

PINE/STRAWBERRY FUEL REDUCTION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2012

CALL TO ORDER:

President Walt Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.
The meeting was held at the Pine Senior Center Dining Room
Mel Palmer led the Pledge of Allegiance

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

Member Absent: None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Ron moved to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2011 meeting as presented. Gail seconded.
Motion Passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gail presented the Treasurer's Report.

Katie moved to accept Treasurer's Report for audit as presented. Janet seconded.

Motion Passed.

Katie thanked Gail on all the work she did to prepare the year-end report for audit. Walt also commented and thanked Gail on the work she does every meeting to prepare each meetings treasurer's report.

CORRESPONDENCE/BILLS:

A letter was received from Rick Heffernon and Bev Malmberg, Arrowhead Canyon residents, thanking Pine/Strawberry Fuel Reduction, Inc. and Mike Brandt for helping to complete the thinning project in Arrowhead Canyon. They were also very impressed with the efforts of the Crystal Clear crew.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire on the Rim Mountain Bike Race: Katie presented the report of the first public meeting last night, January 24, 2012. All that attended were enthusiastic about the upcoming race and activities to be held on September 14-16, 2012. Katie outlined the planned activities. Friday night will be a spaghetti dinner, live band and beer garden that will be held at the arena. The new sponsor this year will be New Belgium Beer Co. Saturday starting at 5:00 am will be the racer's breakfast including breakfast burritos and oatmeal. Before the races, massage chairs will be available, then the big race, a little kids race, the awards ceremony, a bike clinic and finishing up will be another beer garden and band. Sunday is scheduled an easier cabin loop ride for those interested and bike parade for the little kids.

Willene Smith thanked Katie and Janet for all the work they do on the bike race.

OLD BUSINESS:

Status of Table for AZ Trail Festival: Janet reported that all the information had been forwarded to Rick and Bev who have volunteered to staff the table for PSFR and they indicated they were ready.

Status of Camp Lo Mia Project: Mike Brandt reported six bids had been put out and five returned by the deadline ranging from \$1080/acre to \$1650/acre. RCO Reforesting, Inc. was the low bid and was accepted by the LDS church that operates Camp Lo Mia. Total cost of the project will be \$214,000, which is just under the \$217,000 total amount allotment of the grant. RCO was chosen because any amount over the grant allotment would have to be paid by the LDS church.

The Church is currently looking over the contract. There will be one meeting on the grounds with the LDS forester from Salt Lake City, RCO, Mike Brandt and a representative from the U.S. Forest Service Payson Ranger District

who will help to get this 200 acres of flat forest thinning completed correctly. When the contract is finalized, work is anticipated to begin the first of February. RCO anticipates their 20-man crew can complete the work in 40 days. Janet commented that RCO is the company hired in 2005 to do the first thinning of the forest. Al Christianer asked if the area would be logged. Mike replied that a buyer has not been found to purchase the logs so the timbers will stand until a logger can be found. Mike noted this would be just a small portion of the acreage as most is brush and chaparral. Al commented that several years ago there was concern that this project would not be possible. He thanked FRC, in particular Walt, Janet, Mike and Chief Staub for seeing this project through.

Status of Arrowhead Estates Project: Mike Brandt reported that the work is looking very good. Only three lots left to clear. The 77-acre fuel break clearing has been very successful. Mike emphasized how important the partnerships were to the success of this project. He also remarked that getting the concept of a healthy forest to the public is an additional goal on projects like these. With a healthy forest, fire may pass through but not at the catastrophic level that we've been seeing lately. Mike noted that with the foundations that have been laid, the Forest Service now has the desire to complete the clearing all the way up the canyon.

Status of Trails in the fuel Break Project: Janet reported that the project received a \$5,000 donation from the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona. She also brought flyers for Bev and Rick's table at the AZ Trail Festival. The flyers will also be at local businesses and the library to explain the project.

Status of Brush Pick-Up: Chief Staub reported the brush truck has just completed Pine and is now in Strawberry and was delayed by two snowstorms. The first step of the new grant was to get the brush truck operational which has been met. The second step of the grant, property clearing, is now getting started with the training of the entire department to do property assessments. That training will take place here at the end of February. Then, assessments can be made and clearing of properties in the district of two acres and less using the 50-50 grant can begin. The brush pick-up portion of the grant is funded through February 2013. Funding after that is now in question. Chief Staub said Arizona Revised Statutes prohibits any out of District fee or special tax for special services, which would include things like the brush pick-up. In working with the new grant the brush pick-up costs has been reduced from approximately \$120,000 to under \$80,000 per year. Ron commented that he has noticed how well the brush truck crew has been doing and that the areas look really great.

PSFD & PSFR Joint Meeting: Walt reminded that the meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 10:00 am in Fire Station 1 Pine. The meeting will be to discuss ways to continue funding the brush truck after February 2013 when grant money runs out.

NEW BUSINESS:

Status of Slash Piles produced this summer around Camp Lo Mia: Jack wondered about these. Mike Brandt said that the Forest Service now just cuts and leaves the cut brush. They don't pile anymore.

Election/Confirmation of Officers for the AZCC Annual Report: It was confirmed that the current slate of officers would remain the same, Walt Smith President, Melvin Palmer Vice-President, Gail Reese Treasurer, Jack Malloy Secretary.

ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, POSSIBLE ACTION:

Mike Blaes showed copies of the Pine/Strawberry Area Trails flyer he and Ron put together with financing help from those who advertised on the back. They will be available in local businesses that have agreed to sell them for \$2 each, which will go toward paying for the next printing. The paper is waterproof and tear-proof. Katie said she would talk to Marty to see if he will also agree to sell them at the Chamber of Commerce office. After some discussion it was agreed to print 500 more on regular paper as free maps in the Chamber.

Aaron Cox, Top of the Hill Yard Service, made a presentation regarding the services of his company.

Ron recommended that around April or May PSFR send out another fund raising letter. Gail suggested monthly Bill Pay for those who would find this more convenient than a lump sum donation. Walt asked Jack to add this discussion to the next PSFR meeting agenda.

SET DATE, TIME, PLACE OF NEXT PSFR, INC. MEETING:

Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 6:00 pm here in the Pine Senior Center Dining Room.

ADJOURNMENT:

Katie moved to adjourn. Gail seconded.

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Malloy, PSFRC Secretary