



## **Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council Stakeholders Meeting 16 August 2012**

### **Attendance**

Tom Curran, Terry Bolt, Lloyd Smith, Hayward Mendenhall, Ken Delfino, Penny Lampkins, Penelope Shibley, Christine Hancock, Gordon Hancock, Lorie Acton, Sharon Rooney, Ira Peshkin, David Witt, Derrick Davis, Don Brady, and Judy Hyatt.

President Lloyd Smith called the meeting to order at 0935. All attendees introduced themselves and the agenda for the meeting was reviewed. The attendance roster was circulated for corrections and additions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The January 1 through 13 August 2012 Profit and Loss statement was submitted by Sharon Rooney. Sharon Rooney also presented the following transactions: Received \$25,800 from CFSC for KRV Fuel Break and Hazard Reduction Grant; Billed and received \$18,000 for the Alta Sierra and Wofford Heights grant from the USFS; Paid \$50.00 for Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce annual dues; Paid \$16,650 to KCFD for work on Alta Sierra and Wofford Heights project; Paid \$1,260 to Ken Delfino for Alta sierra and Wofford Heights project. Expect billing in next quarter for liability insurance. It was recommended that the \$25,800 from CFSC for the 2013 project note be partitioned into contracted work (KCFD) and operating expenses until there has been some activity on the grant project.

An invoice for the printing "Ready, Set, Go" (\$1,500 agreed to at May 2012 meeting) has not been received from KCFD. Deputy Chief Don Brady said the printing was already covered and there was not need to invoice us. We agreed that we would cove printing on some of the other literature that needs updating.

### **President's Comments**

A flyer for the "Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone" conference to be held 7-8 November 2012 in Ontario was circulated. CFSC scholarships are available to offset conference fee. Anyone interested contact Lloyd Smith for details.

A flyer for the California Fire Safe Council and Farmers Insurance Group Annual Wildfire Prevention Conference 19 September 2012 at Pala Resort (near San Diego) was circulated. This is a free event and will include a presentation on “Firewise and Fire Adapted Communities”. Anyone interested contact Lloyd Smith for details.

Lloyd Smith reminded everyone of the upcoming Collaborative Meeting. The collaborative of the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council (usually president, grant committee chairman, and grant administrator), the USFS, BLM and KCFD meets annually to review all of the projects in the Kern River Valley Fuel Reduction Projects (see website for document) to establish new priorities and insert new proposed projects. The meeting is planned for 18 October (Thursday) 0930-1130 in the USFS Kernville office conference room. Penelope Shibley has action for scheduling the room. All collaborative participants need to review the projects for accuracy and currency. Any new proposal should be developed well enough so that they can be adequately considered within the priority framework. Lloyd Smith will email reminders as the date for the meeting approaches.

Lloyd Smith provided copies (attached) of a handout designed to assist in recruiting prospective members for the Board of Directors. The handout included sections on “What is the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council?”, and “What can you do for the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council?” Please distribute to anyone that is willing to consider a rewarding experience helping with operating the Council.

## **Committee Activity Reports**

### **Grant Committee – Lloyd Smith (acting chairman) and Ken Delfino**

Lloyd Smith reported that the 2011 CFSC grants for Lake Isabella and Mountain Shadows have been completed with final billing by KCFD and final reporting by Patrick Pontes to the CFSC. All requirements have been fulfilled and the 2011 grants are closed out.

Ken Delfino reported the 6<sup>th</sup> quarterly reporting and invoicing for the Alta Sierra and Wofford Heights project included completion of an additional 6 acres. Invoicing was sent to USFS, was paid, and proceeds have been distributed to KCFD, to Ken Delfino, and to the KRVFSC general fund as per the appropriate formula. Limited new work has been accomplished on this project since the last invoicing. This grant runs through 30 September 2013.

Ken Delfino reported that he and Derrick Davis were able to conduct a comprehensive inspection of the eleven sites included in the 335 acres in the 2012 CFSC grant for maintenance of prior projects. No work and no charges have been made by KCFD. Nearly the entire KRVFSC match requirement has

already been accumulated. This is a \$241,000 project to complete maintenance on 335 acres of previous projects where the costs were \$120,500 from the grant and \$120,500 matching from KCFD. Work will commence as soon as the crews are available from the recent lightning fires.

### **Fundraising** – Tom Gelder (reported by Lloyd Smith)

No report and no activity. Tom Gelder needs to provide the 2011 Honor Roll to Penny Lampkins for inclusion on the website.

