



Kern River Valley Fire Safe Council On-Line Board Meeting Thursday, June 23, 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

- President Smith, with the assistance of Secretary Gelder, prepared and submitted a grant request (attached) to SCE for \$10,000 to provide community service related to fire protection (6 hours match).
- President Smith had a lengthy discussion with a part time resident of Yankee Canyon about street signs. Since the Yankee Canyon road is a private road, street signs are the responsibility of the property owners. The resident was concerned that the turnoff from Hwy 178 at Yankee Canyon was not marked. (In fact, there is a large rock (albeit only visible when heading East) that marks Yankee Canyon. There is also a metal box at the turnoff labeled "Fire Department" which contains all the information that firefighters need.) This same individual called last year asking what she needed to do to get someone to clear along the road. This contact raises the issue as to how best to communicate with part time residents.
- President Smith polled the Board regarding appropriate actions for clearing defensible space for hardship cases. The consensus was not to advertise, but to broaden our search through the senior programs and churches. Also, all Kern River Valley fire station captains are aware of this grant and will provide anyone needing help with our contact information. The deadline for having one's defensible space completed is June 15th. This year KCFD will cite and fine anyone not in compliance. Depending on the requests we receive after the citations have gone out, we will need to review our policy in August and develop a better plan for next season.
- President Smith has initiated development of revised policies and procedures for the KRVFSC which he will share with the Board.
- President Smith responded to Harry Halterman about joining the council. Mr. Halterman owns property in Hungry Gulch and has participated in chipper days. President Smith sent him more information and encouraged him to attend our meetings.

Treasurer's Report – Sharon Rooney

See attached financial reports for June

Grants – Ed Royce, Chair

- Ongoing 2010 Projects: No change from last month on the 2010 Burma Interagency Extension Project. Work remains on the Rogers Road maintenance section. On the 2010 Bodfish III project, a small amount of work remains to be done. We are committed to five more chipper days between these two projects.
- On the USFS three-year Alta Sierra-Wofford Heights Project, pile burning on the slash cleaned up last year has been completed. Work this year will be in the vicinity of Alta Sierra. A concern is that one year into this three-year project, only 38 acres out of 200 have been completed.
- 2011 Projects: All clearances have been received for the Lake Isabella and Mountain Shadows projects, and we are allowed to start work at any time. Crew commitments to fires have taken priority.
- 2012 Proposal: In view of the federal budget uncertainties, the deadline for proposal submission has been extended -- again -- to 5 July 2011. The web-site where proposals are to be submitted is under revision, and the draft proposal prepared by Ken Delfino is in the old format. Ken will revise the proposal as needed to conform with the new format and submit it by the new deadline. The proposal is to do maintenance work on prior fuel reduction projects throughout the Kern River Valley, on about 500 acres.

We have just learned that the Clearing House will have \$5 million for 2012 grant funds from the Forest Service. However, these grants will have a 50% match requirement (100% of the grant amount), vice the 25% we have had to meet in the recent past. The CFSC is still inviting proposals with less than a 50% match -- it's unclear what will be done with them. Ed Royce is attempting to get clarification. Our immediate options would appear to be (1) submit our current proposal and hope, (2) revise it to meet the 50% requirement, probably by downscaling the total work to be done to one half that originally proposed, or (3) forget it.

- Ed Royce visited Valley View with Bart Kicklighter, Hayward Mendenhall and his neighbors. We verified that there is, indeed, a gap on private property between the Forest Service donut and the developed properties with cabins. This gap would allow a low-intensity fire burning upslope through the FS project to flare up to high intensity in the gap, before it reaches the structures. A project to cure this problem would involve widening the FS fuel break onto the undeveloped private land through an FSC project. About 20 to 25 acres of work would be required, in live oak scrub mixed with some conifers. A little roadside brushing (less than a mile) would also be useful. It is recommended we place this in the CWPP for possible out-year funding. The Valley View community is enthusiastic about dealing with their fire safety situation -- it would be worth trying to help them.
- Patrick Pontes' and Ken Delfino's reports are attached.

Chipper Days – Don Davis, Chair

Lots of chips have been flying.

