

Mono Basin Fire Safe Council Minutes
16 June 2021 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Glenda Bayless, Lisa Cutting, Robbie Di Paolo, Margaret Eissler, Santiago Escruceria, Ruth Garland, Kelsey Glastetter, Elin Ljung, Joe & Annie Moore, John & Danielle Rea, Tom Strazdins, Nathan Taylor, John Warneke

Minutes recorded by John Warneke.

- Public comment
 - Educational campaign through FSC for smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in homes (Santiago)
 - Recent LV Motel fire as example of going without detectors
 - Many LV renters also without
 - Could do a flyer in English and Spanish

- Rea Ranch project retraction
 - FSC without much discussion on project; Potential concerns raised early on; No letter drafted or submitted (Robbie)
 - Learned of retraction through outreach from John Rea
 - John & Danielle Rea spoke about the proposed project, responding to questions and concerns raised by community members
 - Open to speaking more with anyone interested, 661-998-7106 / therearanch.com
 - Working with County
 - Community opposition; Letter to County from Mono City Fire Protection District
 - Concerns with ATV rentals; Camping; Fire; Safety; Sanitation; Zoning; Site plan
 - Willing to work with community to create a good thing
 - No more ATVs; Unaware of local road ordinances; Will continue with current operations in Mammoth
 - Difficult to meet people being new to the area and with Covid restrictions
 - Interested in smaller project without re-zoning
 - Fewer camp sites; Chemical toilets; Hosted; 3000 gallon water tank on property; One communal fire, no personal campfires; Educate visitors about fire safety
 - Costs for original project necessitated larger-scale operation
 - Re-zoning forced on Reas by planner
 - Try to better the camping situation by creating managed 'dispersed camping' opportunities for e.g., sprinter vans or family camping
 - Public comment
 - Opposed to zoning change; Ok with a small campground, and managed fire safety (Ruth)
 - Concerns with fire and camp hosting (Elin)

- First I've heard of project; Would like to talk more (Tom)
- Update on the MBFSC website
 - eswildfirealliance.org/mono-basin-fsc
 - Review of website format and updates (Kelsey)
 - Website glitches? Contact Kelsey at kelsey@plumascorporation.org
 - Provide website content updates to Robbie
- Update on the Fire safety flier & banner
 - Flier
 - 100 copies printed
 - 25 laminated fliers for posting in campgrounds (Tom will do)
 - 75 fliers distributed in town to businesses selling firewood (Tom)
 - Will follow up regarding how many handed out
 - Can use data to document type of deliverables FSC is achieving (Robbie)
 - 'Camp like a pro' flier
 - Available throughout Lee Vining
 - Beavers report no one is taking displayed fliers (Santiago)
 - Hoping to translate into Spanish (Santiago)
 - Banner
 - Maybe move to area near propane tank for northbound Hwy 395 traffic and those coming down the Tioga Road (update from Bob Gardner)
- Smoke detectors & the Red Cross
 - Red Cross contacted about Fire Dept. going door to door to survey and hand out smoke detectors as needed (Tom)
 - Covid restrictions shut project down
 - Will reach out to see if project is a go; have people to distribute and install (Tom)
 - Great; Also need literature to educate on why the device is needed (Santiago)
 - Educating usually done through kids; Not adults (Tom)
 - Red Cross had fliers for adults to hand out with detectors about why needed; Sealed unit good for 10 years
 - Happy to translate into Spanish (Santiago)
 - Bring back updates to group; Contact about assistance for coordination and distribution (Robbie)
 - Red Cross looking for volunteers (Tom)
 - 'Red Cross Shelter Volunteer'; Contact Megin Hughes, Program manager, 661-203-9235
 - sierrawave.net has articles about volunteer classes (Glenda)
- Update on fuels reduction
 - Bin effort

- Contacted by Forest Service staff regarding green waste/fuels reduction dumpsters for Mono City and Lee Vining
 - Late in response, and now waiting for follow up
- Current bins in Mono City
 - Useful to know how often the bin is emptied, as metric for ongoing efforts to reduce fuels for an agency or in grant applications (Robbie)
 - Will ask David Swisher to provide info (John)
 - D&S empties when full, we just call them (John)
 - Need to figure out who all has been involved with funding (Robbie)
- Grant opportunity
 - California Fire Safe Council, funded by a CalFire grant
 - Soliciting applications for funding for a county coordinator position and efforts to encourage and develop collaboration among wildfire mitigation groups
 - Agenda item at last Supervisors' meeting
 - Bob Gardner (and Robbie) advocating for regional approach, identifying and planning for needs
 - Will follow up with Bob (Robbie)
 - CalFire grant proposals
 - Will follow up with Holly Alpert about how applications went (Robbie)
 - MOU with Lee Vining Fire (Robbie)
 - Mono City Fire update
 - Will put on next Commissioners agenda, as items discussed by FSC are of shared importance (John)
- Update on home hardening seminar
 - List of websites will be provided in upcoming email (Robbie)
 - Contact list for contractors—people to talk to about pricing and scheduling—to follow (update from Bob Gardner)
 - Important to spread this information with the community; Home hardening and fuels reduction are understood as valuable measures we should all be thinking of (Robbie)
- LV Fire and SCE gates
 - Still no keys (Tom)
 - Recent lightning strikes around Lee Vining and fire near Walker Lake
 - Need keys; Rocks also a problem can't get in or drag hoses far enough
 - Bob working on, but no update (Robbie)
- Next meeting to be held on 21 July 2021 at 5pm