### **Chipper Days** – Don Davis (reported by Lloyd Smith)

Don Davis reported the following chipper days have been executed:

- Isabella Highlands, Sawmill road – March 20<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>
- Walker Pass - May 5
- Squirrel Valley, Mt. Mesa – May 19<sup>th</sup>
- Alta Sierra - June 2
- Hungry Gulch / Wofford Heights - June 9
- Valley View – June 16<sup>th</sup>

No other Chipper Day's are currently schedule for lack of crews and the fuel moisture's have been so low there is a possibility of starting a fire with the machinery is pretty high. In addition, all the crews have been tied up on fires.

Tom Teofilo provided some photographs of the brush piles that he has accumulated at The Lodge at Painted Rock. Don Davis will attempt to schedule a Chipper Day sometime in the late Fall. Lloyd Smith provided the photograph to Ira Peshkin (KCFD) so that he could have an understanding of the size of the job.

### **Education** – Terry Bolt

Terry Bolt shared a typical poster from the contest she conducted in the schools in late May. The poster represents the students understanding of defensible space as derived from reading "Living With Fire" and "Ready, Set, Go". Eight classrooms were provided \$50 gift certificates for their participation.

Terry Bolt, Gordon Hancock, and Christine Hancock distributed "Living With Fire" and "Ready, Set, Go" throughout the Kern River Valley.

There was considerable discussion about a collaborative campaign to inform the public on fire prevention, fire protection, and emergency services. Deputy Chief Brady said that there is a newly assigned education officer within KCFD. Terry Bolt will communicate with KCFD, USFS and BLM education specialist to formulate a

newspaper campaign. Lloyd Smith will talk with David Brinsfield or Tim Smith about who could help within the BLM.

Christine Hancock request \$45 for registration fee for the Peddlers Fair. Terry Bolt moved and Penny Lampkins seconded a motion for this expenditure.

### **Website – Penny Lampkins**

Penny Lampkins reported that she submitted several updates to the website to Tom Simons (webmaster). These updates should be complete this week. The updates did not include the 2011 Honor Roll (see Fundraising above)

### **Outreach – Lloyd Smith**

Lloyd Smith reported that KCFD was able to complete two hardship properties to avert citing property owners. The properties were identified by Capt Bill Steers (Lake Isabella) and Battalion Chief Don Davis (Kernville) where both property owners were elderly and unable to complete the defensible space requirements. In addition, KCFD crews were able to maintain eight of the defensible space demonstration lots that were created several years ago. The total cost of the KCFD effort was \$5,874.10. Upon receipt of an invoice from KCFD Lloyd Smith will prepare and invoice for concurrence by Bart Kicklighter to send to the USFS Albuquerque center. It was proposed that the difference between the \$5,874.10 and the grant amount of \$6,000.00 will be combined with some KRVFSC education funds to produce some new signs for the demonstration lots. The original signs are either gone or no longer serviceable.

### **Agency Reports –**

#### **USFS – Penelope Shibley**

Penelope Shibley (Kernville district Planner) presented information on the processes for developing and implementing the Valley View Fuel Reduction Project. She emphasized that this project took about three years from identification to initiation of work on the ground. Fortunately, foresight and good luck identified the Valley View project three years ago and about two-thirds of the project was completed before the Clear Fire in the Piute Fire Complex erupted due to a lightning strike. This USFS project, along with the initiatives of Hayward Mendenhall to get other property owners involved in creating defensible space, and a KRVFSC sponsored chipper day completed by KCFD on 16 June made a difference in the firefighting team's success in protecting the community.

Penelope Shibley also reported that implementation of a 2534 acre fuel reduction project in and around the Breckenridge community is now out for bid. She expects responses this fall and activity to start next spring. Like the Valley View project the KRVFSC needs to work with the property owners to stimulate their preparation of defensible space on their properties.

**Kern County Fire** – Deputy Chief Don Brady and Battalion Chief David Witt

Don Brady introduced his newly organized fuel reduction team led by Battalion Chief (Battalion 8) David Witt. Chief Witt will have Captain Derrick Davis focus on the south part of the county and Captain Ira Peshkin on the north part (the Kern River Valley). We look forward to working with this new team.

All of the KCFD crews have been engaged in the recent fires so progress on the fuel reduction projects has been minimal. All will resume as soon as crews are available.

