



## **Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council Stakeholders Meeting 21 February 2013**

### **Attendance**

Tom Curran, Terry Bolt, Abby Bolt, Lloyd Smith, Hayward Mendenhall, Ken Delfino, Penny Lampkins, Gordon Hancock, Sharon Rooney, Ira Peshkin, David Witt, Judy Hyatt, Dave Brinsfield, Mike Lanza, and George Stahl

President Lloyd Smith called the meeting to order at 0930. All attendees introduced themselves and the agenda for the meeting was reviewed. The attendance roster was circulated for corrections and additions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Sharon Rooney also presented the following transactions: Received \$73,000 from CFSC for KRV Fuel Break and Hazard Reduction Grant; Billed \$31,950 for completion of 21.3 acres on the Alta Sierra and Wofford Heights grant from the USFS; Paid invoices for 128 acres of the CFSC 2013 grant completed of \$42,263.04 to KCFD, and \$3,219.20 to Ken Delfino; Paid \$169.90 to Zephyr Assoc for our Web Page.

### **President's Comments**

It was announced that Tom Gelder will resign his position as a board member and as secretary as he is returning to work out of the area.

The Stakeholders elected the following members to the 2013 board of directors Lloyd Smith, Terry Bolt, Sharon Rooney, Don Davis, Gordon Hancock, Christine Hancock, Penny Lampkins, Hayward Mendenhall, and Judy Hyatt on a vote moved by Penny Lampkins and seconded by Sharon Rooney. The vote was unanimous.

### **Committee Activity Reports**

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

Lloyd Smith reported that the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and KRV Fuel Reduction Projects plan have been updated and provided CDROM to Penney Lampkins to be staged on website, KCFD, USFS, and BLM.

Ken Delfino reported the 8<sup>th</sup> quarterly reporting and invoicing for the Alta Sierra and Wofford Heights project included completion of an additional 21.3 acres completed along Old State Road and Rancheria Road. Pile burning around the community was

also completed. Invoicing has been sent to USFS for \$31,950. Work on this project is on track to be completed by 30 September 2013.

Ken Delfino reported the 5<sup>th</sup> quarterly report and invoicing for the 2012 CFSC maintenance project included completion of 128 acres of the planned total 338 acres. KCFD has invoiced and been paid. Work on this project is on track to be completed by June 2013. The 50% match requirement for this grant has been fulfilled.

Lloyd Smith reported that the RAC grant for fuel removal in the Breckenridge community has been approved by the USFS. Tom Curran will provide Lloyd with a map so that a Request for Proposals can be initiated. At least two bidders will be contacted. It is expected to provide the first of the roll-off containers to the area in early May. The containers will be removed when filled and replaced with a empty container. This rotation will continue through July 2013.

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

No report and no activity. Tom Gelder provided the 2012 Honor Roll to Penny Lampkins for inclusion on the website.

#### **Chipper Days** – Don Davis

Don Davis reported that KCFD is expecting to be ready to support chipper days starting 1 May 2013. He is anticipating chipper days in Walker Pass, Squirrel Valley, and Alta Sierra. Requests for a chipper day should be submitted on the form available on the KRVFSC website.

#### **Education** – Terry Bolt

Terry Bolt was able to get a few FIRE TIPS published in the Kern Valley Sun, but it has been sporadic. She will investigate the cost of having weekly FIRE TIPS published and placed in a consistent location. She is planning to support a program in the schools along with the USFS. She will have a poster contest with awards. She mentioned that handing our *Living With Fire* has been a success and would like to do that again.

#### **Website** – Penny Lampkins

Penney Lampkins reported that she submitted several updates for the website to Tom Simons (webmaster). These updates should be complete this week.

#### **Outreach** – Lloyd Smith

Lloyd Smith reported that the locations of all of the original Demonstration Lots have been identified. KCFD will reevaluate those locations for changes (building, owner willingness to have sign, etc.) and install the new metal signs. One of the new signs is

up across the street from the Bodfish Post Office. KCFD Crew 7 will store the remaining signs for use as replacements.

## **Agency Reports –**

### **USFS – Abby Bolt**

The fuel reduction projects at Valley View and Breckenridge are on winter hold. Abby Bolt is working on initiatives to encourage homeowners in the USFS area of responsibility to do their defensible space clearance.

### **Kern County Fire – David Witt & Ira Peshkin**

They completed many acres on both the USFS Alta Sierra and Wofford Heights grant and the CFSC maintenance grant from the council. Crew 7 was also able to complete pill burning, including pills in Walker Pass that could not be chipped last summer. They have not initiated work of their Alta Sierra Escape Route HWY 155 2011 RAC grant, their Alta Sierra Escape Route Rancheria Road 2011 RAC grant or their Camp Yenis Hante Defensible Space 2012 RAC grant. These grants are due for completion in 2014.

There was a discussion about the equity of the Hazard Reduction Program (defensible space) across the agency SRAs. Only KCFD can actually cite property owners for non-compliance. USFS and BLM can do inspections and refer cases to KCFD. This process has not been enforced uniformly. Also, only property owners in the KCFD SRA received notices of compliance last year. There is consideration to send notices to everyone this year to encourage better participation outside the KCFD SRA.

### **BLM – David Brinsfield**

The BLM has been fixing all of their roads to maintain access to areas subject to fires. They have chipper days planned for the Kennedy Meadows area in April and in May.

## **Other Reports -**

Lloyd Smith opened a discussion on spending the discretionary funds that are available (~\$7,000). The following items were subjected as possible projects requiring funds: Publish and distribute *Living With Fire* without advertisement; Pay for FIRE TIPS in the Kern Valley Sun and maybe the Courier; Supplement the Breckenridge fuel removal project if required; and Purchase equipment for Crew 7. The board of directors was encouraged to add to the list and comment on the proposed projects so that plans could be made and implemented soon.

Another discussion addressed the sustainability of the council. The 2012 board of directors had set a course to close out the council once the current grant projects were completed. The lack of volunteers and leadership were cited as the primary concern. Although the current board of directors and others in the community believe that the

council has been very beneficial to the community, volunteers and leadership has not presented itself to provide relief from those that have sustained the council for many years. Judy Hyatt offered to become president, provided Lloyd Smith would mentor her through September, in an attempt to find a new team to sustain the council. Although no CFSC grant proposal for 2014 has been planned or is planned to be submitted there are opportunities for grant funding if a new team is formed. It was agreed by the board to give Judy the opportunity to find a new team while Lloyd Smith would become vice president and manage the completion of the current grants, Penny Lampkins would become secretary, and Sharon Rooney would continue as treasurer through September. Judy will also need to identify prospective officers and committee chairpersons prior to September.

**Next KRVFSC Stakeholders' Meeting:** Thursday, May 16, 2013, 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)

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 inter-agency 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?**