

**Fire Safe Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board
Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

Board of Directors Member Attendance:

Todd Lando	FSM Admin – Vice-President + Fire Agencies
Jim Chayka	FSM Admin – President + Large Landowners
Roger Meagor	FSM Admin – Treasurer + Fire Chief, retired
Eva Denegri Baker	FSM Admin – Secretary + OES, retired
Jordan Reeser	Fire Agencies – County Fire
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
Jerry Meral	At Large – Inverness Assn & FDN, Firewise
Adriana Rabkin	Marin VOAD
Romeo Arrieta	Marin Association of Realtors

Excused:

Jason Weber	Fire Agencies – Fire Chiefs
Larry Pasero	Fire Agencies – Fire Prevention Officers
Andrew Johnson	Calif Landscape Contractors Assn

Honorary:

Supervisor Katie Rice	FSM Chair & Board of Supervisors
Pete Martin	Director Emeritus - Founding Member & MCFD, retired

1. **Call to Order:** 0902 hours by the President, **Todd Lando**, 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 (LANDO):** no changes
M/S Quarles / Hansen
AYES: ALL
3. **Review and Approve Minutes from the February 28, 2024 Regular Board Meeting (LANDO):** one correction to page 5 (change *Insurance Institute* to read, “Insurance Information Institute”).
M/S Chayka / Hansen
AYES: ALL

4. **Treasurer's Report with Handouts for April 24, 2024 Board Meeting (MEAGOR)**
Treasurer Roger Meagor shared with the Board a Treasurer's Report for the meeting of April 24, 2024, containing attachments for the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, MWPA Budget vs. Actuals (01/01/24 – 03/31/24), Expenditure Report (01/01/24 – 03/31/24), Bank Reconciliation, and a document entitled "Due from MWPA at 03/31/24," which indicates that the balance due at 03/31/24 from the MWPA is \$137,699.39.

Total Equity - \$390,597
Cash Balance - \$427,126

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.*

Treasurer Meagor told the board that FSM received a \$40,000 donation for *Ember Stomp*. Also, the Cal Fire grant will be extended at least for six more months.

5. **Updates (with Handouts)**

⚡ **Transition Plan (LANDO)**

FSM Co-director of Operations, Jen Gauna, shared with the Directors a document containing the official job descriptions of both she and **Meg McCabe, FSM Co-director of Development**. **President Lando** and **Treasurer Meagor** told the Board that the FSM Bylaws do not prohibit the creation of certain roles; they give the Board the discretion to create "co-director" roles amongst staff. **Meg McCabe** added that **Rich Shortall's** collaborative management and leadership style is what really allowed for the co-director concept. Meg said, "I am confident that Jen and I, with Rich's support, will be able to meet the challenges ahead."

⚡ **MWPA 2023-24 Projects (MCCABE / GAUNA)**

Co-director of Operations, **Jen Gauna** and Co-director of Development, **Meg McCabe**, presented the March 2024 Activity Report to the FSM Board, which had been delivered to the MWPA at their April 22, 2024 board meeting. ***The sixteen-page report is incredibly detailed and will not be summarized here. However, this March 2024 report is available to the public on Fire Safe Marin's website (firesafemarin.org/about/reports/) under the tab, "Project Updates". Alternatively, the public may request a full copy by emailing Secretary **Eva D. Baker** at evadbaker@outlook.com.***

Some Highlights from the Report:

- ✓ This report now includes a section up front called, "What's New," which focuses the attention of the reader to what has changed since the prior report.
- ✓ Website has a "refreshed design" created in March by **Todd Lando** and **Rich Shortall**.

Final Minutes Approved on June 26, 2024 by Fire Safe Marin Board of Directors

- ✓ 2024 *Ember Stomp Wildfire Prevention Festival* will take place on Saturday, September 7th from 11am until 5pm at the Marin Civic Center. Rich said that this year's event will drop music, but perhaps add a smaller, acoustic presence. Focus will be even more on engaging families. IBHS will be there with an upgraded burn demonstration
- ✓ FSM's **Community Ambassador Program** engaged over four hundred residents over four events in March. They also received Continuing Education. Jen spotlighted the fact that six out of eight ambassadors are bilingual.
- ✓ FSM developed a new **Speaker's Bureau** meant to expand the capacity to deliver presentations to community groups. Six ambassadors received additional education on public speaking and presenting on basic wildfire preparedness.
- ✓ Timely articles on prescribed burns and shaded fuel breaks were published to supplement Marin's continuing pile burn activities.
- ✓ Jen gave an overview of FSM's *Outreach and Engagement* during Fiscal Year 2023-24.
 - Website – 90,200 visitors
 - Social Media – 998 posts with organic reach of 334,000
 - YouTube – 46,800 views and 2,700 hours watched
 - Newsletter – 110,900 opens
 - Telephone Calls – 1,100
- ✓ Meg shared parts of MWPA's **Executive Officer Mark Brown's** latest video, the third in a series called, *Understanding Wildfire Behavior with Mark Brown*. This video is about making it downhill alive during wildfire evacuations. It has already garnered over 2,000 views in just one week. His videos can be found on the MWPA website here: <https://www.marinwildfire.org/news/understanding-wildfire-behavior-with-mark-brown>. **Jim Kasper** suggested that FSM emphasize in their educational materials "leaving early" and "not waiting" to reduce traffic during evacuations.
- ✓ FSM created a brochure for landscapers on creating fire smart yards.
- ✓ Meg shared updates on FSM's *Adapt Campaign*.

6. Call for Future Agenda Items (LANDO)

- ✓ Requests FSM do a campaign of sorts to encourage residents to use their green bins, which can greatly increase the cubic amount of green material. **(REESER)** **Rich Shortall** added that green bin usage is actually a metric for reporting by Firewise Sites.
- ✓ Doug McConnell's NBC Bay Area TV show, *OpenRoad with Doug McConnell*, did a very nice segment (episode 93) on the Fire Foundry Program in Marin. See Link to episode [HERE](#). **(WAY)**

7. For the Good of the Order (LANDO)

- ❖ The World Health Organization's (WHO) cancer agency, reclassified occupational exposure as a firefighter as a group 1 carcinogen, meaning there is enough evidence that it causes cancer in humans. Numbers of cases amongst firefighters has increased twenty-fold. **(LANDO)**
- ❖ On April 12, 2024, Ross Valley Fire Department **Fire Captain Rick Addicks** passed away after a battle with occupational-related esophageal cancer.
- ❖ Other Marin firefighters are currently fighting stage four occupational-related cancer.

Please send agenda requests to **President Lando** or to FSM staff for the next regular meeting of the Board, to be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

8. ADJOURN:

Next meeting will be held on *Wednesday, June 26, 2024*. Being no further business, the President called for a motion to adjourn this meeting at 1018 hours **with a Moment of Silence to honor Captain Addicks, and to remember Marin County Fire Department Firefighter, Jamie Byrnes, who is under the care of Hospice with cancer.**

M/S Denegri Baker / Arrieta
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 24, 2024.



Eva Denegri Baker, Secretary, Fire Safe Marin June 26, 2024
Date