**BLM** – No one from BLM was present.

**Other Reports -**

Lloyd Smith shared his insights on the California firefighting fee that will be levied to offset the cost of fire fighting in the wildland urban interface. The law is a done deal. The amount of the fee has been established at \$150 per habitable dwelling. Billing for the Fee is expected soon. It is fully expected that the law will be challenged in court (it appears as though it is a property tax which were constrained by Proposition 13) as soon as the bills are sent out. Lloyd advised members to field inquiries by letting folks know this is no longer up for debate, it is the law, though the law may be challenged in court.

**Next KRVFSC Stakeholders' Meeting:** Thursday, November 15, 2012, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Kern County building conference room, 7050 Lake Isabella Blvd, Lake Isabella, CA 93240. Minutes of meeting will be posted to: [www.krvfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.krvfiresafecouncil.org)

**Collaborative Meeting:** Thursday, 18 October 2012, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Kernville District office conference room. Checkout the “Kern Valley Fuel Reduction Projects” document at [www.krvfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.krvfiresafecouncil.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Lloyd Smith



# Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council

(Updated 8 August 212)

## What is the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council?

### Mission Statement

To provide awareness through education and information exchange, and to facilitate interagency coordination, fire protection and fire safety projects within the Kern River Valley.

### Vision

To create a wildland fire-safe community in the Kern River Valley.

### Activities

- Began in this Valley in 2000. One of the first fire safe councils formed in California.
- IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
- The Council partners with the Kern County Fire Department, U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, business community, property owners associations, civic groups and individuals.
- The Council Board of Directors includes four officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) and at least three other board members.
- The Council has completed over \$1M in grant funded fuel reduction projects. These projects clear fuel breaks around and in communities. The projects take place on private property where the activity would benefit the communities and are fully coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management projects on immediately adjacent lands. Completed projects have had demonstrated value in protecting our community and providing firefighters a safe area in which to work. The 2012 grant project includes maintenance on over 400 acres of previously completed fuel reduction projects.

- The Council has prepared Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) that cover Kern River Valley; Alta Sierra; Meyers Canyon and Kennedy Meadows. These plans define the threat and the risk and outline a spectrum of activities to make communities safer. They include programs to help homeowners make their property more fire safe and define needed community hazardous fuel breaks. The Kern River Valley Plan was a pioneering document that became a model for similar plans throughout California. It is still our primary guiding document and is updated annually. These documents and other information are available on our website at [www.krvfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.krvfiresafecouncil.org).
- Sixteen demonstration lots have been created in the Kern River Valley to illustrate what defensible space should look like.
- The Council maintains educational programs presented to civic groups, property owners associations and neighborhoods.
- Wildfire Awareness Week (usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May) is highlighted with “Living With Wildfire” or “Ready, Set, Go” distributed as newspaper inserts and other locations throughout the valley. A Home Ignition Zone Workshop event with home assessments has been presented. Wildfire education and poster contests have been conducted in the elementary and middle schools. The council participates in a Kern County Supervisors proclamation for Wildfire Awareness Week each year.
- The Council has installed four roadside signs leading into the Kern River Valley providing seasonally rotating messages on wildfire/home fire prevention and protection reminders.
- The Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council was able to purchase a chipper with funds provided by the Bureau of Land Management in 2002. The chipper is maintained and operated by the Kern County Fire Department. The council works with property owner associations, businesses and neighborhood groups to schedule chipper days, free to the residents, to assist with property clearance and creation of defensible space. Typically six chipper day events are completed each year. Go to [www.krvfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.krvfiresafecouncil.org) to request a chipper day.
- The Council maintains a website with the Community Wildfire Protection Plans, tips on how to create and maintain defensible space, other educational information, minutes, and contacts/links. Please visit our website at [www.krvfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.krvfiresafecouncil.org).
- The Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council is an all volunteer non-profit organization. Some fundraising is done for operating expenses and to support all of the above activities, except the grant funded projects. The

grant funded projects are administered by a grant funded professional forester and completed through a contract arrangement with Kern County Fire Department. The council and Kern County Fire Department make up the matching dollars required for the grants.

- A collaborative of the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council, U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Kern County Fire Department meets annually to identify and fully coordinate future hazardous fuel reduction/mitigation projects, prioritize the projects, and incorporate them into the Kern River Valley Fuel Reduction Plan. This plan is also posted to the website [www.krvfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.krvfiresafecouncil.org).
- Meetings of the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council are held quarterly (February, May, August, and November) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in the Kern County building at 7050 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella, CA. Board meetings start at 8:30 AM, while Stakeholders meeting run from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

## **What can you do for the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council?**

Helping on the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council can be a satisfying experience, knowing that you have contributed to creating a fire safe environment that has and will help to preserve the beauty of our community and protect our homes.

