

**Fire Safe Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board
Held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025**

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
Jason Weber	Fire Agencies – Fire Chiefs
Larry Pasero	Fire Agencies – Fire Prevention Officers
Catherine Way	Elected Officials – Cities / Towns
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
Andrew Johnson	Calif Landscape Contractors Assn

Excused:

Shaun Horne	Large Landowners – Water District
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Honorary:

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

1. **Call to Order:** 0907 hours by the President, **Todd Lando**. A quorum was present. Note that the public was not made part of this meeting, but the meeting was recorded. Also present was **Supervisor Brian Colbert**, Fire Safe Marin's Chair.
2. **Review and Approve Agenda (LANDO):** no changes
M/S Denegri Hansen / Quarles
AYES: ALL
3. **Review and Approve Minutes from the April 23, 2025 Regular Board Meeting (LANDO):** no additions or corrections
M/S Meagor / Pasero
AYES: ALL

4. Treasurer’s Report with Handouts for the June 25, 2025 Board Meeting (MEAGOR)

Treasurer Roger Meagor shared the June 25, 2025 Treasurer’s Report with the Board, and it included the Balance Sheet (05/31/2025), Income Statement (01/01/2025 – 05/31/2025), MWPA Budget vs Actuals (01/01/2025 – 05/31/2025), Expenditure Report (01/01/2025 – 05/31/2025), Bank Reconciliation (as of 05/31/2025), document entitled “Due from MWPA at 05/31/2025”, document entitled, “Items to be billed to MWPA per 05/31/2025 Financial”, and document entitled, “Fire Safe Marin A/P Aging Summary, as of May 31, 2025”. Total equity equaled **\$314,748** with a cash balance of **\$200,363**. 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 is beginning to receive donations for the Ember Stomp event. Expenses are normal and funding things like the Wildfire Task Force, the Fire Foundry, and MWPA activities.

5. Presentation and Recommendation from Executive Committee on Board Membership and Current Vacancies (LANDO)

President Lando announced that **Director Romeo Arrieta** has resigned from the FSM board. “Romeo served admirably as a great contact from the Marin Association of Realtors, and was a great friend to Fire Safe Marin.” FSM’s Executive Committee worked with the Realtors Association to find good candidates to replace Romeo, interviewed two such candidates, and chose **Chris Backer**. Mr. Backer has much experience with public policy, wildfire insurance issues, and wildfire resilience, to name just a few. He has focused on consistently bringing wildfire disclosures to buyers, and resale inspection reports, and has numerous connections to Marin communities and to the fire districts.

The President called for a motion to approve Chris Backer to the FSM Board of Directors representing the Marin Association of Realtors. Backer’s term will run through the end of 2025 (Arrieta’s term was set to expire at that time).

M/S Denegri Baker / Rabkin

AYES: ALL

Director Catherine Way (Elected Officials) announced that she is retiring next year from the Larkspur City Council and moving part time to Bend, Oregon. She plans to resign from the FSM Board soon. Director Way also said that she has been rotated back on to the MWPA board. Thus, she is concerned about possible conflicts if she continues to wear both hats. She promises to transition a new person to FSM with town and city experience.

6. Discussion and Recommendation about Leadership Staff Changes (LANDO)

President Lando led a long discussion about FSM’s co-directors, **Meg McCabe** and **Jennifer Gauna**, leaving the organization. He praised both and noted that FSM’s staff is “the least compensated nonprofit staff in Marin County yet their work far exceeded other nonprofits.” He said that he is very sorry to lose them. Meg said that it has been a highlight of her career to have been the creative director, and she is “most fortunate

