

THE MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, 2021
Via teleconference due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)
MINUTES

1. Call to Order- Chair Minikes called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee members – In Attendance: Kingston Cole, Larry Minikes, Stephen Keese, Lucy Dilworth, Rebecca Suggs, Pat Randolph, Larry Chu, Max Perrey, Carolyn Longstreth
Staff in Attendance: Executive Officer Mark Brown

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 presented a report that included the following: 1) The recent Board meeting including approval of the Mission and Vision Statement, good start on Goals and Values, and future work on objectives; 2) Developing appropriate level of content for meeting minutes; 3) Operations (OPS) and Advisory/Technical Committees have not had public meetings but ad hoc subcommittees continue to work on projects; 4) Expansion of environmental requirements on the form; 5) Fair Political Practices Form (FPPC) 700 is due; 6) Program and Planning Manager position interviews; 7) Executive Review of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) study of the Camp Fire; 8) Board acknowledgement of the COC Bylaws; 9) Process for recruitment for COC members.

Committee member Dilworth asked if Google would be involved in the County-wide study on evacuation routes. Executive Officer Brown stated Google could be a respondent to the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Committee member Chu referred to recruitment of COC members and suggested the agency members could recruit within his or her region similar to the way they recruit for local boards and commissions.

Committee member Suggs had a question about the Form 700. Committee member Chu recommended members go to the FPPC Website and use its spreadsheet. It is easier.

Chair Minikes opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Minikes closed the meeting to public comments.

6. Consent Calendar

- a. Approve minutes from the February 24, 2021 COC Meeting and March 14, 2021 Special Meeting

M/s, Cole/Randolph, motion to approve the February 24, 2021 and March 14, 2021 minutes as submitted.

Ayes: All

7. Committee Reports

- a. Monitoring Assignment Reports

Committee member Randolph stated she is responsible for attending the Advisory/Technical Committee meetings. They have not met since the last COC meeting. She is also responsible for attending the Executive Committee meeting. She noted the utilization of Grizzly Corp has morphed into two positions. There was a presentation entitled Organizational Outreach which focused on getting grant funding to back up the funding from Measure "C". She noted grant funding is not always "free" and there is often a lot of administrative reporting. This topic needs to be a part of the Communications Strategy.

Chair Minikes reported on the recent Board meeting. They are working on the Mission and Vision Statement and they have a lot of very positive ideas.

- b. ESP/Environmental Groups Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report

Committee member Cole read the letter he sent to Chair Minikes and Ms. Belle Cole, representatives of the ESP Partnership. The letter cited the ad hoc subcommittee's goals: 1) To make transparent and readily available to the public all past activities, communications, recommended environmental practices that have occurred between the MWPA and the various environmental groups that have contributed to the ESP Partnership dating from the agreement to the present; 2) To ensure that all these activities and recommended environmental practices are made available to the public on an on-going basis in the future. He stated discussions are underway about the status of the ESP and what the arrangement will be in the future. The ESP is being asked to post everything on the Website- minutes, notice of meetings, videos, etc. A report will be written with recommendations to the full committee.

Committee member Randolph stated she has been attending all three of the ESP subgroups meetings and was concerned about the formation of a Steering Group that is making final decisions as to best practices, etc. The composition of this Steering Group is unclear.

Committee member Longstreth asked who would make the decision about what is posted to the Website. Committee member Cole stated that would be up to the ESP Partnership. Chair Minikes stated the MWPA might not have the bandwidth. There are discussions about an independent Website or one tied to another group. There are limitations but he is confident that the partnership will get them what they want.

Committee member Longstreth stated they are closing in on finalizing the BMP's for all three groups. They will be sent to the Board.

Committee member Dilworth asked if the ESP would continue to play a role once the BMP's are issued. Chair Minikes stated he did not think it would end too quickly- it would evolve. Committee member Longstreth stated this has not been discussed.

Committee member Chu asked if the Board was evaluating the difference it would cost fire professionals to do something without feedback vs. the additional best practices that will be suggested. Doing things at a higher threshold would cost more. Executive Officer Brown stated the Board has not done that type of analysis. He noted they were getting free advice on environmental compliance.

Committee member Dilworth asked if ESP would have the ability to persuade the groups to give it time before taking action. Chair Minikes stated all the ESP is trying to do is help.

c. Policies and Procedures Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report

Chair Minikes asked for a volunteer to take Committee member Randolph's spot on this ad hoc subcommittee. Committee member Suggs volunteered.

8. Informational Items

Committee member Suggs reported there is a team of students at Stanford who are working on a case study regarding the MWPA. It will include the history and what happened during the first year. Interviews will begin soon.

Committee member Perrey reported Executive Officer Brown attended the last Southern Marin Disaster Council meeting and gave a presentation on Zonehaven.

9. Committee members Request Future Agenda Items

Chair Minikes reminded the committee that if they want something included in the committee packet it needs to be sent to Executive Officer Brown the Thursday before the meeting.

Executive Officer Brown stated the Executive Committee would like each of the committees to receive Brown Act training.

10. Adjourn- Chair Minikes adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis, Recording Secretary