

FBM Board Meeting Final Minutes
February 01, 2023 (4:00 – 5:00 pm)
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Ed Sylvester, Chuck Staetz, Chip Wilder, Susan Sanders, Jeff Peach, Andrew Wilkinson, Ann Westling, and Susan Luhman

Apologies: Diana Abrell

Approval of the Minutes

Ed Sylvester called for a motion to approve the November 2022 minutes. Ann made the motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Chip and all approved.

Treasury Report

The organization has \$1000.00 in checking and \$8,222.63 savings. Chip also reported \$7,000.00 in a CD account. Total funds are \$16,222.63.

Susan Luhman made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Chuck seconded it and all approved.

BLM (Bureau of Land Management) Programmatic Assessment (pEA)

Ann provided an overview of the BLM programmatic assessment which allows local entries certain rights to protect forest health, wild animals, and water. She learned that BLM is fairly flexible regarding permitting others to reduce fuel loads on their land. Local groups can meet with local BLM employees to initiate fuel reduction plans.

Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI) Analysis and Project Plan for Little Deer Creek

With BLM's final decision regarding their pEA, the YWI has been working on a fuel reduction plan. This plan identifies fuel reduction treatments for several hundred acres around the Banner Mountain area. Treatments would primarily be removing the brush and small trees 200 feet from the boundary lines of BLM property, roadways, ditches, power lines, etc. Treatments would include hand cutting and material scattering, chipping, masticating, and in 2 areas removing trees up to 20 inches in diameter to create a shaded fuel break. All the treatments in this plan follow BLM's requirements in the pEA. At this time there is no funding to move forward.

Treatment would not be allowed during the Spotted Owl nesting time.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy may also write a grant to help fund this project. Grant writing is labor intensive and requires extensive research, thus the project will probably not be funded until 2024.

Identification of Wildfire Hazards for Banner Mountain Firewise Community (BMFC)

Jeff and Ann met with Pat Leach, Firewise Coordinator to discuss successful ways to obtain state and/or federal funding to reduce wild fires. She indicated the best way is to identify hazards within Firewise communities and include these details into Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Pat mentioned sending a questionnaire to home owners to assess the harden fire protection of their properties.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) may require such information. Jeff will follow up with Ms. Leach for additional clarification about the questionnaire.

BMFC Meeting

In BMFC met on January 23, 2023. Jeff reported a good turn out. February 6 will be the next meeting to discuss plans expand the number of Firewise captains.

The group is exploring ways to increase the number of home owners participating in the council. Jeff mentioned sending a mailing (3 page flyer) about the BMFC and how important it is for residents to join. A three page flyer would be expensive.

Chip suggested putting up signs as FBM has done in previous years. This issue will be revisited.

Free Chipping Program

In 2022 FBM collaborated with the Fire Safe Council (FSC) to sponsor a free chipping program. Those FBM members who participated in the program were extremely pleased. While FBM allocated \$3,000.00 for the program; approximately \$1500.00 was spent.

Chip made the motion to fund the 2023 chipping program. Ann seconded it and it was unanimously approved,

Ann headed up the 2022 program. She recommended reviewing the FBM chipping program form to ensure the directions were clear about where and how the

piles were placed. Neighborhood maps will once again be required and reviewed to ensure FSC has a clear idea of where the piles will be located.

Susan Luhman will be the FBM liaison for the 2023 program.

Membership Mailing

Jeff announced as of 02/01/23 FBM has 230 members. The 2023 renewal membership letter was mailed in November; which is later than usual. The letter typically is sent in September or October. The membership form was sent by a postal service again this year. Approximately half the FBM board did not receive the membership letter; indicating a possibility that many did not receive the renewal letter. Discussion followed about the pros and cons of automating the membership renewal process.

Ann proposed forming a committee to review other platforms to automate FBM communication process (including membership renewal process). Word Press is not able to automate many of the activities Jeff does manually. The Board previously discussed moving to a new communication platform. Andrew and Jeff will revisit this issue and report back at the next meeting.

New Business

Ed met with Alessandra Zambrano, Nevada County Wildfire Coordinator and Alex Keeble-Toll, Office of Emergency Services (OES) Senior Administrator to discuss fire evacuation routes for Banner Mountain residents. Ed acknowledged road work to enhance evacuation routes would be expensive. FBM would like to contribute to enhancing these roads. He pointed out FBM is a membership funded 501c but some actual work on evacuation roads might energize folks to contribute more support. Ed offered to Alex and Alessandra a tour of the Banner Mountain roads currently designated as evacuation routes.

Idaho Mine Video

Jeff received a copy of *Shafted* - a video by Lou Douros about reopening the Idaho Maryland Mine. Jeff sent the video to the board for viewing. Chip made a motion to decline posting the video on FBM's website or FaceBook page. Ann seconded the motion and all approved.

Ed adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2023 at 4:00 pm.