

THE MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AUTHORITY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 4, 2021  
Via teleconference due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order. President Goines called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call.

Directors – In Attendance: Bruce Goines (Novato Fire), Dennis Rodoni (County of Marin), Sashi McEntee (Mill Valley), Julie McMillan (Ross), Rachel Kertz (San Rafael)  
Staff in Attendance: Executive Officer Mark Brown, Legal Counsel Megan Acevedo

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 staff report that included the following: 1) Operations Committee meeting, working on the goals for the FY 2021/22 Work Plan; 2) Advisory/Technical Committee meeting, also working on the FY 2021/22 Work Plan and folding in the Goals, Values, and Objectives discussed by the Board; 3) Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) meeting, working on the Bylaws; 4) Joint meeting with the Board and the COC; 5) Re-evaluation of the MWPA Bylaws with respect to appointments to the Advisory/Technical Committee in accordance with the JPA language; 6) Summary minutes will replace action minutes for meetings; 7) Communications Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting; 8) Fair Political Practices Committee (FFPC) Form 700 should be filed soon (including COC members); 9) Planning and Program Manager interviews will start on March 8; 10) Planning for in-person meetings at Marin Clean Energy meeting space; 11) Request for Proposals (RFP) for environmental consulting firms were released on February 22<sup>nd</sup>; 12) Zonehaven kick-off meeting and building of multi-agency teams; 13) RFP for Evacuation and Risk Assessment should be released in April; 14) Change in Grizzly Corp proposal- are asking for two positions with one focusing on the smaller agencies and the other focusing on landscaping strategic projects; 15) Presentation at the League of California Cities Conference about the MWPA.

Director McEntee asked who would determine if the COC Bylaws were within bounds. Legal Counsel Acevedo stated she would make sure there was consistency with the JPA and the ordinance language.

Director McMillan asked if the Board will need to approve the COC Bylaws. Executive Officer Brown not if they are in alignment with the JPA and ordinance language.

Director Rodoni asked if the JPA Agreement would supersede the ballot language should there be a conflict. Legal Counsel Acevedo stated the ordinance would control since it was adopted by the voters. The lower documents would need to be brought into alignment.

Director Kertz asked if anything has been identified as being different. Executive Officer Brown stated staff will start working on that.

Director Kertz asked about the length of the contracts for the Grizzly Corp positions. Executive Officer Brown stated it was an eleven month term (start in September and end in July).

President Goines asked about the intake evaluation, screening, and recommendations for the Planning and Program Manager position and the contract environmental consulting firms. Executive Officer Brown discussed the composition of the panel.

President Goines had questions about Zonehaven and the risk assessment work. Executive Officer Brown stated staff is still vetting that process which will include the Operations Committee and the Advisory/Technical Committee.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Larry Minikes thanked Executive Officer Brown for his incredible work. He asked when the COC Bylaws Sub-Committee meeting video would be posted to the MWPA Website.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comment.

## 6. Organizational Outreach Update

Executive Officer Brown presented a brief staff report.

Mr. Bill Keene stated he ran an organization in Sonoma County that obtained over \$100 million in grants to conserve land. He would bring these skills to the MWPA and try to double its annual revenue of \$20 million. Building the groundwork of outreach and leveraging starts with relationships. He discussed fire prevention grants that could fund fuel reduction, wildfire education, defensible space programs, etc. He discussed CalFire programs.

Director McEntee asked Mr. Keene if he included on his list the Department of Conservation Regional Forest Capacity Program. Mr. Keene stated "not yet".

Director Rodoni had a question about coordinating with the member agencies for grants to avoid competing with each other. The MWPA could serve as a clearing house though the OPS Committee.

Executive Officer Brown stated he, along with OPS Committee member Weber, are staying on top of the Equity Initiative. There are State grants that can be passed onto residents through the agencies.

President Goines asked Mr. Keene if he has looked into AB32 (Cap and Trade) and funds that are available for carbon sequestration. Mr. Keene stated some of the programs he has talked about fall under Cap and Trade Revenues

President Goines briefly discussed the protocols of Avoid Wildfire Emissions (AWE) and noted they have been in existence for six or seven years. There is a lot of interest in projects that have climate benefits.

President Goines stated the administrative burden is substantial and he asked the following questions: Who is the applicant? Who is going to do the administration and finances?

Director Kertz agreed that the funding is out there but the operational lift can be intense. She had a question about timelines and expectations. Mr. Keene stated home hardening and others that do not require environmental clearance were the near term projects

President Goines opened the meeting to public comment.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comment.

President Goines asked for periodic updates.

## 7. MWPA Regular Board Meeting Agenda Planning for March 18, 2021

Executive Officer Brown presented a staff report. He noted the format of the agenda has changed in an attempt to streamline the meeting. He recommended adding the following item to the Consent Calendar: Contract with NBS. He asked when the Board would like to receive an update on outreach efforts. He discussed two Action Items including Chipper Days funding and the Board Vision and Mission Statements, and a discussion on Values, Goals, and Objectives.

Director Kertz stated she would like more information on seeking additional funding sources to support the work that the MWPA is doing.

Director Rodoni stated he would like the Executive Committee to review a list of potential grant funding before it goes to the full Board.

Director McMillan stated the list should include a projection of when the funds might be received, whether it is a one-time grant, etc. The Board could review this in April. She asked if the Board could start meeting every other month. Executive Officer Brown stated “yes”- after

they approve the 2021/22 Work Plan. President Goines agreed and added they need to also approve the Strategic Plan.

President Goines asked Executive Officer Brown and Mr. Keene to start talking about staffing, grant administration, record keeping with respect to Federal and State grants.

Director McEntee recommended a change in the order of agenda items.

President Goines asked about the status of any Brown Act training. Executive Officer Brown stated an informational flyer was sent out but he plans to schedule something soon.

President Goines opened the meeting to public comment.

There were no comments.

President Goines closed the meeting to public comment.

#### 8. Information Items

Executive Officer Brown stated his goal is to allow for more in depth sharing of information at the Board meetings.

Director McEntee stated she has been working on a CEQA exemption for wildfire prevention work by public agencies. This would include non-natives only, of a certain size, and a certain distance from a structure. They need to start building support for the bill and she suggested coming up with a process to vet these types of things.

Director McMillan stated the Board should get advice from Legal Counsel Acevedo with respect to precedence and protocols. She asked if this issue is addressed in the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).

Director Kertz asked if there have been discussions in the past about the MWPA having an advocacy arm.

President Goines agreed there were questions that need to be answered. He would like to place this item on an upcoming Board agenda.

#### 9. Action Items

There were none.

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

Executive Officer Brown summarized the two requests for upcoming agendas.

President Goines stated the Environmentally Sound Practices Partnership (ESP) had a draft document regarding defensible space, vegetation management, and carbon biomass. He asked Executive Officer Brown to submit it to the Board when appropriate.

11. Adjournment- President Goines adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis,  
Recording Secretary