

THE MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 18, 2021
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), Bruce Goines (Novato Fire), Cathryn Hilliard (Southern Marin Fire), Paul Jeschke (Muir Beach), David Kimball (Bollinas Fire District), Sashi McEntee (Mill Valley), Julie McMillan (Ross), Gabe Paulson (Larkspur), Rachel Kertz (San Rafael), Bob Ravasio (Corte Madera), Dennis Rodoni (County of Marin), Mark White (Stinson Beach), Barry Evergettis (Kentfield Fire), Sivan Oyserman (Marinwood)
Staff in Attendance: Executive Officer Mark Brown, Legal Counsel Megan Acevedo, Treasurer Alyssa Schiffmann

3. Agenda Adjustments

There were no adjustments.

President Goines announced this is the One Year Anniversary of the MWPA. He summarized the agency's many accomplishments and thanked Chief Jason Weber, Chief Bill Tyler, Christie Neill, Operations (OPS) Committee member Dan Schwarz, and Steve Raab for their vision.

The Board of Directors thanked President Goines for his leadership and Executive Officer Brown for his great work.

4. Open Time for Public Expression

Mr. Steve Keese congratulated the MWPA for a very successful first year.

5. Executive Officer's Report

Executive Officer Brown reported on the following: 1) The Executive Committee meeting and the discussion about grant funding; 2) The Finance Committee meeting was postponed; 3) The Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) and approval of the Bylaws; 4) Change on agenda format; 5) Change to Summary Minutes; 6) Draft of Communications Strategy will be available soon; 7) Fair Political Practices Form 700 is due; 8) Interviews for Program and Planning Manager; 9) Planning for in-person meetings and possible locations; 10) Status of environmental Request for Proposal (RFP); 11) Status of Zonehaven and formation of multi-agency teams; 12) Status of Evacuation Risk Assessment RFP; 13) Grizzly Corps scope of work and the possibility of two positions; 14) Use of cameras and artificial intelligence for fire

detection and possible funding by PG&E; 15) Upcoming League of California Cities Conference; 16) Equity Initiative and the fire service.

Director Coler supported the idea of equity and diversity and referred Executive Officer Brown to some contacts in the community.

Director Hilliard had a question about the COC Bylaws.

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.

6. Consent Calendar

- a. Acknowledge February 4, 2021 Advisory/Technical Committee Minutes
- b. Acknowledge February 17, 2021 Finance Committee Minutes
- c. Approve February 18, 2021 Board of Directors Minutes
- d. Acknowledge February 24, 2021 Citizens' Oversight Committee Minutes
- e. Acknowledge February 25, 2021 Finance Committee Minutes
- f. Acknowledge March 4, 2021 Executive Committee Minutes
- g. Approve Draft Advisory/Technical Committee Bylaws
- h. Approve Amendments to Agreements with Bill Keene and Charlotte Jourdain for Consulting Services
- i. Approve Contract with NBS Government Finance Group

Directors Hilliard and Donohue stated the minutes should have more content. Directors McEntee and Burdo disagreed and asked the Executive Committee to discuss this issue.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

M/s, Rodoni/Hilliard, to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.

Ayes: All

Abstain: Sivan Oyserman
(through a roll call vote)

7. Staff Reports

- a. Finance Staff Report

MWPA Treasurer Schiffmann noted there was a written report in the Board packet and she would be happy to answer any questions.

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.

b. 2020 Work Plan Progress Update

Executive Officer Brown presented a report and noted much has been accomplished. The foundational and organizational format of the MWPA will allow them to move forward and be effective and efficient.

Director Coler stated a lot of work is done under FIRESafe Marin and this should be reflected in this report including what zones the work was performed in. Voters need to see what is getting done in each region.

Director McMillan referred to the bottom of page 84 and asked about the content and timing of the upcoming workshops. Executive Officer Brown stated the plan is for geographical zone based community meetings. The first will be held in the spring and will highlight what has been done. Once the Work Plan is approved there will be a series of workshops focusing on what they are going to do.

