

Foresthill / Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council

January 20, 2009 Meeting Notes

Meeting called to order.

Reading of the minutes approved.

General Items:

1. 2009 Clearing House Grant Projects
 - Rooster Ridge project was approved and we are waiting for contract to come back from the Clearing House who is waiting for the paperwork to come back from the USFS.
 - This grant is for 192 acres for a total cost of \$240,000.
 - This is on an 18 month cycle.
2. Future Projects
 - We are now able to fund some projects on BLM land. This helps with crossing across private and BLM lands.
 - There are limited funds available.
3. Emergency Plan Update
 - Placer County has sent out a draft for an Emergency Plan for Foresthill and Iowa Hill areas and is waiting for comments. This should be finalized in March.
 - We are working on updating our shelter information with the Red Cross and hopefully will include the shelter information with the Emergency Plan.
4. Website
 - Tyler has created statistics that show approximately how many people are using the website each week.

- There was an average of 100 hits per day from August 08 – December 08.

Community Education:

1. Home Owners Associations

- We need to start attending the HOA's meetings and it would be great to have a representative from each development come to the Fire Safe Council meetings.
- Try to get an email address for the president to forward any email information.

2. Gary Attended a Juvenile Fire Start Course

- We have had a couple of individuals that were brought to the Fire Districts attention by their parents for an education.
- Gary needs to work with the County more to see what they have to offer.

Grant Updates:

1. Street Sign Update

- The crews are installing now that we have had some rain.
- We are installing the last five and will look into getting more for the others that do not have a street sign.

2. Emergency Escape Route Signs

- The signs are available and ready to go.
- Gary stated that we are waiting for the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to draw up the maps.
- We just need to get the Chief's authorization on the public notice and we will be ready to go. This is part of the Emergency Plan.
- OES wants each sign numbered. Gary will work on that.

3. Michigan Bluff fuel Break

- N / A.

4. Todd Valley Fuel Breaks

- The letters were sent out to the property owners and we have received back 26 out of 50 so far.
- Location map is complete and we are still trying to configure the Todd Valley Road stretch of the map.
- Has to be completed by August 2009.
- The only extension that may be granted would be due to bad weather or fire danger.

5. Pipeline 1 Fuel Break

- Environmental evaluation is nearly complete.
- Flagging is complete.
- Ready to send this out to bid on January 28th in two papers and on the website. Walk through on Thursday February 5th and bids due Thursday February 12th. These will go before the Fire District Board on Tuesday March 3rd which is an opening meeting. The contractor will be awarded the bid on Wednesday March 4th. This fuel break needs to be completed by August 30th.
- This will probably go out to bid in the next couple of weeks.

6. Monte Verde Fuel Break Maintenance

- This has been completed and looks great.
- Next year, for the annual maintenance, we are looking at taking out some smaller trees and possibly having the County give us the okay to take out some trees along the highway.

Group Reports-

PCFSA- Placer County Fire Safe Alliance – N/A

DAT- Disaster Action Team – Still in vacation mode. They will have their first meeting next week.

- FFPD- Foresthill Fire Protection District – We have had two structure fires, mobile home and chimney fire and did really good. Ordinance is still in the air for the Pilot Program that was in Tahoe area. Funding is not there right now. Free help available, the Sheriff’s office called and has kids available to help out for a few days. These are kids that need to work some community service hours.
- Cal Fire** **California Department of Forestry** – They will be shut down 2 days a month, maybe. Ed will double check on this to see if they are planning on shutting them down. This is the last year for Prop 40 monies. The contracted ended with BOR responding to fires on state land. Now whoever shows up will be compensated by BOR on a per call basis.
- BLM- Bureau of Land Management - N/A
- USFS- US Forest Service - N/A.
- Firewise- We are going to work on 2 communities up here. The communities include Monte Verde and Eagle Crest. Karina is in the process of writing a grant to fund her position for 2010. She is funded through 2009 but would like the Fire Safe Council to write a letter showing our support of the work that she does.

New Business:

Nancy Hewitt with the Foresthill Community Cemetery stopped by asking for help. They were cited by Placer County Air Quality for burning leaves in the Cemetery. She tried to work with Air Quality to resolve the problem. They were able to reduce their fine but had to purchase a commercial burn permit that puts them into a forestry category. They suggested trying biomass process, but with no money or help that is not an option. Nancy is looking to see if there is equipment out there that could be shared with another organization.

Good of the order.

Meeting adjourned.