

FIRE SAFE SONOMA  
Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2004

The April meeting of FireSafe Sonoma was held jointly with the Fire Protection Officers Association @ CDF West Division HQ, Santa Rosa, CA.

At the conclusion of the FPO meeting at approx. 10:35 a.m., President Jack Rosevear called the FSS meeting to order. He gave a brief overview of the agenda and the Powerpoint Presentation that Pete Martin would make at the end of the meeting on Wildland Fire Safety measures.

The first item of business was the **election of officers** for the Board. (7 members who serve 2 year terms) Officerpositions (1 year terms) are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, although Jack posed the option of having a combination Secretary-Treasurer. Jack Rosevear was elected President for the coming year. Vice President – Tim Doherty volunteered and was accepted. The question of combining Secretary with Treasurer was discussed.

Treasurer Tamara Boulbee expressed her concern that the responsibilities of the two offices, if done according to the by-laws, was better suited to keeping the two offices separate. She was willing to continue as treasurer and would temporarily take minutes but could not responsibly handle both offices. Discussion ensued as to who could fill the position of secretary – Marge Connelly and new member Ben Boyce said they could not. Remaining board members Harry Martin and Vern Losh were not present. (Harry was temporarily disabled due to an accident) Vern was selected as Secretary with Tamara continuing as Treasurer. All positions were filled by acclamation. (Ben Boyce mentioned that he would be willing to serve as VP in the future.)

**Treasurer's report:** No activity since last month's meeting. Tamara noted that a correction to the Balance Sheet Update presented at the last meeting would be forthcoming as she had had some concerns about the way dispensation of grant funds was reflected and had been able to clarify questions with Pete Martin who had handled the grants.

**Grant Update:** (The tape did not pick up Miriam's report so more information should be inserted here) Several grant requests have been filed. OES was awarded a \$27,000 grant which would be disseminated to the volunteer fire departments. Much of the money would be for designated equipment (69%?) with a portion going toward part-timers to implement and a small portion to be used for educational purposes such as reprinting of the "Living with Fire" booklet. Future grants would allow for cooperation and capacity building. Several members of FPO had questions of Miriam. FPO asked for information about when the next deadline for applying for Fire Prevention grants would be.

**West County Grant:** No new update information from them on their grant progress.

**Old Business:**

**FSS Website:** [www.firesafesonoma.org](http://www.firesafesonoma.org). Various information available including the ability to download the Living with Fire booklet. A goal of the website is to provide fire agencies and homeowner groups a place to refer homeowners to go to for information.

**Fire Safety Trailer:** Will be in the Rose Parade on May 15. Organizers of the parade are looking for the Trailer to be in the park with staffing to be provided by Santa Rosa FD.

**SOD (Sudden Oak Death):** Presentation on latest information and handling of refuse postponed to next meeting

**Wildland Fire Prevention Week** – May 9 Resolution goes before Board of Supervisors on May 11 – hope to have representation from various fire agencies including FSS to help receive. Tim asked if Santa Rosa planned to have a resolution adopted by the City Council as well. SR representative asked about Press Release and being able to customize for more localized area (County resolution covers all of the county) and CDF indicated that they too would be interested in being involved in customizing their generic press release to reflect the local area.

**Vegetation Management Assessment Class** – being set up for May 22 @ CDF. Target participants would be tree companies and select homeowners groups. Pete Martin is in charge. Plans include a morning class of approx. 2 1/2 hrs. with the afternoon session (approx. 2 hrs) taking place in the field to assess a couple of sites and discuss vegetation and how modified. Considering Fountaingrove for at least one site. Will incorporate the PowerPoint presentation to be shown later in this meeting. Presentation can be tailored to specific area or neighborhood. Also referenced Fitch Mountain project. Limited to 20, at the most 25, participants. Discussion re vegetation management class in Napa involving certification, and also SB369. Jack requested CDF assistance for class.

### **New Business:**

**Station to Station Run (9/11)** – Rancho Adobe Fire District feels they are sponsor/recipient and we would need to find out what part FSS should/could play in this remembrance and fund raiser. Idea is for the initial run to be between fire stations in Cotati and Penngrove with future runs being staged between other stations.

Tim gave **update on Fountaingrove** re fuel modification work (\$75,000) at top of Fountaingrove. (Tuscany and SouthRidge) Work will be documented both before and after. Also worked with developer to have him (Christopherson) bear the cost of providing 100 ft. buffer between wooded open space and homes.

Tim brought up e-mail received about **terrorism threat using wildland fires** to disrupt business and harm life. Discussion related to waiting for official verification of facts, concern about giving people ideas, or unduly frightening the public, and potentially encouraging someone (non-terrorist) who might be a bit unstable or desirous of attention to tap into the idea. Consensus was to not put this information out. The key is for people to be sure that they have taken care of their responsibilities for their property.

Also Tim raised the question about some **insurance** companies requiring unrealistic clearance to continued coverage. FSS had discussed this very issue several months ago. Have contacted several insurance companies for inclusion in FSS meetings. Also, consensus was that education and two way street communication was important. That as a business the companies can decide who they are willing to insure. . . as long as companies are acting responsibly.

### **Next Meeting:**

May 26, 2004 @ noon @ CDF.

Meeting adjourned, at approx. 11:37 a.m., after viewing of PowerPoint presentation

Respectfully submitted,  
Tamara Boulton