- May 21 - Squirrel Valley had 15 to 20 households participate in Chipper days. Haven't received the post chipper day paperwork from Mike Lanza yet.
- May 27 - 539 Frontier Trail, Kernville - Another roving chipper day was completed in a few hours by 10 members of Crew 7. Pictures will follow.
- May 28 - Pala Ranches chipper day was postponed one day due to the Cove Fire in Southlake and the death of the neighborhood coordinator. Another local resident, Ed Townsend, stepped up to take his place, but when the chipper crew didn't arrive, phone calls were made and the chipper day was rescheduled and completed the next day. Hopefully, the post chipper day report information will follow.
- June 4 - Alta Sierra Chipper Day was only half completed due to the crew having to respond to another, smaller fire in Southlake that day. The crew is now in Arizona and will finish the chipping when they get back.
- June 11 - Hungry Gulch chipper day was completed by 8 members of the KCFD, Helitack 407 crew, out of Keene, and myself. Around a dozen households contributed materials to several large "community" chipper piles. A lunch, large enough to feed 3 crews, was enjoyed by the crew and a dozen homeowners. Harry Halterman will e-mail me the post chipper day report. (8 hrs and 20 mile match)
- June 11 - The same afternoon, we completed another roving chipper day at the Kern Valley Body Shop in Wofford Heights. (2 hours match)
- Due to the impending June 15th deadline, numerous requests were received for roving chipper days. I looked at all of them and there are a few projects still outstanding that I'm working with Don Brady to get completed. (2 hours and 70 mile match)
- The roving chipper days will probably not continue next year due to funding issues, at least not the way they are funded now. It was brought to my attention that roving chipper projects, unless they can be part of a near-by grant project, cannot be charged to one. Therefore, the fire department has to absorb the costs for the crew and equipment which it cannot afford to do. We'll have to discuss this at a future meeting.

Fundraising – Tom Gelder

- Gelder was out of the country for June and completed no fundraising projects

Website – Ed Royce, Chair

- Updates to the "News" and "Chipper Day" pages were posted.

Education/ Speaker's Bureau – Terry Bolt, Chair

- Terry Bolt handed out the Living with Fire brochure at various businesses around Lake Isabella, South Fork, and Twin Oaks.

- Cindy Thill from the Forest Service and Terry Bolt visited elementary classes at the Wallace Elementary School. They spoke to each class about the magazine and homes being fire safe. They also encouraged emergency plans to be made with parents. Two days later Terry spoke with students at the Wallace Middle School during their PE periods and a week later at Kernville Elementary.
- South Fork took the magazines and the prize certificates and said they would have each teacher emphasize those same things. It was too close to their closing time for Terry to schedule time for each class. At the South Fork Middle School Terry spoke with Sherry Nichols - superintendent and she assured Terry the Middle School would follow suit.
- Terry Bolt went to the Paiute School where the secretary said they would hand them out and call her if they wanted a program done. They didn't call - but it was getting close to the last day of school.
- Cindy Thill and Terry Bolt will be working this summer on the props and plays that they will develop for next year's fire programs with the students. They are both looking forward to working with Abby Bryski and developing a great program. (12 hours and 100 miles match)
- President Smith procured the materials and rebuilt the roadside sign frames that had rotted. The new posts were treated and painted (4 hours match).
- President Smith and Tom Gelder reinstalled the roadside signs on 5/20/11 at Borel and Paul's Place with assistance from USFS Crew 40 (Chris Scott). Crew 40 also changed the message boards at Walker Pass and in Walker Basin (100 mi and 4 hours match).
- Gordon Hancock went to Liz Waldrop's home to supervise his two friends cutting the pine tree off of her propane tank. (22 miles and 21/2 hours match). Don Davis is working with her to finish the project.
- Gordon Hancock tried talking to Weldon who just retired from KCFD to join our council, but he said "No".
- Christine and Gordon Hancock picked up the Living with Fire magazines from Marsha Smith and distributed one each with the Angel Food Menus that are distributed to all the local businesses, churches and mobile home parks. (15miles and 2 hours match).
- Gordon and Christine Hancock left more magazines at the Dam Korner, and took them to the Lake Isabella-Bodfish Property Owners Association meeting.
- Gordon Hancock did pick up the application form from the Salvation Army that they use to interview people requesting services.

The next meeting will the July 21, 2011 Virtual Board Meeting.

KERN RIVER VALLEY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

GRANT STATUS UPDATE

June 9, 2011

2010 Bodfish III Fuel Reduction Project-

In late April, the crew burned piles on the project. A narrow strip of brush is left to be cut near the toe of the slope. We have 3 Chipper Day Events remaining on this project.

The 7th Quarter Accomplishment Report ends June 30th. Please continue to keep track of your "Match" hours and mileage for the Quarterly Accomplishment Report.

Kern Fire crews are on now, receiving training and have been busy with fires around the lake. When they get back to normal, they will return to the project.

2010 Burma Interagency Extension Project-

Status is the same as last month; the crew will be finishing the 6 acre Rogers Road maintenance section. We have 2 Chipper Day Events to complete on this project.

The 7th Quarter Accomplishment Report ends on June 30th. Again, continue to keep track of your "Match" meeting hours and mileage for the final report.

2011 Lake Isabella Project- Same as last month; project is ready to go, but work has not started. Crews have been busy with wildfire.

2011 Mountain Shadows Project- Project is the same status as Lake Isabella's; we have approval, and are ready to begin project work.

CFSC News/Update—

In late May, we received CFSC payments for our Burma, Bodfish III, Lake Isabella and Mountain Shadows Projects.

Patrick G. Pontes
Kern River Valley FSC, Grant Administrator