

THE MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
3:00 p.m. Thursday, November 19, 2020  
Via teleconference due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order- President Goines called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Directors – In Attendance: Steve Burdo (San Anselmo), Barbara Coler (Fairfax), Kathryn Donohue (Inverness), Tom Finn (Sleepy Hollow Fire), Barry Evergettis (Kentfield Fire), Bruce Goines (Novato Fire), Cathryn Hilliard (Southern Marin Fire), Leighton Hills (Muir Beach), David Kimball (Bolin Fire District), Sashi McEntee (Mill Valley), Julie McMillan (Ross), Gabe Paulson (Larkspur), Gary Phillips (San Rafael), Bob Ravasio (Corte Madera), Dennis Rodoni (County of Marin), Mark White (Stinson Beach)  
Staff in Attendance: Executive Officer Mark Brown, Legal Counsel Megan Acevedo, Operations Committee Chair Jason Weber

President Goines noted this was Director Phillips' last meeting and he thanked him for his service on the Board.

3. Agenda Adjustments

There were no adjustments.

4. Open Time for Public Expression

There were no comments.

5. Executive Officer's Report

Executive Officer Brown reported on the following: 1) Mt. Tamalpais recently received four inches of rain; 2) A brief wrap up on the fire season; 3) The Executive Committee meeting; 4) The Finance Committee meeting; 5) The first Citizen's Oversight Committee meeting will be December 1<sup>st</sup>; 6) The Advisory and Technical Committee will meet the week of December 7<sup>th</sup>; 7) A "shout-out" to the Marin Grand Jury; 8) The Dick Spotswood Independent Journal article; 9) An article written by Director McEntee; 10) An update on climate resiliency legislation that will be on an upcoming ballot; 11) A Community Forum he attended sponsored by Supervisor Rice; 12) Review of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan ; 13) Partnership with College of Marin regarding D-Space evaluators; 14) Creating a Strategic Communication Plan; 15) Purchase of Directors and Officer's Liability Insurance.

He answered questions from the Board.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

6. Consent Calendar

- a. Acknowledge September 24, 2020 Operations Committee minutes.
- b. Approve October 15, 2020 MWPA Board of Directors Meeting minutes.
- c. Acknowledge October 20, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting minutes.
- d. Accept agreement with Remy Moose Manley, LLP for specialized legal services.
- e. Accept MWPA November 16, 2020 Budget Report

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no public comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

M/s, Berto/Coler, to approve Consent Calendar as submitted.  
Ayes: 17 of 17, 100% of population (through a roll call vote)

7. Wildfire Prevention Update

Executive Officer Brown presented the staff report.

There were no questions from the Board.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Belle Cole thanked Executive Officer Brown for the report and asked that the work of the three committees regarding defensible space, vegetation management, and carbon reduction be included in the next report.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments from the Board.

8. Low Income Senior Tax Exemption Appeals Process

Executive Officer Brown presented the staff report.

There were no questions from the Board.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

M/s, Phillips/McMillan, to adopt the appeal process and allow President Goines to appoint an ad hoc committee to review appeals.

Director Phillips retracted his motion.

M/s, Phillips/McMillan, to authorize staff to develop the appeal process and timeline and report back to the Board. Appeals of the appeal shall go to the Executive Committee.

Ayes: 17 of 17, 100% of population (through a roll call vote)

#### 9. Update on Environmental Compliance and Request for Proposals for Environmental Consulting Services

Legal Counsel Acevedo presented a brief staff report.

Ms. Sabrina Teller, representing the legal environmental consulting firm, discussed the various routes to CEQA compliance. She answered questions from the Board.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Michael Swezy appreciated the tone of caution he was hearing since embarking on programmatic EIR's is potentially very controversial. He would like to see the MWPA start to build a database of impacts and actions as soon as possible. He urged the Board to get the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) organized.

Ms. Carolyn Longstreth, representing FERN and the California Native Plants Society, stated she was glad to see that the Board has prioritized the CEQA issue. She commented on Attorney Teller's memorandum with respect to exemptions and noted they might not be as broad as one is tempted to think. There should be a discussion when an agency wants to claim an exemption. She discussed the need for surveys.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

M/s, Coler/Ravasio, to authorize the appointment of an ad hoc committee to advise the Board about the next steps and revise the Request for Proposals (RFP) for environmental consulting services.

Ayes: 17 of 17, 100% of population (through a roll call vote)

#### 10. Update on Organization Structure and Staffing Options

Executive Officer Brown presented the staff report.

There were no questions from the Board.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments from the Board.

#### 11. Update on MWPA Administrative and Financial Business Plan through December 31, 2020

Executive Officer Brown presented the staff report.

There were no questions from the Board.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments from the Board.

M/s, Coler/Rodoni, to approve the Administrative and Financial Business Plan through December 31, 2020.

Ayes: 17 of 17, 100% of population (through a roll call vote)

#### 12. Executive Committee Duties and Responsibilities

Executive Officer Brown presented the staff report and noted several revisions to the recommendations.

There were no questions from the Board.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

Director Berto had a question about the decision making authority of the Executive Committee.

It was the consensus of the Board to support the recommended Executive Committee Duties and Responsibilities.

#### 13. January Board of Directors Meeting- Board Retreat

Executive Officer Brown presented the staff report.

He answered questions from the Board.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments from the Board.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the Board retreat with consideration given to COVID-19 protocols.

#### 14. Committee Reports

Chief Weber of the Operations Committee presented a report.

Executive Officer Brown stated there was a Fire Safe Marin report in the Board packet.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

#### 15. Information Items

There were no informational items.

#### 16. Board Member Request Future Agenda Items

President Goines stated the nature of the Board's relationship with ESP and FERN will be on an upcoming agenda.

17. Adjournment- President Goines adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting would be held on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis,  
Recording Secretary