### Jobs To Be Done

The following are tasks that members of the Board (and perhaps other stakeholders) need to accomplish in carrying out the mission:

#### **President**

Duties of the President fall in two broad areas, perhaps of comparable importance: seeing to it that the work of the Council is completed successfully, and insuring the welfare and continuity of the organization.

Only under special circumstances should the President carry out the work of the Council, that responsibility lies with committee chairmen/women and committee members. The President, with the concurrence of the Board, provides general guidance for the work of the committees in accomplishing the Council's mission, as well as oversight of that work. He/she becomes more directly involved with defining new initiatives and may on a one-time basis lead such activities. In general, however, his/her role is to facilitate the work of the committees.

The President is also the officer most directly responsible for the long-term health and welfare of the organization, as well as its recognition in the community. To this end, the President oversees and assists in the raising of funds, and otherwise sees to the adequacy of financial support for the Council's work. He leads in recruiting board members and officers and committee chairmen/women. All board members bear some responsibility for these efforts, but it is the President's responsibility for the success of these efforts.

The President represents the Council and its interests within the community. This involves attendance at the meetings such as Kern River Valley Revitalization, the chambers of conference, service clubs, and other like organizations. From time to time, this may require presentations to these groups on the Council's activities and accomplishments. The President is also responsible for representing the Council to the California Fire Safe Council and the Kern Fire Safe Council, including attending meetings of the latter and accepting assignments from the latter on an ad hoc basis.

The President also prepares agendas for the Council's regular meetings and presides at those meetings. He/she appoints committee chairmen/women, with the Board's concurrence.

Some specific tasks may be delegated to other Board members at his/her discretion, but responsibility cannot be delegated.

### **Vice President**

As is usual the primary role for the Vice President is fulfilling the responsibilities of the President in his/her absence or as his alternate. The Vice President identifies current topics and makes arrangements of pertinent speakers at the council meetings.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary prepares and keeps minutes of all meetings of the Council and its Board and receives and sends correspondence to or from the Council. The Secretary maintains permanent files of all correspondence to or from the Council. These files should be transferred as new individuals assume the secretarial responsibilities. These files may be in paper or digital format. The Secretary also maintains a calendar of events, a current contact list, and a list of Board member's action items. The Secretary files necessary documentation for non-profit status, incorporation, business licenses with the California Secretary of State and Attorney General, and maintains the status of our Dun & Bradstreet Number and Central Contract Center for federal government contracting. The secretary updates or maintains the Councils bylaws.

## **Treasurer**

The Treasurer receives and disburses all funds of the Council. He/she prepares an annual budget. When approved by the Board this budget provides guidance for the disbursement of funds, with referral to the Council only in exceptional circumstances. The Treasurer presents a monthly financial report to the Board at its regular meetings.

Working with the Grants Administrator, the Treasurer assures that grant funds are appropriately separated and accounted for, and disbursed only within the terms of the grant.

The Treasurer maintains permanent files of all financial records of the Council, either in paper or digital format. These files should be transferred as new individuals assume the Treasurer duties. The Treasurer is responsible for filing all reports and making payments required for the IRS and FTB, or supervises a paid accountant's preparation and submission of such materials.

## **Committees and Committee Chairmen/women**

**Fundraising.** Raises funds for the general operating costs of the council. Because of its criticality, the President/Vice President is an ex-officio participating member of this committee, if not its chairman/woman.

**Grants.** Pursues and manages grants from federal and state agencies for fire safety planning and fuel reduction projects. Because of its centrality to the Council's mission, the President is an ex-officio member of this committee.

**Chipper Days.** Organizes and coordinates Chipper days in the Kern River Valley that will significantly reduce the fuel load on private properties.

**Education.** Develops educational material and events to promote fire safe awareness and attitudes among our Kern River Valley constituents.

**Speaker's Bureau.** Organizes and coordinates presentations to businesses, organizations, and groups in the Kern River Valley to enhance the common understanding of the KRVFSC, defensible space, and wildland fire protection for homes. The President will participate in some of these presentations.

**Publicity.** Promote the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council as a force in the community that makes a difference in producing a fire safe community. This committee works closely with the President to insure that all of the activities are represented consistent with the guidelines of the granting agencies.

**Website.** Working with the webmaster, maintains the Council's website to

provide information and access to the Council's services, to provide information about the council and its programs, and to solicit volunteer effort and funds to support the Council's work.

**Can you too contribute to the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council?**