



**Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council
On-Line Board Meeting
Thursday, October 20, 2011**

Attendance: Terry Bolt, Don Davis, Tom Gelder, Christine Hancock, Gordon Hancock, Sharon Rooney, Ed Royce, Lloyd Smith with reports by Patrick Pontes, Ken Delfino and Sharon Rooney

The meeting was held via e-mail reports submitted by Board members and necessary votes were taken by polling Board members for their opinions.

President's Report – Lloyd Smith

- Announced the annual collaborative meeting to discuss and prioritize the fuel reduction projects in the Kern River Valley for 20 October (Thursday) from 1000 to 1200 in the Forest Service conference room in Kernville. The charter for the collaborative and the agenda for this year's meeting have been attached for your reference, plus the latest version of the Fuel Reduction Projects Plan, which is an appendix in the CWPP, as it is the basis for formulating our 2012 plan and 2013 project proposals.
- The collaborative (KCFD, USFS, BLM and KRVFSC) working together has demonstrated the value in coordinating projects to obtain the greatest benefit from each project. The collaborative and the Fuel Reduction Project Plan provide a comprehensive view of the fuel reduction efforts throughout the Kern River Valley, and provide the Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council with a proposal strategy that has been extremely successful in our bids for California Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse grants.
- Each agency provides valued inputs in this process and allows us to concentrate our total efforts on what is most important. Fuel reduction as a means of fire protection serves as a critical element in protecting our communities.
- Contacted Chris Scott regarding graffiti on the road sign at Borel, requesting his assistance in replacing the sign.

Treasurer's Report – Sharon Rooney

The following grant money was received from California Fire Safe Council:

- \$61,000 for the Mt Shadow Grant
- \$51,700 for the Lake Isabella Grant
- A check for \$350.00 was paid to Alliant Insurance Service for the Volunteer Accident Insurance Policy.
- A check for \$1,288.11 was paid to Alliant Insurance Service for the Liability Insurance Policy.

Time spent on council business: 2 hours / mileage for council business: 0

Grants – Ed Royce, Chair

October has been a busy month.

- 2010 Projects: The 2010 Burma Interagency Extension Project and Bodfish III Projects are complete, and the periods of performance ended 30 September. Final reporting to the CFSC is in process.
- No report on the Alta Sierra-Wofford Heights Project, three-year project.
- 2011 Projects: About 25% of the Lake Isabella Project has been completed. No start on the Mountain Shadows Project yet. All clearances have been received and we are allowed to start work at any time. The period of performance on these projects ends 31 May, 2012. Getting this work completed on time may turn into a problem, depending on the availability of crews and weather permitting work over the winter and spring.
- Patrick Pontes' report is attached.
- 2012 Projects: Our proposal to the state FSC for maintenance on established fuel breaks has been tentatively approved for funding. Approval will be final once some maps and routine contractual paper work is completed. Our proposal was one of 39 funded for a total of \$4.1 million, out of 196 submitted for a total of \$16.5 million. There is a 50% match requirement with this project. No other Kern County proposals were approved. Good work Ken !!!! And thanks to KCFD for committing to the large majority of the match requirement !!!!
- We have also submitted a pre-proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for 2012 funding. Staff review of the pre-proposal has been encouraging, and a full application will be submitted by the deadline of January 23, 2012. The project would create additional fuel break(s) in or around Alta Sierra and fund two years of chipper days there. Our earlier pre-proposals to the SNC would have covered more of the Kern River Valley, but we learned that this year's SNC proposals are to be limited to communities in the mixed conifer forest, so only Alta Sierra qualifies. There is NO match requirement with SNC grants. This is the last year the SNC expects to fund fuel reduction projects. The KRVFSC Board will need to approve this proposal at the November meeting.
- Ken Delfino has explored possible funding from the state CDF and has concluded that it is unlikely we would receive any monies.
- Collaboration Group Meeting and Out-year Proposals: The Collaboration Group met 20 October -- thanks to the Forest Service for hosting the meeting. This group involves representatives of the BLM, Forest Service, KCFD, and the KRVFSC. For those not familiar with this group, its charter is attached. (Individual representative names are out of date.) The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information on current agency plans for fuel reduction activities, specifically to update the consolidated interagency project listing for in the CWPP. An additional purpose was to propose new projects for KRVFSC to seek

funding for and to prioritize such projects for possible 2013 grant funding.

