

Mono Basin Fire Safe Council Minutes
15 December 2021 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Glenda Bayless, Lisa Cutting, Susan DesBaillets, Robbie Di Paolo, Margaret Eissler, Santiago Escruceria, Bob Gardner, Paul McFarland, Connie Millar, Tom Strazdins, Nathan Taylor, John Warneke

- Minutes accepted without changes
- No public comment
- Mapping exercise update (Robbie)
 - Google Earth map file sent with meeting announcement
 - Coordinate for project in Spring, and share info with land managers
 - Attention to areas identified, collect data, share info about activities and need for management
 - Will update map as people send info
 - Will look into sending link to online map; Maybe host on website
 - Could circulate images of the map, rather than an interactive file (Connie)
- Fuel Breaks
 - Mono City
 - Need to talk to Ana Maria regarding previous discussions (Robbie)
 - If no equipment available from Forest Service, then:
 - FSC/Community contracts with private party
 - What environmental documents exist to further understanding of what options are possible if can't rely on entity to maintain fuel breaks on a schedule
 - Pursue MOU with land managers to coordinate contracting
 - Easier after overhead sorted out (Paul)
 - Aim for Spring cleanup (Robbie)
 - This is a 'Shovel ready project'... Ready for coordination & funding
 - Met with Stephanie Heller (Paul)
 - Mono City fuel break included in the FS work program for the coming year; Discussed pros & cons of community partnering with the agency on fuel breaks that benefit private land; Recognition of potential benefits of partnership but felt strongly that FS will take care of this coming year; Will follow up on specifics, including if plan is to clear south of Mono City or BLM break behind houses/parallel to road
 - Mono City clearing previously completed by Troy Maguire, cross jurisdiction with FS & BLM (Paul)
 - Good to have attention to this matter, of prevention rather than diverting resources during a fire (Connie)
 - Vegetation by road is on the County right of way; Aesthetics (Robbie; Lisa)
 - If of concern, can be raised with Tony Dublino (Bob)

- North Basin, Hwy 167 community and more
 - Discussion needed with Ana Maria about fuel breaks, to enhance community safety, and how to do it; Get FS maps (Robbie; Bob)
 - Fire restriction/info signs missing out here; Helpful to have posters on billboards to inform visitors (Glenda)
 - Will mention to Ana Maria; Maybe get generic signs when not during restriction times (Bob)
 - Conceptual modeling (Pre-attack plans)
 - Toured area but haven't spoken to land managers; Need an idea of where to clear (Bob)
 - 3+ years ago, FS (with Troy and Ana Maria) came along Dobie Meadows Road going east; Said action to clear would take couple of years (Glenda)
 - Good question of where to locate breaks; Maybe meet with Tom to think about where houses are, where breaks needed
 - Forest Service has the capacity to do fire modeling, analysis, and recommendations (Robbie)
 - Fuel breaks or brush reduction? Roads out there create breaks to a certain extent (Bob)
 - Need for direction as to how to proceed (Glenda)
 - Pre-attack plans by agencies for Mono City, Lee Vining ... May be a place to start for the area as this is currently missing (Paul)
 - Holistic approach needed beyond fuel breaks, with attention to how fire moves from public lands into communities; Conversation includes structure resiliency, about how embers blown from brush miles away can ignite structures; Need to develop dependable and accessible water sources
 - Plans include an assessment of threats, where water sources are; Designed to be handed off to cooperating agencies when they show up for an event
 - Important to build relationships with new agency personnel; Get documents; Community members familiar with them for continuity; Utilize community knowledge of which homes are occupied, etc.
 - Could be put on MBFSC website (Robbie)
 - If/when we get the County coordinator [see July 2021 Minutes for details], could be something to track down if it exists; Work with communities for home hardening, water access, etc. (Bob)
 - Ideally, and if included with Community Wildfire Protection Plans for individual communities, this creates an actionable document for when

something happens; Informs creation of plans, of who the agency should work with, putting action into community hands, and increasing communication (Paul)