President Goines stated the Board will work through the Strategic Plan and talk about goals and objectives which will lead to metrics. They need to get more outcome-based and consistent in the area or reporting. Executive Officer Brown stated this is part of the on-going Communications Strategy development.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

8. Committee Reports

a. Operations Committee

Operations (OPS) Committee Chair Tyler stated the February 25th meeting included the following: 1) A series of presentations including the 2020/21 Chipper Program, Air Curtains/Burners, and defensible space and home hardening software; 2) A proposal called

Firescaping from the UC Cooperative Extension; 3) Update on Evacuation Plan and Zonehaven. The OPS Committee and the Advisory Technical Committee will need further discussions about project management by agencies. They received a request to make a presentation from a company that installs long range acoustical devices. The project and program form has been updated. He discussed the opportunity for a cost share subsidy on a Ring of Fire Biochar. He discussed a general timeline for the Work Plan with adoption by the Board in June.

Director Coler stated the Air Curtain Burner and the Ring of Fire Biochar would probably need permits from the Air Quality Management District.

b. Advisory/Technical Committee

Advisory/Technical Committee Chair (A/TC) Martin stated the committee has not met since his last presentation to the Board. They have, however, been busy with all the inner operational areas in developing a Work Plan. He stated the projects worksheet has been revamped and can be used for Core Projects, Defensible Space Projects, and Local Mitigation Projects. The A/TC will start looking at overall plans that will be presented to the OPS Committee.

There were no questions from the Board.

c. FIRESafe Marin

OPS Committee member Shortall stated his report was self-explanatory but he wanted to call attention to the MWPA's creation of training opportunities and the creation of a home hardening services program. This program could be similar to the California Conservation Corp and would provide job opportunities and a very valuable service. They had originally committed to five workshops designed for representation from each of the five zones.

Director Paulson referred to Work Plan item #15, the press releases, and asked about the stage it is in and the messages that are being prioritized. OPS Committee member Shortall stated every month there is a public service announcement printed in the Independent Journal. He wants to focus on the MWPA being the spokesperson for these programs.

President Goines supported the home hardening program and the integrations of job training opportunities for underserved youth.

Director Rodoni asked about the number of NOAA radios- 1,000 or 1,250 per Executive Officer Brown's report. OPS Committee member Shortall stated there were two separate projects- one for 1,000 which came out of the General Fund to FIRESafe Marin with a goal of spreading them throughout the County. Novato independently and with local funding applied for and received another 1,250.

Director Rodoni referred to the home hardening program and warned against using unlicensed contractors.

Director Kimball asked if the goal was for the NOAA radios to become prevalent in homes. OPS Committee member Shortall stated this started as a Pilot Project in Sleepy Hollow which has 825 homes. All of them have a NOAA radio since there is no cell phone coverage. The NOAA radio is the solution for receiving a message even if the power is out.

Director Kurtz asked about the dates of the community forums. OPS Committee member Shortall stated they were starting the first week of May and are scheduled for one each week for a total of five. They will be held Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. The order has not yet been identified.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

9. Action Items
a. Chipper Days

Executive Officer Brown presented a staff report and noted the Board has already approved this project and the budget change was approved by consensus of the OPS Committee. Last year's program was extremely successful, and the proposal is for a 50% increase. Every member agency is participating this year. The 2020/21 Work Plan Budget did not account for the startup of spring 2021. The fall program came in close to \$70,000 under budget so the adjustment for the spring would be \$330,000 instead of \$400,000.

Director Hilliard referred to pages 94 and 97 of the proposal and noted there is a difference in the amounts- \$330,000 vs. \$400,000. She asked if this was the same program. The projected Fiscal Year total would be \$1.2 million and she asked if the \$330,000 or \$400,000 would come out of that or if it is from the previous year. Executive Officer Brown stated it would be from the previous year. They underspent by \$70,000 from the last budget.

Director McEntee stated this is a great program and a good way to get the MWPA name out to the public. She wants to make sure they are effectively using MWPA funds. She would like to get a sense of how this program fits into the larger Work Plan.

Director Coler asked if the two curbside pickups were based on mutual threat zones. This is a critical program and she does not mind allocating more money when the need arises. She asked if FIRESafe Marin was marketing to the localities even if it is not MWPA money. OPS Committee member Shortall stated two curbside pickups was an equity issue- everybody is paying the tax. They have had discussions with some member agencies about additional chipping beyond what is funded by Core money. They would be happy to manage that.

