



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
Meeting Summary
July 12th, 2006
Santa Clara County Fire Department Headquarters

- I. Officers and Directors Meeting – 10:00 AM
- II. SCFSC Regular Meeting – Call to Order 10:35AM – Michael Newburn
- III. Introductions – Michael Hamer, Santa Clara Valley Water District
– Moe Kumre, Santa Clara County Hazardous Vegetation
- IV. Reports
 - a. Officers and Directors Meeting – Michael Newburn reported that our Council Coordinator will send out the agenda the week prior to the meeting. Jan Cokely was authorized at our last meeting to use subcontractors and will subcontract with Hayley Durham, her daughter, who recently returned from Stony Brook University.
 - b. Meeting Summary – Stu Farwell moved to approve the Meeting Summary for June posted on our Web Site. Kenn Weeks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - c. Treasurer's Report - Allan Thompson distributed the Treasurer's Report showing a total of \$30,829.39 in our bank accounts at the end of the second quarter on June 30, 2006. The current total in our bank accounts is \$24,619.39. Since the June meeting, a grant payment was received from the DHS and a new grant of \$5,000 from SCVWD has been added to the expected grant receipts. The invoice from Dudek Associates has not been received and is expected to be less than \$1,600. Kenn Weeks moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and New Expenditures; Bob Furtado seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Allan provided a written summary of the CWPP grant status and addressed the fact that Dave Athey and CDF are involved with several fires and it is keeping him from doing some of the surveys that they want to do. The need to secure permits for grading of fire breaks in the Croy area was discussed in addition to some delays in completing month 2 tasks, but overall progress is being made on both the Croy and East Foothills CWPPs.

Allan asked for a motion to approve approximately \$50 so he could attend the California Fire Safe Council meeting on July 20th in Oakland. Rick Parfitt made the motion and it was seconded by Jerry Serpa. The motion passed unanimously.

Allan explained the deferred revenue model used for Federal Grant funding. When Federal Grant money is received before it is needed, the revenue is deferred until the quarter where it is spent. Currently, out of the \$36K in federal grants monies received, \$7,500 has been deferred until next quarter.

- d. Coordinator's Report – Jan Cokely handed out the Coordinator's Report and talked about contracting with Jon Canapary to conduct a higher level test survey on one or two zip codes to develop a Wildfire Risk index.

On current and new grant applications Jan reported that a grant made in April for \$5,000 was unanimously approved at the SCVWD's Board of Directors meeting where Dave Athey and Jan attended to answer questions and get final approval. Michael Hamer, Manager Security & Emergency Services, SCVWD will be attending our next couple of meeting to support our ongoing efforts. Jan is continuing to work on another grant with State Farm insurance for \$2,500 and is working with their new Public Affairs Officer. As suggested by Juan Diaz, Jan is asking the SJFD Local 230 Firefighters for another grant of \$5,000. Jan noted that these local grants provide matching monies that help secure federal grants.

Jan identified two new community outreach efforts that she would like to participate in. The first is Saturday July 22nd, 10AM – 4PM at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. The event is sponsored by the American Red Cross. Jan plans to have a table for our Fire Safe display and pass out literature. She has invited other members of SCFSC to attend and help staff the booth. Booth set-up will be at 8AM. The second outreach effort is the UVAS ice-cream social on July 29th, at UVAS County Park, 12-3pm. This is a fund raiser for the UVAS volunteer fire department. Jan asked for a motion to approve these two outreach programs and funding of \$50 to cover her travel cost to the July 20th California Fire Safe Council meeting in Oakland. Allan made a motion to approve the outreach programs and travel expenses. There was a second by Kenn and it passed unanimously.

- V. Round Table: 11:15AM, Michael opened the floor for the round table.
- Allan Thompson reported that there was a lot of interest in the FireSafe literature at the Mount Hamilton Range Improvement Association meeting. The featured speaker was a captain from the CDF Smith Creek Station.
 - Rick Parfitt noted his participation in the NBC special on Wildfire planning for the SF Bay Area. He also noted that there is only one small neighborhood based Fire Safe effort currently in Santa Cruz County.
 - Kenn Weeks, UVAS Volunteers, described local efforts to build large shaded fuel breaks. One pass has been completed and PG&E has cleared 80% of the high voltage lines and are starting to look at low voltage clearing. He said Chris Hughes, PG&E, has asked members of the UVAS volunteers to report problem areas to the Western Environmental company.
 - Mike Hamer of SCVWD commented that watershed protection is a primary concern. He mentioned the two recent fires in the Lexington watershed which seem to occur every 20 years and the need to educate people about the importance of fire prevention.
 - Bob Furtado of SCVWD described some of the concerns and issues around weed abatement around the Santa Teresa Hills. He mentioned a fire from 4 years ago that burned down power lines. He would like to see people clear more of the brush around their homes and noted that many of the homes still have wood shingles. He also mentioned his work in Milpitas along the levees with crews using hand tools to clear brush. He

is working closely with Ray Moreno in the County's weed abatement program.

- Joan Loeffler, home owner, reported on the success of the Montego home owner's association to clear 100' of brush away from fences and homes with some dead tree removal. She was thankful for the grant from the SCFSC and would like to get advice on a maintenance program. Allan Thompson referred her to the San Jose Fire Department for help.
- Andy Gere, SJWC, had no new reports
- Stu Farwell, Los Altos Hills County Fire District, reported that they brought-in 500 goats to the Los Altos Hills area to clear a 1 mile fire break 30-50" wide. It took about 8-9 days and cost about \$13,000. The biggest expense was hauling in and hauling out the goats. The goats are contained by battery operated electronic fences.
- Nic Gluck, UVAS Volunteers, reported that they were supported by CDF on two structure fires, one in UVAS and the other in the Loma Chiquita Area. Their pancake fund raiser was a big success and the proceeds were used to help purchase a new AV and two emergency kits.
- Bill Smith, Los Altos Hills/Byrne Hill Preserve, thanked Stu Farwell and the goats for getting through early this year.
- Jerry Serpa, Spring Valley VFD, reported that they were called-in by CDF to assist on a wildfire in the Henry Coe area about three weeks ago. There was no access to water and their light vehicles with smaller tanks (2000 gallons) were able to get in quickly and help limit the spread of the fire. Michael Newburn noted that their crews came-in shortly behind.
- The meeting closed with a discussion of the 100' defensible space and Allan Thompson request for input on SCFSC literature. Dirk Mattern stated that the CDF web material on the 100' space is useful, but he was uncertain where it will be required. Allan noted that CDF is promoting 100' and SJ Fire is promoting it even in areas where it is not required. Allan also observed that Living with Fire has both 30' and 100'. Jerry Serpa noted that it is likely to be implemented as 30' cleared space and 70' of defensible space.

VI. New Business: None

VII. Next Meeting. Wednesday, August 9th, Location to be announced

VIII. Meeting Adjourned: 11:48 AM

Officers/Directors Present: Dirk Mattern, Michael Newburn, Rick Parfitt, Allan Thompson

Members and Visitors: Jan Cokely, Stu Farwell, Bob Furtado, Andy Gere, Nik Gluck, Michael Hamer, Moe Kumre, Joan Loeffler, Jerry Serpa, Bill Smith, Judy Thompson, Kenn Weeks

This meeting was preceded by an Officers and Directors Meeting from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM. The attendees were Jan Cokely, Dirk Mattern, Michael Newburn, Rick Parfitt and Allan Thompson.