BLM Bakersfield regional office manager Tim Smith briefed relevant parts of the BLM's new Resource Management Plan now in public draft review. The main focus of the plan is trails and recreation, also mineral leasing, and Tim went over these topics quickly. The plan continues BLM's fire prevention and fire fighting activities largely unchanged, including specific commitment to continued support of fire safe councils. (The region extends from Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties to Madera County to the crest of the Sierra, so there are several FSCs in its jurisdiction.) One change is that the BLM (like the USFS) now proposes wildland fire use -- turning some naturally ignited wildfires into managed fires. This would be in the Domeland and South Sierra Wilderness areas. The BLM had no changes in its fuel reduction projects planned on BLM land. Also attending for the BLM were Steve Watkins and John Moreno.

The Forest Service has an extensive program of fuel reduction on their lands and has made substantial revisions to their plans. Prior to the meeting Penelope Shibley had updated the CWPP project list with these changes, greatly expediting meeting progress. Also attending for the Forest Service was John Caruthers. The Forest Service is funding KCFD directly for fuel reduction work along two Alta Sierra escape routes (one project through the RAC). There were no other updates from KCFD, represented by Don Brady and Derrick Davis.

Ed Royce reviewed the changing grant funding environment, particularly in the light of declining federal support through the state FSC. Derrick Davis pointed out that with the direct funding the Forest Service is providing, the KRV will have support for continuing fuel reduction work, even in the absence of FSC funding. After some discussion, it was decided to recommend that the KRVSFSC prepare a grant proposal for the 2013 cycle, on the chance that the state FSC will have funds for this cycle. KCFD agreed to support a match up to 50% if required. The group prioritized the out year projects on private land in the CWPP and agreed to recommend a single proposal that will combine the Plater Road, Dutch Flat, and Walker Pass roadside brushing projects. The KRVSFSC Board will need to approve this proposal at the November meeting.

The semi-final updated project listing is attached.

Chipper Days – Don Davis, Chair

- Contacted again by Bill Holcomb of Bodfish about chipping the brush on a lot he had purchased, adjacent to his house, when he got it cut and prepared. Met him there and discussed the chipper day requirements and his, and the crew's, scheduling. We have set up a tentative date for the crew to complete the project on Nov. 7 or 8. (25 miles and 2 hrs. match)
- Received some of the post chipper days info from Hungry Gulch and Alta Sierra Chipper Days and will include in next month's report.
- No chipper days activity to report.

Fundraising – Tom Gelder

- No activity to report.

Website – Ed Royce, Chair

- No activity in the last month.

Education/ Speaker's Bureau – Terry Bolt, Chair

- Attended the Peddler's Faire on October 1st.

Outreach – Christine and Gordon Hancock

- Attended the Peddler's Faire on Oct. 1st, but did not attract much interest. Terry Bolt received seven donations from our local business for our free raffle. They had to answer a true or false question for their ticket. Terry made the signs and provided the questions. It was fun for a few people.
- Regarding the RAC grant, played phone tag with Ernie Villa but could not connect.

Next KRVFSC Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2011, in Supervisor McQuiston's Conference Room in Lake Isabella. Board meeting at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Stakeholders' meeting at 9:30 a.m.

KERN RIVER VALLEY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

GRANT STATUS UPDATE

October 12, 2011

2010 Bodfish III Fuel Reduction Project-

Same as last month, the remaining tasks are the final Invoice from KCFD and the project will be closed out. The 8th Quarter Accomplishment Report and Close-out Report will be completed when we zero out the account. The Grant Period for this project ended September 2011.

Please continue to keep track of your "Match" hours and mileage for the 2011 project Accomplishment Reports.

2010 Burma Interagency Extension Project-

The remaining tasks to complete are the final KCFD Invoice and payment. The Final Accomplishment Report and Close-out Report will be sent when the project is closed out. The Grant Period for this project also ended 9/30/11.

Again, continue to keep track of your "Match" meeting hours and mileage for the 2011 Quarterly Reports.

2011 Lake Isabella Project- According to Derrick the fuelbreak is about 25% complete (about 9 acres). I plan to take progress photos next week.

2011 Mountain Shadows Project- Project is the same status as last month; we are ready to proceed when crew(s) are available. The Grant Period for these projects ends May 31, 2012.

CFSC News/Update— Last May, during Cathy's site-visits, she suggested we review our Volunteer Match cost rates as they may be low and we could be short changing ourselves. Penelope (FS) shared with us the Forest Service's latest Volunteer rates, and we were low. We have revised the rates and will provide the new figures at our next meeting.

Our Grant Manager Cathy Brooke is in the hospital recovering from surgery...we wish her the best and a speedy recovery....

Patrick

Patrick G. Pontes

Kern River Valley FSC, Grant Administrator