

Final Minutes Approved by Fire Safe Marin Board at June 28, 2023 Meeting

**Fire Safe Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board
Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

Board of Directors Member Attendance:

Jim Chayka	FSM Admin – President + Large Landowners
Todd Lando	FSM Admin – Vice-President + Fire Agencies
Roger Meagor	FSM Admin – Treasurer + Fire Chief, retired
Eva Denegri Baker	FSM Admin – Secretary + OES, retired
Jason Weber	Fire Agencies – Fire Chiefs
Larry Pasero	Fire Agencies – Fire Prevention Officers
Quinn Gardner	Fire Agencies - Operations
Catherine Way	Elected Officials – Cities / Towns
Shaun Horne	Large Landowners – Water District
John Hansen	HOAs – Marin Valley Mobile Country Club
Stephen Quarles	At Large – Home Hardening Expert, retired
Adriana Rabkin	Marin VOAD
Jerry Meral	At Large – Inverness Assn & FDN, Firewise
Romeo Arrieta	Marin Association of Realtors
Andrew Johnson	Calif Landscape Contractors Assn

Excused:

Jordan Reeser	Fire Agencies – County Fire
Pete Martin	At Large – Founding Member & MCFD, retired

1. **Call to Order:** 0902 hours by the President, **Jim Chayka**, via the web conferencing software, *Zoom*. A quorum was present. Note that the public was made part of this Zoom call, and the meeting was recorded.
2. **Review and Approve Agenda (CHAYKA):** no changes
M/S Hansen / Quarles
AYES: ALL
3. **Review and Approve Minutes from the February 22, 2023 Regular Board Meeting (CHAYKA):** no changes
M/S Quarles / Lando
AYES: ALL
4. **Presentation by GGNPC (DANNY FRANCO)**
Danny Franco, Senior Program Coordinator for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC), gave a presentation to the board with an overview of the

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Marin Regional Forest Health Strategy that One Tam is currently working to develop. The One Tam collaborative was formed in 2014 and comprises four land management agencies that manage Mount Tamalpais (National Park Service, California State Parks, Marin Municipal Water District, and Marin County Parks). To give a statewide context, Danny explained, funding for the Forest Health Strategy originated from the California Climate Investments funding program. It passed through the California National Resources Agency's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (Department of Conservation) to the California State Coastal Conservancy. The Coastal Conservancy identified four sub grantees to award funding, one of which was One Tam's Marin Regional Forest Health Strategy. The final report will be delivered early in May 2023 and will be available on the onetam.org website.

Danny Franco also shared with the board two decision-support tools with data that were recently developed, the *Marin Forest Health Web Map*, and the *Watershed Downloader Tool*. Spatial data compiled in the web map are intended to support One Tam partner agencies in promoting the health and resilience of Marin's forests and woodlands. Reports can be downloaded on things like fuel conditions in vegetation and pitch pine or sudden oak death.

5. Treasurer's Report with Handouts for April 26, 2023 (MEAGOR):

Treasurer Roger Meagor shared a Treasurer's Report with the Board, and it included the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, MWPA Budget vs Actuals (01/01/2023 – 03/31/2023), Expenditure Report (01/01/2023 – 03/31/2023), and Bank Reconciliation (as of 03/31/2023). As of 03/31/2023, total equity equaled **\$299,803** with a cash balance of **\$318,506**. The Board acknowledged and filed the Treasurer's Report and Financials. *This Report in its entirety is available by request to **Eva D. Baker** at evadbaker@outlook.com.*

6. Updates with Handout (STAFF)

 **MWPA 2022-23 Projects Overview**

 **Ember Stomp Update**

MWPA 2022-23 Projects Overview (STAFF)

FSM staff members, **Rich Shortall, Jen Gauna, and Meg McCabe** gave the FSM Board of Directors an update on MWPA Projects, starting with Social Media Outreach. A handout was shared and is entitled, *Fire Safe Marin April 2023 Report – deliver to MWPA for the 4/20/2023 Board Meeting*. Staff told the board that the FSM website received 12,000 visitors in the month of March 2023, which is an increase of 18% from March 2022. Also, the FSM e-newsletters, YouTube Channel, and Social Media posts are getting large open rates and viewership and are gaining followers. FSM has received positive feedback on the content they provide. Rich Shortall added that he has learned that the FSM website has become a reference point for fire councils throughout the state. The website will soon have a new Resources page.

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FSM's *Adapt Campaign* continued in March and April 2023 with spring fire prevention public service announcements (PSAs) in both English and Spanish. In addition to print and digital delivery, these ads ran in 30- / 15- / and 6-second videos. Staff gave special thanks to the board members, **Stephen Quarles** and **Todd Lando**, who were so helpful in the making of these ads. The next PSA series will focus on creating an ember-resistant zone and the home evaluation program (to motivate residents). Staff has seen a big jump in Spanish consumption of ads going from 5% to 12%. FSM also finalized Spanish versions of the *Wildfire Evacuation Survival Checklist*. A comprehensive list of Spanish language content is available at <https://firesafemarin.org/en-espanol/>.

FSM has also helped Firewise sites submit seven grant requests with PG&E for the reduction of hazardous vegetation around power lines.

Finally, the April 2023 Report contains a list of Fire Safe Marin's community partners, the relationships with which are continuously expanding and strengthening. Staff has learned from other local fire safe councils that they don't experience the same level of cooperation and collaboration with partners quite like Fire Safe Marin does. FSM engaged with these partners in the month of March:

Community Preparedness Coalition
Emergency Coordinators
Vivalon
Marin CIL
Community Action Marin
Marin Builders Association
Marin County PIO
Marin Community Clinics
California Fire Safe Council
Marin Master Gardeners
Fire Aside

Ember Stomp Update (STAFF)

FSM Executive Coordinator, **Rich Shortall**, gave the FSM Board of Directors a brief update on the planning of the Ember Stomp Event for May 20, 2023. A more detailed summary is included in the April 2023 Report.

7. Call for Future Agenda Items:

These ideas for future agenda topics were shared by both board members and guests:

- ✓ Develop a relationship with the Resource Conservation District (RCD); perhaps **Jerry Meral** could do a report as he is a board member of RCD;
- ✓ Invite new Assemblymember **Damon Connolly** to speak on Assembly Bill 478 (protect home insurance for senior homeowners);
- ✓ Invite other fire safe councils to speak, for example, Fire Safe Sonoma;

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- ✓ Update on Zone Zero status in legislation;
- ✓ “Safer from Wildfires” initiative (interagency partnership between California Department of Insurance and other California state government response and readiness agencies); and,
- ✓ Hold a larger setting public meeting on subject of fire insurance alone.

Please send requests to **President Chayka** or to FSM staff for the next regular meeting of the Board on Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

8. ADJOURN:

Next meeting will be held on *Wednesday, June 28, 2023*. Being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn this meeting at 1023 hours.

M/S Denegri Baker / Meagor

AYES: ALL

9. SECRETARY’S CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of Fire Safe Marin’s Regular Board of Director’s meeting, held on April 26, 2023.



Eva Denegri Baker, Secretary, Fire Safe Marin

June 28, 2023

Date