July 23, 2016

Cuyamaca Woods Fire Safe Council Meeting

9AM Meeting called to order at Lake Cuyamaca Volunteer Fire Station by Susan Carter, President

In attendance where: Mary Ann & Jerry Miller, Eva & Bill Stowers, John & Terri Groth, Steve Nankervis, Jon Driscoll and Susan Carter.

A quorum was present.

Susan Carter mentioned that the by-laws are not entirely clear on what it takes to be a Board member versus a Member-at-Large, although it is clear that you aren’t a voting member until you attend 2 meetings in a twelve-month period. She said she would review the by-laws before the next meeting and recommend if any changes or clarifications are needed. Current officer terms end at the end of October.

The March 26th Meeting minutes were approved unanimously after motion to approve by Steve Nankervis and 2nd by Mary Ann.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Terri G. She said there is $11,000.49 in the bank. The only transactions this month was a payment of $100 to the POA for the calendars, and receipt of $2500 from SDGE and $5 from Amazon Smile. Mary Ann moved to approve, John Groth 2nd, all in favor.

**Networking** was a major topic that provided in depth discussions on several actions and measures. Terri and John Groth attended a Multi Agency SDFSC and SDGE Awards Event held at the SDGE Emergency Response Command Center. The attendees were given a tour with discussions by the various Command and Control staff to include their weather center, also they learned that SDGE provides for Fire equipment to accompany their work trucks into Rural areas as part of SDGE’s continued support and consideration towards safety for their crews and Fire control. Terri and John found all parties involved had very positive attitudes and shared a partnership in Fire Safety.

John Groth discussed an opportunity to assist the Fire Safe Council of San Diego in their efforts on all Southern Californians’ behalf to ensure that the full allocation of $150 million for the Forest Health initiative is included in the State 2016/17 budget and that San Diego County tree mortality is noted as a particular concern. SDFSC provided a draft letter to that effect, and Susan said that she had slightly modified it and put it on CWFSC letterhead and was prepared to sign it today if the Board approves. If fully funded, the money budgeted for Forest Health could be allocated toward the Dead and Dying Tree removal program, fighting the Bark Beetle infestation, and in San Diego area the mean and hungry GSOB Bug. John suggested than in addition to the formal support letter from CWFSC, that individual Board members should write on their own letters.

A motion to approve sending the support letter was made by Steve and second by John. The motion carried unanimously.

Jon Driscoll will look into a petition on [change.org](http://change.org) to encourage other Californians to sign the petition and forward to the Senator (s) on the Budget conference committee.

An idea was put forth to the attendee’s regarding having a float in the 4th of July 2017 Julian parade - the idea would be to work in conjunction with other Fire Safe Councils in the area to show our working together as like minded communities to bring awareness and action to our respective communities regarding Fire Safe solutions.

Grants:

Terri Groth confirmed to the group that a $2,500 grant was obtained from SDG&E. This Grant is applicable to various fire and safety related needs including educational programs and signage that would aid in evacuations or other safety measures.

The successful launch of the Five Feet Event by Colleen and crew proved the Community would and did appreciate the opportunity to clear out items that normally would have been left lying around and become Fire hazards. It was agreed that we would like to do it again next year, possibly expanding it to twice a year.

A motion was made to approve the Grant and was carried by unanimous consent. Timing of the twice a year program was suggest to be first around May 5th - tying into the Cinco de Mayo theme and the Wildfiire Safety awareness month in Mid September to early October to accommodate the summer’s build up of materials needing to be removed from properties.

There are currently two Grants we have obtained. One is for the roadside work similar to the CCC work that was done in February, and the other is for additional roadside work and for removing dead trees.

First is new work by CCC crews(approximately 3000 hours) that has been offered to the CWFSC - one of the major factors in our receiving the additional funding was due to the quality and activity of the CW council in how we handled the first grant, and our ongoing networking efforts. Congratulations to all the Community members that supported the efforts and especially to the Board and Community members that walked the roads and worked with the property owners to encourage them to be involved. It was agreed to focus the new grant on the roads that were not completed in the first grant. That would include High Hill, Millwood, Poco Montana, Cosmit, Stoney Lane, and Smoke Laine. A motion was made by Terri to approve the Grant, second was John G, and the motion was carried by unanimous consent.

