

**PINE/STRAWBERRY FUEL REDUCTION COMMITTEE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Walt Smith called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.
The meeting was held at the Pine Senior Center Dining Room
Walt Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Walt Smith, Mel Palmer, Janet Brandt, Katie Calderon, Ron Calderon, and Jack Malloy

Member Absent: Gail Reese

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

One change in the September 28, 2011 minutes regarding who attended the White Mountain Bike Race was discussed. After the change the Board did not disagree with the minutes as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gail sent all Board members a printout of the updated financial statement. No discussion followed.

Ron moved to accept Treasurer's Report. Katie seconded.

Motion Passed.

CORRESPONDENCE/BILLS:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on the Gould Property Project: Mike Brandt reported that it's approximately 30% completed. The back part and hills are being worked on so that in inclement weather they will only have the lower, easier part to clear. The two Contractors each received a check for \$5,000, while they were at 10% completed so they would have some money to work off of. The contractors have not discussed when they want another payment. Mike said he has an individual on site monitoring the work and that it is progressing.

Mike also reported that they were doing some experiments with three test areas on how best to get rid of the locusts. One is to bulldoze or rake the root systems out, the other is burn piles on top, and the third is cutting it and letting it lay and dry out then burn it.

Trails in the Fuel Break Project: Janet reported Phase-1 was submitted to the Forest Service and it came back that part of the trail was going over Goshawk nesting sites. The FS is not sure exactly where the sites are so they will walk the area to show where it has to be rerouted.

Janet also reported that she went to a meeting of the Northern Gila County Development Commission, who agreed to pay for the NEPA study on the Trails Project. Now, the FS has agreed to do the NEPA in house. So the NGCDC agreed to use the money they were going to use for the study and pay for more trails which will relieve FRC of that cost.

Arrowhead Estates Project: Mel Reported that of the 11 properties, 5 participated in this 90/10 grant project and that all five have are completely finished. Mike Brandt added that some of the other properties had participated in a 50/50 grant earlier and that there were only two properties that hadn't been thinned. Mike also stated that so much of Arrowhead Estates had been thinned that it could become a FireWise Community.

Arrowhead Canyon Fuel Break Project: Mike Brandt reported that he had talked with Jeremy Plain regarding the differences between maps of the area and that Jeremy is working to get the boundaries correct. Mike further stated that all of the paperwork for FRC's share of this project has been submitted, should be in Albuquerque by the end of this week and that the fuel break thinning should be able to begin by next month.

Mike recommended that some of the grass seed that FRC has stored and intended for fuel breaks be used in this area and do it before the crews come to thin. As the crews clear, drag brush and stomp around they would help get the seed into the soil so now would be the perfect time to cast seed there. Mike said he would work with Jeremy and the FS to see if he would be able to get the crews to cast the seed. If not, FRC would have to get volunteer crews to go there and stay ahead of the thinning crews to cast the seed but not so far ahead that birds will pick it up.

The Board had no objection to Mike's recommendation.

FRC/FD Grant Applications: Walt reported that FRC has not heard back on the outcome of these grants. Chief David Staub said his conversation with those involved with the application process at the State led him to believe these grants are going to be processed by the end of this week or early next week and we should hear the results at that time. Walt asked about the ad in the paper regarding applications for the Brush Truck Crew. Chief Staub replied that the application process will terminate on October 31 and that interviews will begin November 3rd, contingent on the State accepting the grant application.

Ron asked if the Brush Truck program would be shut down during the winter. Chief Staub replied that in the past that may have been the case but that last year it operated through the winter as weather/snow allowed. The Chief said the plan is to operate the Brush Truck this winter to get caught up.

All this is contingent on the State approving the two grants.

NEW BUSINESS:

Email database and email blasts of upcoming Board agenda discussion items: Walt thought the database would be a good idea. Jack suggested email blasts of those agenda discussion items that may be of interest to try to promote and draw more people to the FRC meetings. A discussion followed of ways to promote meetings that included, using the CERCA marquee (Mel will look into this), Bishop Realty bulletin board and contacting the new P/S area reporter for the Payson Roundup.

Ballot Referendum Discussion: Walt reported that FRC needs to find a way to collect the money so that information is available to residents before voting on a 2012 referendum that the public begin paying for the brush pick-up service. A discussion followed with Board members and public suggesting various possibilities. It was concluded that for now, Chief Staub would contact one of the FD's attorneys to see about the feasibility of having a special tax just to fund the Brush Pick-Up program. Walt said after the results of the Chief's research, a committee would be formed to go from there.

ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, POSSIBLE ACTION:

Telebration 2011: A discussion developed of this community program sponsored by SCAF, which will be held on November 19th in the Cultural Hall. Show admission is \$5 or dinner and show with reserved seating is \$25. 80% of the profits will be donated to FRC. To help with promotion, Katie said information could be put on Fire-On-The-Rim and FRC websites.

Camp Lo Mia Project: Mike Brandt reported that he is waiting on putting out bids until funding has been approved by the State.

Oktoberfest Donation: Janet reported that at the recent Oktoberfest held at the Rimside Grill, FRC has accepted donations for the FOTR account earmarked for trails from Rimside Grill in the amount of \$2100 and from the Gila County Mounted Posse in the amount of \$500. She thanked both groups for their support.

Fuel Reduction Community Meeting: Ron recommended a community meeting held jointly with the Fire Board and FRC Board to discuss fuel reduction. Chief Staub responded that he would be informing the Fire Board he was asked to do this and will be checking into it. Dave Burkhart said he would include in the next Fire Board agenda a discussion for action to make official the ability of the Chief to work with FRC on the referendum and that the Fire Board will support the referendum so they will be able to set up and have meetings with FRC about the referendum.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ron moved to adjourn. Katie seconded.

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Malloy, PSFRC Secretary