

Mono Basin Fire Safe Council Minutes

Prepared by John Warneke

19 January 2022 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Holly Alpert, Glenda Bayless, Lisa Cutting, Susan DesBaillets, Robbie Di Paolo, Margaret Eissler, Bob Gardner, Heidi Hopkins, Duncan King, Paul McFarland, Connie Millar, Joe Moore, Gary Nelson, Tom Strazdins, John Warneke

- Minutes of 15 December 2021 accepted without changes
- Public comment
 - Helpful to review the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Paul)
 - Available at monocounty.ca.gov/community-development/page/community-wildfire-protection-plan
 - Good to pursue what exists and address pre attack plans from last meeting (Robbie)
 - Future agenda item: Address plans for Lee Vining and Mono City (Paul)
 - Lack of a plan for the 167 area is a glaring hole
 - Illegal campfire ring at the Lime Kiln (Joe)
 - Got permission from property owner to remove ring, block entrance, and put up No Trespassing signs
 - Added to the Google Earth map, and listed at monobasinwatch.com
 - Talked with Forest Service remote sensing guy about satellites monitoring forest fires (Gary)
 - Current technology provides an accurate map of where flames are; Resolution isn't yet able to spot campfires but will soon be available
 - Would be good to incorporate into pre attack plans, and empower land managers (Robbie)
 - Dirt road from Mono City to Cemetery Road in need of repairs (Margaret)
 - Deep ruts occur at the bottom sandy area from vehicles driving uphill
 - Road not considered during escape route planning because of length and maintenance (Connie)
 - Gets a fair amount of use and should be made accessible (Robbie)
 - Will talk to Tony Dublino about maintenance (Bob)
 - Interested in poly water storage tanks—2500gal, at \$1800 each—along Dobie Meadows Road (Joe)
 - Set up half a dozen for fire prevention, let agencies know of locations
 - Issue is how to fill them (Paul)
 - Could secure funding in future for this need, of infrastructure improvement working to develop pre attack plans (Robbie)
 - Supervisors proposing need for new construction, not tied into water supply, to have a water storage on the property in case of fire (Bob)
 - Some years ago, in Crowley, law required new construction—not in a fire protection district—to have a 2000gal water source (Tom)
 - Where should these water tanks be? (Robbie)
 - Comes back to a way to fill and refill (Paul)

- For Lee Vining and Mono City, important to prioritize investing in the resiliency of the hydrant systems
 - For the 167 area, the priority is to have private property owners get the tanks and come up with a way to fill them; Unless you have a flowing source, fire trucks will quickly use up the stored water
 - At next meeting, can detail how storage tanks at the DeChambeau Creek Foundation work (Paul)
 - Could set up a deal where the County helps subsidize purchase cost based on an agreement with the property owner that they keep it full (Bob)
 - If able to use Kirkwood Spring, this could secure access to a lot of water, and refilling (Paul)
 - Excessive detonations from Hawthorne creates potential for fire danger (Glenda)
 - Will contact Depot regarding impacts of noise and rattling, and how will they compensate (Bob)
 - Fire prevention signs, and sign boards, missing in north Mono Basin (Joe)
 - Working with agencies to tackle before Spring (Bob)
- Website update (Robbie)
 - Kelsey has posted the Minutes; Will also try to post the Google Earth map
- Funding opportunities update (Holly)
 - Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program meeting held recently
 - Gathering of wildfire interested stakeholders from Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties who discuss projects and concerns of priority
 - Venue for FSC to submit projects that can be developed further and get funding down the road; Value of project prioritization per region
 - Wildfire funding
 - Starting to see funding from State and Federal levels; More attention being paid to the Eastern Sierra; Success in securing Cal Fire grants, and in good position to continue getting funding
 - Education project
 - Last year, applied for Cal Fire funding for regional education outreach program focused on visitors; Secured letter of support from the FSC
 - Will resubmit this year with a tighter proposal, and another letter of support (including a willingness to help out on the ground)
 - Focus more on substantive efforts, not just introducing ideas
 - Hope to pair up further with 'Camp Like A Pro' effort and developing programs like the 'fire ring breakdown' effort (Robbie)
 - What we need is to create Eastern Sierra branded messages that can be repeated and pushed out through commercial and organizational social media (e.g., billboards; buy air time on local media; Google ads on high Eastern Sierra visitation sites) (Paul)

- More you can work with folks geared towards marketing— e.g., Visit Mammoth and Mono County Tourism and Economic Development—can further bolster how to develop public messaging and the better the products will be
 - Will work with Holly to share ideas and network with parties
 - Focus with this proposal is on visitors; Future efforts to focus on homeowners and schools (Holly)
- Citizens' Wildfire Academy (Bob)
 - Monthly sessions, virtually and maybe in-person, March-June
 - Increase awareness and education while decreasing stress and anxiety to better prepare (mentally and physically) for wildfires
 - Get experts to come in and talk about fire ecology, home hardening, history of agencies
 - Need more effort to pull off
 - Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program resources available for planning and staffing (Holly)
- Pre attack plans & Water sources in the north Mono Basin (Robbie)
 - Need to set up agreements with land owners; Then incorporate water access into pre attack plans and make sure is a part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan; Approach in a way to get ready for securing funding
 - Make it a model for a regional approach, not just the Mono Basin
- Banner (Robbie)
 - Keep sending high-resolution photos of what grabs your attention
 - Need to keep talking about funding and location
- Mono City fuel breaks
 - Stephanie Heller has stated mowing will be done this year (Bob)
 - Will that include the riparian area? (Gary)
 - Preliminary talk but no action planned yet (Robbie)
- Next meeting to be held on 16 February 2022 at 5pm