



Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2012

Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council Board Meeting

Virtual Attendance: Terry Bolt, Ken Delfino, Tom Gelder, Christine Hancock, Gordon Hancock, Patrick Pontes, Sharon Rooney, Lloyd Smith

President's Activities:

- Coordinated with Bart Kicklighter, Forest Service FMO, to create defensible space demonstrations on selected private properties that are highly visible and for which a hardship situation has been identified, in compliance with county ordinances. Captain Bill Steers (KCFD Lake Isabella and BC Don Davis (KCFD Kernville) have each identified and examined properties that they believe fulfill the criteria for hardship. In fact, they believe these property owners will be cited if clearance is not completed. Since this is the last season for this grant (project completion date 31 December 2012) I requested that we initiate these two projects as soon as possible in order to complete them in compliance with the 15 June defensible space deadline. Other commitments and costs needed to be considered, but it appeared that these projects are doable. As for the defensible space demonstration aspects of this grant, I asked if it would be acceptable for KCFD to maintain some of the existing defensible space demonstration lots with these grant funds. We could also build and install some new signs for those lots. Maintenance of existing demonstration lots would come after we have completed the hardship cases (only two defined right now). We could wait on the maintenance until after the defensible space compliance period of 15 August, and then if there is still some funds remaining use them for the maintenance and signs. Bart Kicklighter's response was "Yes, I concur on ALL propositions. We need to spend this grant money and we need to help these hardship cases. I am fine with monies being spent to maintain the current demo sites and refurbish the signs." The next challenge was KCFD. Derrick responded that he had never seen the properties and did not know where they were. I referred him to Bill Steers and Don Davis, reminding him that they had personally assessed the properties and the situation and made the recommendation. Derrick said he would look them over and see what he could do. I got another response from Deputy Chief Don Brady; "We will be happy to do the projects. We will talk to Capt. Steers. We just didn't realize that locations had been identified. It's not a problem. Thanks Lloyd." I will continue to track this item.

- Reviewed the final invoices for the 2011 Mt. Shadows and Lake Isabella projects submitted by Patrick Pontes and KCFD. Concurred with the appropriateness of the invoices and directed Sharon Rooney to pay them. We are expecting a final invoice from Patrick Pontes once he has submitted the final reports that were due 31 May. This will close out the 2011 projects.
- Requested that KCFD (Derrick Davis) meet soon with Ken Delfino to examine the 2012 grant project sites and come to a common understanding of what is to be accomplished. The KCFD (Derrick) responses have been that he is too busy to do this important task. Indeed he was away on a fire (I presume the George Fire in Sequoia), but he has now agreed to doing this on 26 June. I will attempt to participate in this assessment as acting Grant Committee to insure that we have a common understanding of what is to be accomplished.
- Received several emails after our 17 May meeting from people who had contacted me about participating in the KRVFSC but now saying that they got distracted and missed the meeting. This has been very frustrating, and seems to be associated with individual home/property owners who want something for themselves.
- Prepared and submitted an My Opinion column to the Kern Valley Sun on what the KRVFSC has done for the Kern River Valley and asking what residents can do for the valley. The article was published in the 30 May addition of the Kern Valley Sun.

Treasurer's Report – Sharon Rooney:

The reports for June 2012 are attached.

- A check for \$10.00 was paid to the California Franchise Tax Board for 990.
- A check for \$75.00 was paid to Attorney General of California for annual registration fee.
- A check for \$380.00 was paid to H & R Block for the 2011 taxes.
- A check for \$1,729.00 & \$2,093.00 was paid to Patrick Pontes for Lake Isabella & Mt Shadow grants.
- A check for \$6,067.00 was paid to Kern County Fire Dept for Mt Shadow grant.
- A check for \$50.00 was paid to Kernville Chamber of Commerce for annual dues.
- A check for \$551.12 was paid to Patrick Pontes for Mt Shadow grant.
- The Lake Isabella and Mt Shadow grants have both been closed.

Time spent on council business: 4 hours

Mileage for council business: 3 miles

Committee Activity Reports:

Grants – Patrick Pontes submitted his letter of resignation, which is attached, along with a letter describing the files he gave to the Council and a letter to the Kern County Fire Department

Fundraising – Tom Gelder:

- No activity to report

Chipper Days –Don Davis:

We had all the scheduled Chipper Days as follows:

- May 19 - Squirrel Valley - around 20 properties participated.
- June 2 - Alta Sierra, due to the other chipper activity going on over the last month, Crew 7 drove all the streets and chipped the piles they found.
- June 9 - Hungry Gulch / Mountain Shadows, Crew 82 did these areas.
Due to an omission on my part, I failed to include the properties up on Sawmill Rd. when giving the instructions to Crew 82 and didn't realize it until days later.
Will try to reschedule the work up there ASAP. I already notified the Kernville Fire Station of the piles so they wouldn't be cited for them.
- June 16- Saddle Springs, Crew 7 started work up there. Not sure how much was completed. (As per Hayward Mendenhall – “Everything went great on Sat. June 16th. on Saddle Springs/Valley View. The crew did a wonderful job and chipped over a half mile of piles.”)
- I got a message from Donna, the hardship case at 412 Rio Vista, Kernville, because nothing has been done to her property. I went by today and it still looks about the same. I gave all the info to Derrick a couple weeks back so I'll re-check on the plans for that. (I also notified the station of this address not to cite) I might be able to combine the Sawmill chipping and Rio Vista work into one day, if that's possible.

(total for all: 4 hours, 35 miles match)

Website – No activity

Education/Speakers Bureau- Nothing to report

Next KRVFSC Board Meeting: Thursday, July 19, 2012, visa e-mail