- Previously worked with Troy Maguire; Good ideas and maps, with attention to fuel reduction around private properties (e.g., Hwy 167, Conway Ranch, etc.); Too much involved to do fuel breaks; Good water sources around Goat Ranch and other ponds but need to be improved to bring in trucks and for helicopters (Tom)
- As the Cottonwood and Goat Ranch communities are in the path from Bodie area fires, and stopping fire before reaching them would be of benefit, we should include them in conversations (Connie; Bob)
- Water sources
 - Kirkwood ponds need attention with an excavator to make it clear like it use to be; Existing roads in area also need clearing; Permission for access is possible (Glenda)
 - Need here is to: (1) have a plan and follow up with permission/agreement with land owner through County, (2) physically make the ponds accessible, (3) communicate to agencies that this resource is available during emergencies (Bob; Robbie)
 - Goat Ranch water source ideal for helicopter dipping; Land owner open to clearing of growth, clear existing drains; (Glenda)
 - Access to these sources would be invaluable (Robbie)
 - From in-meeting chat: “Getting access to these sources is the best thing we could do out there. Can you capture it as a deliverable for this coming year on your list?” “Kirkwood Pond I mean. Goat ranch may be more difficult.” (Paul to Robbie)
 - Being private land, each area makes access much quicker; Even if hiring contractor to clear (Bob)
 - Areas around private lands, if on government/public property can use inmates from Owens Valley (Tom)
 - May be an incentive for private landowners to manage fuel reduction if incentive exists through additional funding and ‘personnel’ to clear public lands (Robbie)
 - USDA program? \$1k/acre to clear sage; Ilene Mandelbaum may know (Glenda)
- Banner
 - New banner will have same dimensions as last time; Text size increase? (Robbie)
 - Photo slideshow to brainstorm about possible images and captions; Criteria: Landscape, and able to put text on

- Images: (1) Closed fist, lighter with flame: “If you’re going to light it, be prepared to fight it” ... “All it takes is one spark”; (2) Two women in forest setting with large campfire/debris: “‘Text here’ about how you shouldn’t do this”; (3) Firefighters battling fire on water; (4) Unattended dwindling campfire in forest
- I like Smokey (Glenda)
- Image of lighter or lit match with message of, “If you light it, be prepared to fight it” is very simple (Connie)
- I want more shocking stuff; Get people’s attention with words and photos that kick them in the pants (Bob)
- What is available for use through CA Fire Safe Council, Cal Fire, USDA, Interagency Wildfire Coordinating Council, any of public use graphics that may save design time? (Paul)
 - Blackened trees of landscape; Burned homes; Fighting fire that grabs you with color
- Photos of Mono Basin landscape of previous fires; More pertinent to our area may be more appropriate (Lisa)
- From in-meeting chat: “I like the first image and the simple ‘light it, fight it’ message.” (Lisa)
- I have good shots, of fire, airplanes dumping stuff, firefighters on hills (Santiago)
- From in-meeting chat: “I think an image of a raging fire would be most effective. Everyone knows the issues the West is facing and how easily these fires are ignited.” (Margaret)
- Share your top pictures with me, Santiago; Have someone look for pre-approved, pre-rendered graphics would be valuable; Take another pass at looking at other visuals and follow up with printer (Robbie)
- More banner locations, going in and out of town? Something up Lundy Canyon? Mono Vista as a location? (Paul)
 - Previous mention of the Cal Trans yard fence to catch eye of Mono Cone visitors (Robbie)
 - DWP didn’t reply regarding propane tank location (Bob)
 - Possible to put banner on Mono City water tank, or on fences along Hwy 395? (Glenda)
- Moving forward
 - Continue with Mapping areas of interest & Interaction with land managers
 - ‘Shovel ready projects’ : What is of interest, now (how to fund comes later)
 - From collaboration with Holly Alpert, floating grant about education ... Keep thinking about what that need is for our community
 - Basic stewardship of fire rings near communities (Paul)
 - Followed up with Stephanie Heller about sites in Lundy with non-paperwork solutions with existing tools they have

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- Shovel ready doesn't have to be site specific; Can be the work that needs to be done (Paul)
- Possible to have Swall Meadows FD or FSC come talk to us about lessons learned from the Round Fire? (Connie)
 - Effort by Holly Alpert to coordinate and collaborate with Fire Safe Councils for initial contacts (Robbie)
 - Goal of County position is to get all FSCs on board to coordinate, then create a website, create clearinghouse to share information much easier (Bob)
- Next meeting to be held on 19 January 2022 at 5pm