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to have been able to contribute to perhaps the most consequential issue of our time.” Jennifer “echoed” all of Meg’s comments. She also gave big kudos to the other staff members, **Kaya Halpern, Stuart Tanenberg, Christine Abela, and Jessamyn Hise**, and emphasized that they deserved the credit, too. Meg and Jennifer both said that FSM is well positioned to carry out the mission without them. After multiple meetings and internal discussions of the executive staff, Todd told the board that it is the executive team’s recommendation that the best short-term solution is for **Bill Tyler** (Novato FD, retired) to come on at the start of the new fiscal year (next week) as the Interim Executive Director of FSM. “[Bill] has the necessary background to do the job and has already made great connections with FSM staff.” Todd stressed that this action would not constitute a “demotion” of Meg and Jennifer. Rather, Meg and Jennifer are both committed to help shape their transitions while they are still here. They will both continue with their current titles until their departure. Bill Tyler then left the meeting to allow the vote and any discussion to happen without him. Bill’s length of employment for now will go to the end of 2025. Todd said, “we need to make it clear that we have the ability to get the work plan done.” **Director Chief Jason Weber** jumped in to acknowledge Meg and Jennifer for their enormous contributions to the organization. He said, “we need to thank them.” He also said that Bill Tyler needs to be appointed as the interim coordinator through this calendar year because “we must make it clear that we have the ability to get the work plan done.” Todd reminded the board that the bylaws allow the executive committee the authority to appoint Bill. But the committee did want to bring this action to the full board.

Vice-president Chayka called for a motion to approve the appointment of Bill Tyler as FSM’s Interim Executive Director for a term through the end of calendar year 2025.

M/S Hansen / Pasero

AYES: ALL

7. Updates (with Handouts) (STAFF)

📌 MW FY 2025 Projects + Activities

Co-director of Operations, **Jen Gauna** and Co-director of Development, **Meg McCabe**, presented the FSM May Activity Report to the FSM Board. This report had been delivered to the MWPA at its June 18, 2025 board meeting. ***This report is incredibly detailed and will not be summarized here. However, all FSM Project Reports are available to the public on Fire Safe Marin’s website [HERE](#), under the tab, “Project Updates”. Alternatively, the public may request a full copy by emailing Secretary Eva Baker at evadbaker@outlook.com.***

Some Highlights from the Report:

FSM’s Public Education and Outreach Activities May 1 – 31, 2025 (presented by Co-director Jennifer Gauna):

- On FSM’s YouTube channel four out of five videos are complete in the series *Fix-the-Risk*. “Fences” will be done in July.
- Most popular content was the *Fix-the-Risk vent video* and practical tips for creating a wildfire-prepared home.

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- Big uptick in Firewise Sites holding events and asking the FSM Ambassadors to participate.
- Staff member **Christine Abela** has led a successful drive to display the retrofit guide and fire smart yard guide in kiosks at hardware and gardening stores and through in-person events.
- Staff member **Stuart Tanenberg** has been working with a couple prospective Firewise USA sites (e.g., Bret Harte); several additional sites will be coming after.
- Staff member **Jessamyn Hise** trained twenty-seven new FSM Ambassadors at the annual training.

✚ **Marin Community Foundation Grant**

Co-director Meg McCabe told the board that FSM received a grant from the Marin Community Foundation for both construction workforce training provided by **Director Stephen Quarles** and for the *Fix-the-Risk* video series.

✚ **Cal Fire Safe Council County Coordinator Grant**

Co-director McCabe told the board that FSM was awarded the County Coordinator grant running from May 15th to July 31, 2026. Funding was provided by a grant from CAL FIRE. Fire Safe Marin was one of ten California fire safe councils in the running. McCabe credited **Bill Tyler** for helping FSM be chosen.

8. **Call for Future Agenda Items (LANDO):**

Please send agenda requests to **President Lando** or to FSM staff for the next regular meeting of the Board, to be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025.

9. **ADJOURN:**

Next meeting will be held on *Wednesday, August 27, 2025*. Being no further business, the President called for a motion to adjourn this meeting at 1058 hours.

M/S Weber / Meagor

AYES: ALL

10. **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 June 25, 2025.



Eva Denegri Baker, Secretary, Fire Safe Marin

October 22, 2025

Date