



Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council Stakeholders Meeting

Attendance: Lori Acton, Terry Bolt, Derrick Davis, Don Davis, Dave Freeland, Tom Gelder, Christine Hancock, Gordon Hancock, Bart Kicklighter, Penny Lampkins, Mike Lanza, Hayward Mendenhall, Patrick Pontes, Sharon Rooney, Lloyd Smith, George Stahl, Ernie Villa, Don Washington, and Steve Watkins

President Lloyd Smith called the meeting to order. All attendees introduced themselves and the agenda for the meeting was reviewed.

President's Comments –

President Smith reviewed the Policies and Procedures Update. He mentioned that he had integrated the drug-free workplace requirements into it. He then discussed the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and the Kern River Valley Fuel Reduction Projects which have been completed and were available for distribution. Lastly, he talked about the Public Workshop that was to be held on February 29th regarding the Kern Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is part of the Office of Emergency Services which is part of the Kern County Fire Department. He encouraged anyone interested to attend.

Treasurer's Report –

Attached are February 2012 reports. **Please note that the bank statement & reconciliation will now include a print out of the check register.**

Received:

\$5,025.00 From CA Fire Safe Council for the [Lake Isabella](#) grant

\$10,045.00 From CA Fire Safe Council for the Mt Shadow grant

\$62,295.00 From USDA Forest Service for the Alta Sierra / Wofford Heights grant.

Transferred for Operating Expenses:

\$2,350.00 From the Lake Isabella grant

\$2,500.00 From the Mt Shadow grant

Paid:

\$89,587.97 to Kern County Fire Dept for the Mt Shadows grant

\$78,752.00 to Kern County Fire Dept for the Lake Isabella grant

\$57,622.87 to Kern County Fire Dept for the Alta Sierra / Wofford Hgts grant

\$4,360.65 to Ken Delfino for the Alta Sierra / Wofford Hgts grant

\$3,255.00 to Patrick Pontes for the Lake Isabella grant

\$2,475.00 to Patrick Pontes for the Mt Shadows grant

Form 1099 was completed & sent to Patrick Pontes. There was no need to send one to Ken Delfino as the amount paid him did not exceed the limit. Form 1096 was completed and sent to the Internal Revenue Service.

Amy Freeland has completed her financial review of 2009, 2010 & 2011. She will submit her written report Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

Time spent on council business: 8 hours / mileage for council business: 4

Election of 2012 Board of Directors –

President Smith discussed how crucial it was to have a board of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. The current board consists of eight volunteers. We can have as many as fifteen. President Smith had contacted all the current board members and all had agreed to serve another year. On a motion made by Sharon Rooney, which was seconded by Tom Gelder, the current board was unanimously re-elected.

Committee Reports –

Grants - Patrick G. Pontes for Ed Royce

Lake Isabella Project- According to Derrick Davis most of the cutting work has been completed, and as of today, no burning has taken place. The crew is waiting for more moisture and better burn conditions. Approximately 35 acres have been completed to date.

KCFD has billed the full amount for the project, so the remainder of their work will go toward the Match. KCFD has \$9,772 remaining to meet their Match commitments. We have 2 remaining Chipper Day Events on the project. The FSC has met their Match commitments.

The 5th Quarter Accomplishment Report ends January 31st and is due February 29th.

Mountain Shadows Project- Derrick Davis reported they have completed about 47 acres on the project and about a month's work on cleanup. This is 6 acres more than proposed. We have one remaining Chipper Day to complete on the project. KCFD will send an Invoice for final payment later this month.

KCFD has \$15,463 remaining to meet their Match commitments. The FSC has met their Match commitments.

CFSC News/Update— All Fire Safe Councils received a “warning notice” from CFSC that the Match dollars on 2011 projects are not sufficient to cover commitments based on our Project Payment Schedules. Each Quarter we project how much “Match” we anticipate we will accomplish on each project, and overall it is far below the commitment amount CFSC reported to the FS. If the CFSC is not in the ball-park, the FS will withhold Quarterly Payments to FSCs. Our Lake Isabella Project fell below our projected Match, but fortunately we received our final payment.

In the notice CFSC states, “Match contributions must be necessary for the project, documented, amounts claimed must be verifiable and reasonable. Estimating the amounts received is not OK”. We should re-affirm our “Match” approach on Quarterly Meetings and Chipper Days at the February Board Meeting.

Cathy Brooke, our CFSC Grant Manager, passed away recently. A special celebration was held at her home this past Saturday (2/11/12).

Regarding 2012 grant projects, we received approval of our grant proposal to maintain those fuel reduction projects that we had done in the past. We are waiting to hear from the Sierra Nevada conservancy regarding our proposal. If we get it, it will likely only be useable in the Greenhorn Mountain area.

Patrick Pontes discussed the issue of the Council contributing more to the matching requirement since the State is short on its commitment dollars.

Fundraising – Tom Gelder

Total contributions received in 2011 was \$9496.00

Southern California Edison and State Farm Insurance contributed a total of \$7500 between them.

Chipper Days – Don Davis

We have received 2 requests for Chipper Days through the FSC website.

Penny Lampkin OF GMPOA (Alta Sierra) was contacted to get their preferred date.

All parties have been notified of their scheduled date.

Following is the calendar so far:

Walker Pass - May 5

Alta Sierra - June 2

Hungry Gulch / Wofford Heights - June 9

Another article for the paper to announce these dates will be prepared and we hope to get a response from those areas that haven't contacted us yet or a bigger response from areas like Wofford Heights.

Education – Terry Bolt

Terry wants to focus some effort on juvenile fire starters, especially in the middle school grades. She wants to coordinate her efforts with the County. Both the Forest Service and BLM are prepared to help. Terry discussed the idea of creating radio spots. Up to now, the radio station owner has not been responsive. She will work on getting some PSAs prepared. The Ready, Set, Go brochure was discussed. It appears that the Fire Department is moving ahead with this project and could use our financial help. It seems that distributing them in restaurants is a good place. Discussion was had about having banners in local parades and also more interaction with the Chamber of Commerce. These efforts will be pursued in the coming year.

Outreach – Christine and Gordon Hancock

Discussion was had about how difficult it is to access need for hardship cases. We still have money from last year's RAC grant that hasn't been used. Ernie Villa agreed to help Gordon and Christine to evaluate the requests that people were making.

Agency Reports –

Kern County Fire – Derrick Davis

Derrick discussed that the Mountain Shadows and Lake Isabella Projects were completed. Some burning still needs to take place up in Alta Sierra. Derrick discussed the various personnel issues that were affecting the Department. With the low snow pack, he predicted that we would be in a Stage 3 drought by summer.

BLM – Steve Watkins

The BLM was trying to burn fuel piles above Isabella Heights and Sawmill Road. They were also hoping to treat more near Wagay and Old State roads. As for new projects, Alta Sierra was a high priority and then in the Lake area nearer to May. They are presently short staffed.

Next KRVFSC Stakeholders' Meeting: Thursday, May 17, 2012, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Supervisor McQuiston's conference room, 7050 Lake Isabella Blvd, Lake Isabella, CA 93240. Minutes of meeting will be posted to: www.krvfiresafecouncil.org