Further discussion was opened to include Susan offering to inquire to what extent Tree work would be included - was it standing or down trees only on the sides of the road ways? Would they cut up trees that we felled near the roadways or even extend into the properties a way if the height of the tree could be construed to pose a road blockage danger if it fell?

Steve offered a copy of the San Diego County letter describing the responsibilities of property owners regarding maintaining their property.

The SRAFPF Grant was written with the intention to improve access and remove large dead trees, removal of said trees would reduce the worst of the fuel sources on property’s that adjoin the roads. Susan, Terri, John will work together to learn to what extent this or other grants would allow the funds to be spent on dead and dying trees that are not directly adjacent to the roads. They will also research the available Tree Professionals in our local area to consult with and obtain pricing for the work to be done. It we hire the CCC to do the work, we know their cost is $2000/day, and while they will fell some trees, they are not particularly skilled in that work, nor do they have specialized equipment. John said he and Terri hired Julian Tree Service at $1400 per day, and they did an excellent job. Cal-Fire Work crews could also be used when they are available.

Identifying and marking the trees that are of concern is the first task which John and Terri, Bill and Eva and Steve agreed to begin working on.

2016 Events will include:

Chipping: Return of our successful free Community Chipping in September (thank you Colleen and Matt), it was suggested by Terri to have two areas for the material to be staged prior to being chipped. After discussion it was decided to have one area on the Stowers Forest Meadow property and the second area on Grand View road by Terri and John’s property. The material would be gathered on a Saturday and Sunday with the Chipping crew coming in on Monday. Chipping dates proposed are September 10 & 11 or 17 & 18. Susan proposed putting Colleen in charge of setting it up.

Education Program: The idea was presented by Bill and Eva regarding the C.E.R.T. program (“Community Emergency Response Team”), including an explanation of what the CERT is and does, and how it fits into the CWFSC’s goals. A new class, run by Johnny and Diane Hake, is starting up September, 6 so it would be good to give a presentation before then so that people can sign up if they are interested. Bill and Eva just finished the program, which includes classes for 9 weeks. They said there are other graduates here in CW, such as Barry McDermid. Bill and Eva will approach the Hakes about speaking to our group in the near future. The CERT program includes search and rescue as well as activity to suppress Fires as well as ER Medical training. Jon suggested that maybe the program could be piggy-backed on the Garden Party day at his property, which is August 7th.

New Business: Susan mentioned that the original copy of the POA’s map that shows the turn-arounds on each of our roads, the fire hydrants and tanks, etc. has been lost, and that Scott Stevenson was going to re-create it. Steve suggested that if the map has to be re-done anyway, could it be done digitally? Jon said he would talk to his guy at work about doing that. Terri mentioned that Joel Morrison had used a topo map to create a CW map that shows where the houses are located. Susan said she would send a copy of that map, along with Joel Morrison’s contact info to Jon. The idea is that Jon’s guy could use that map as a start to recreate Scott’s map digitally. That way it could easily be updated each year. John said we should ask the Fire Chief what other information would be helpful to them.

Jon proposed that we should provide signage at the ingress/egress and decision points along our roads (i.e., entry points on Engineers and at key forks in the road) as a ER or Fire crew has to enter or exit. Terri said that our Cal-fire contact, Cheyenne, had suggested that we consider installing reflective, metal maps just like what Jon was suggesting. Terri added that she had had those maps in mind when she wrote the application to SDGE for $2500. Data on the maps would/could show turn around options (coded by size of vehicle and type of turn) to accessible water tanks and property owner fire suppression systems, houses with addresses. Terri felt the SDGE grant would cover the costs to provide the signage.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Susan reported it is in process. There are two main parts – the first part is drafting it, describing proposed fuel reduction techniques, structure ignitability issues, evacuation and safe zones, etc. The second, harder part, requires collaboration and buy-in from many different agencies (Cal-Fire, Sheriff, etc).

Firewise Community Application – Colleen had proposed becoming a Firewise Community, but she had told Susan yesterday that she had not made progress yet, because they don’t have the ability to make an on-line application. Status pending.

Announcements:

Susan Carter reported she had contacted County Public Works to ask them to weed back areas along Engineers Road - They have agreed and will do so asap in August.

A question was put forth to inquire what was the future of the existing volunteer fire dept building once they move to their new location, several members said they would look into it and report.

Next meeting will be on September 24, 2016.

11:30 Motion to adjourn was made by Terri and Mary Ann second, all in agreement