fire Insurance information.**
 - f. Recent Grant Submittals:
 - i. SNC - Antelope (not funded but can possibly get CEQA compliance under an SPI THP or Exemption) and Tiger Creek (funded) projects submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for planning (CEQA and NEPA, respectively).
 - ii. CCI – Antelope (Jan) and Tiger Creek (John) projects were submitted to CAL FIRE’s CCI Fire Prevention grant program for implementation. Waiting to hear from CAL FIRE on decisions.
 - iii. CCI – Education/Outreach (Amanda) grant submitted to CCI CAL FIRE under the Fire Prevention grant program (again, waiting to hear from CAL FIRE on funding decisions).
 - iv. Pat is working with the Senior Center (Lyn Nightingale/Committee on Aging) on evacuations for Seniors that are unable to self-assist. Pat is working with John Silva/County OES for updating AmCo Evacuation Plan. Bottom line is to evacuate early (Ready-Set-Go benefits).
 - v. John reiterated PG&E will continue their Charity Grant program in 2019; this is excellent news for private roads/evacuation areas.
 - vi. Pat made a motion for the Grant Committee to put together a CCI grant to cover all private road evacuation area request for a County-wide project. Tom Tinsley said this is the best way to apply (via strategy). MPU.
- VI. Board Member & Liaison Recruitment – **letter needs to be sent for recruitment (John)**. Sample organizations for Director or Non-Voting Liaison: Board of Realtors, Amador Water Agency, AmCo Public Works, AmCo Board of Supervisors, Jackson Rancheria, John Silva/AmCo OES, AmCo Fire Chiefs Association, AT&T, Service Organizations (Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, Native Sons/Daughters), EBMUD, Comcast, FEMA. Larry Fossen/Happy Trails Road Fund volunteered to be on exploring grant opportunities committee* Note, separate letter to be sent to AmCo Fire Chiefs Association of a non-voting designated liaison(s). Motion to send out these letters = MPU.
- VII. Grant Funding Request– **letter needs to be sent for infrastructure protection – ask for \$100,000 (John)**. Sample organizations: AT&T, EBMUD, Comcast. Motion to send out these letters = MPU.
- VIII. Fire Insurance – Connie stated that the CA FAIR plan (a huge pool of insurance companies) offers a discounted fire insurance plan for Firewise Communities; this is incentive for more Firewise Communities to organize in AmCo. ***Need to have Firewise.org information on the AFSC Website**. Supervisor Brian Oneto told John to

get the non-treated parcel Ordinance issue on Board's agenda; Ad Hoc committee needs to be formed to develop an AmCo Ordinance – Connie, John, Pat and John Labuda volunteered to be on the Ordinance committee. Motion to form committee = MPU; John will speak to Eric Brown/SMUD and Pat will work with Chief Withrow about the Cameron Park ordinance; from that info, a meeting of the Ordinance committee will occur.

- IX. AFSC Policies & Procedures Manual (Amanda) – postponed to the April meeting. Directors are requested to read and provide input based on the online version previously emailed to all in preparation of the next meeting discussion.
- X. New Projects: In addition to those previously received, Chief Withrow discussed a fuelbreak east of the Sutter-Amador Hospital (from Court Street to Clinton Road) to avoid evacuating the Hospital and making it a safe shelter in place location. On the radar is a fuelbreak protecting the Rancheria casino area.
- XI. Fuels Reduction Collaborative 2019 meeting – is scheduled for next week at the HHS Building: Date is March 26, 2019.
- XII. Fire Cameras (Frank) – working with UNR with PG&E funding on various sites in AmCo and other Sierra Nevada counties. Installation has begun in March 2019. First wave of backhaul installation is occurring: Red Corral, West Point, Ione/Gold Country Pet Resort, Garibaldi/Omo Ranch Road. Other identified sites: Armstrong LO tower, Mt. Zion LO tower, Kennedy Mine head shaft, Preston castle. CAL FIRE will pay for 100 more cameras statewide.

Cameras will be operational 24/7/365. High definition, military grade. The program is entirely financed by PG&E and UNR. Frank will find out if the software has an audible alert for sensing smoke. Frank is checking into a site near Westover Field. Website for public access is: AlertWildfire.org.
- XIII. Public Comment: Members are anxious to hear about prioritization/funding on their submitted fuels reduction projects. Very provocative and enjoyed by all; AFSC truly appreciates the increasing input and involvement of Amador County residents.
- XIV. Presentation of clock with inscription to Jan Bray recognizing AFSC Service.
- XV. April AFSC Meeting: April 17, 2019 at 1500 hours.
- XVI. Meeting adjourned at 1634 hours.