Director McMillan asked if the signage recognizes the MWPA as the funding source. OPS Committee member Shortall stated "yes".

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

M/s, Burdo/Hilliard, to authorize \$330,000 from Core Funding to go to the spring 2021 Chipper Program

Ayes: All

(through a roll call vote)

b. Board Retreat III

Executive Officer Brown presented a staff report and discussed the proposed Mission and Vision Statement.

Director Hilliard asked if the requested wording changes referred to in a letter by CWP was in another document. Executive Officer Brown stated their concerns have been addressed.

Director Donohue asked Executive Officer Brown to read aloud the Mission and Vision Statements.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

M/s, McMillan/Hilliard, to approve the Mission and Vision Statement.

Ayes: All

(through a roll call vote)

Mr. Bill Keene discussed the proposed goals and values. The goals try to mirror what Measure "C" is about with an additional goal focusing on metrics. The core values were taken in part from interviews during the Board retreat. He asked the Board to email any minor edits.

Ms. Jean Bonander suggested the Board look at the Goals and Value Statement conceptually. She asked the Board if everything that needs to be addressed has been captured in the draft. Each goal will have a series of objectives that are based on the budget, Board direction, and staff's perception of what is going to happen next. The core value should be reflective of the collective comments of the Board.

Director McMillan stated she did not see anything about being stewards of the environment.

Director Coler stated the Vegetation Management Section should use the phrase "environmentally sound". The Tracking Metrics Goals Section should include something about

reporting and the Local Grant Program Goal should include the following: "... focusing on those with access and functional needs..."

Director Kurtz stated there were too many goals. She was looking for more measurable pieces of the goals. She is assuming these are three to five year goals and some of the public education and tracking and metrics goals were really objectives. There could be a goal involving community needs, community engagement, or community involvement. The Vegetation Management Goal includes the wording "most cost effective" which should be deleted or included in all the goals.

Director Paulson stated eight goals was good coverage since many objectives will follow. The Metrics Goal is critical and he suggested three additional goals with respect to project management and best practices.

Director Oyserman stated she has head concerns about vegetation management and clearcutting and not thinking about the wildlife.

Director Rodoni stated the communications aspect is lacking and he would like to see an Annual Report as one of the Tracking Metrics Goal.

Director Donohue stated all the goals would have tracking and this should not be a separate goal.

President Goines noted there will be objectives which are measurable items. The metric used would be identified along with the progress. Tracking and Monitoring does not need to be a separate goal. The Local Fire Mitigation and the Local Grant Program Goals are redundant.

Director McEntee stated this is a way of showing what all the "buckets are" and she suggested they combine the "buckets". She did not want to eliminate any of them.

Director Kimball stated he did not want to lose sight of the metrics and tracking.

Director Ravasio stated they need to make sure they are effectively communicating to the voters what they are doing.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Pat Randolph stated the Defensible Space Goal mentions home hardening but should also mention the landscape aspects.

OPS Chair Tyler asked if it is the intention of this group to eventually take positions or exert influence on the legislative arena of wildfire. He asked if they would leave this up to the individual member agencies. President Goines stated the issue of advocacy is being worked on by staff.

Mr. Larry Minikes thanked the Board for the thoughtful comments. He stated a way to tighten up the goals and objectives would be to look at things in terms of three to five years, five to seven years, and seven to ten years.

Ms. Belle Cole stated they need to include a goal regarding climate change and reducing carbon emissions.

Ms. Lucy Dilworth stated she did not see the concept of improving public safety. It could be included as a goal or a value.

Ms. Susannah Saunders, member of the San Anselmo Sustainability Commission, agreed with the comments made by Ms. Cole.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comments.

Ms. Bonander suggested the Executive Committee or the Ad Hoc Subcommittee meet to discuss further refinements. She, along with Mr. Keene, would submit the revised draft to the Board.

10. Information Items

There were none.

11. Board Members Request Future Agenda Items

There were no requests.

12. Adjournment- President Goines adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m. The next meeting would be held on April 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis,
Recording Secretary