

Mono Basin Fire Safe Council Minutes

Prepared by John Warneke

15 June 2022 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Glenda Bayless, Lisa Cutting, Robbie Di Paolo, Susan DesBaillets, Margaret Eissler, Joe Moore, Lenore Twomey, John Warneke

- Minutes of 18 May 2022 accepted without changes
- Public comment
 - Following up on use of water source at donated house (Joe)
 - Well without capacity to fill fire truck (Robbie)
 - Progress made at Kirkwood Ponds to provide water during fire emergencies (Robbie)
 - Water tank at house? Need a water supply out there (Joe)
 - Option may exist for truck with water tank (Robbie)
 - In event of severe fire event with wind impacting Mono City, what protocols are established? Shelter in place? Options? Fire hall as shelter? (Lisa)
 - Will bring concern to the Fire Commissioners and Fire Department (John)
 - Notification protocol in place is two-fold: (1) Fire siren will go off without stopping indicating an emergency in Mono City; (2) Fire trucks will drive around announcing on a loud speaker what is happening and what residents should do, be it shelter in place or evacuate to a safer location. Be aware that the sheriff will not enforce a mandatory evacuation. (John)
- Fire safety banners (Robbie)
 - Both banners will soon be put up in Lee Vining; Truck will be moved tomorrow
 - Ordered two more, of smaller size, for Joe Moore's efforts
- Fire safety fliers (Robbie)
 - Printed and passed on to Tom
 - Will distribute to businesses selling firewood
 - Laminated copies will be posted at campgrounds
 - Let Robbie know if you see the fliers
 - Paul McFarland also active in putting up signage at campgrounds regarding fire restrictions and dispersed camping
- Fire restriction signs in north Mono Basin (Joe)
 - Working with USFS staff to repair and replace signs
 - Sign and post can be removed as needed
 - Grateful for your time and efforts (Glenda)
- Mono County Fire Coordinator position (Robbie)
 - May have been awarded but unknown if filled
 - Bob Gardner may be able to provide an update in the next meeting

- Mono City meeting with USFS (Robbie)
 - Robbie and John met with Stephanie Heller and Annamaria Echeverria
 - Fuelbreaks north and south of Mono City
 - Clearing will be necessary soon; Native plant growth patterns promising without yet being a hazard (Annamaria stated)
 - Will probably happen in the autumn; Depends on delivery of new skid steer and availability of hand crew
 - Community use of brush bins, and clearing for defensible space
 - John requested funding for an additional bin on site
 - Thinning brush along the County right-of-way with attention to height and density
 - Brush alongside houses allowed to grow to unsafe dimensions poses a threat to safety; During a fire event, structures without defensible space may not be prioritized
 - USFS able to provide info about defensible space and risks
 - County ordinance could be put in place regarding the clearing of vegetation by property owners where risks exist (Annamaria stated)
 - Important for this to gain momentum; Home hardening and defensible space at mercy of brush growth on adjacent lots (Lisa)
 - Demonstrate efforts to do this with those who are present, and who want to make this happen (Robbie)
 - Mill Creek riparian corridor
 - Interest in riparian restoration rather than removal of materials; Create an effective barrier more resistant to fire (Stephanie stated)
 - Fuels reduction would require extensive environmental documentation and permitting challenges
 - Already a good area to build on with successful restoration efforts; Ecological and fire benefits in the Scenic Area may push this project to the fore, and USFS will revisit idea in 2023
 - Healthy riparian corridors are few in the Great Basin, and are important habitats (Lisa)
 - Will keep working with USFS to promote projects and assist as needed
 - Received positive feedback regarding our efforts and engagement
- Mono City Fire Commissioners' fire resiliency community outreach project (John)
 - Promoting community awareness and action
 - Will disperse CA Fire Safe Council information on emergency preparedness, defensible space, and home hardening
 - Follow up with homeowners and owners of empty lots about work completed and work to be done
 - Efforts will be documented, with attention to securing future funding
 - Community BBQ in August at the Fire Hall
- Citizens' Wildfire Academy

FSC Minutes – 15 June 2022

- Upcoming session via Zoom: 20 June, at 6pm, 'Current USFS, BLM, and Cal Fire 2022 Wildfire Management Plans and Policies'
- Recordings available at eswildfirealliance.org/academy

- Next meeting to be held on 20 July 2022 at 5pm