

**Final Minutes Approved by Fire Safe Marin Directors on October 22, 2025**

**Fire Safe Marin  
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board  
Held on Wednesday, August 27, 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
Quinn Gardner	Fire Agencies - Operations
Jason Weber	Fire Agencies – Fire Chiefs
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
Andrew Johnson	Calif Landscape Contractors Assn

**Excused:**

Jordan Reeser	Fire Agencies – County Fire
Larry Pasero	Fire Agencies – Fire Prevention Officers
Catherine Way	Elected Officials – Cities / Towns

**Honorary:**

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

1. **Call to Order:** 0901 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. Also present was **Supervisor Brian Colbert**, Fire Safe Marin's Chair.
2. **Review and Approve Agenda (LANDO):** add new item #7, "Update on FSM Staff and Board."  
*M/S Denegri Baker / Quarles*  
**AYES: ALL**
3. **Introduce New Board Member Chris Bakcer (TYLER):**  
**Bill Tyler** introduced new board member, **Chris Backer**, who will represent the Marin Association of Realtors. Chris is a Bay Area native, graduated from UC Davis in

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Government & Politics, is raising a family in Marin, and whose wife, Grace, is a teacher at Tam High School. He has served in leadership roles at the Marin Association of Realtors and California Association of Realtors. He has a background in real estate law and today engages with state legislators on Policy. Chris volunteered for several local organizations and was named *Realtor of the Year* in 2023. Chris thanked the FSM Directors for the opportunity to serve. **President Lando** added comments about how critical the role realtors play in wildfire safety, insofar as they are the “gate keepers to ordinances and legislation.”

4. **Review and Approve Minutes from the June 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting (LANDO):** these minutes will be presented at the October 22, 2025 meeting.

5. **Treasurer’s Report with Handouts for the August 27, 2025 Board Meeting (MEAGOR)**

**Treasurer Roger Meagor** shared the August 27, 2025 Treasurer’s Report with the Board, and it included the Balance Sheet (07/31/2025), FSM Income Statement (01/01/2025 – 07/31/2025), MWPA Income Statement (01/01/2025 – 07/31/2025), Expenditure Report (01/01/2025 – 07/31/2025), Bank Reconciliation (as of 07/31/2025), document entitled “Due from MWPA at 07/31/2025”, document entitled, “Items to be billed to MWPA per 07/31/2025 Financial Statement”, and document entitled, “Fire Safe Marin A/P Aging Summary, as of July 31, 2025”. Total equity equaled **\$536,448** with a cash balance of **\$414,829**. 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](mailto:evadbaker@outlook.com).*

**Treasurer Meagor** told the board that FSM’s cash and equity is currently way up due to the additional grant funds from the Marin Community Foundation.

6. **Updates (with Handouts) (TYLER)**

### **📌 MW FY 2026 Projects + Activities**

**Bill Tyler, FSM Interim Executive Director**, presented the FSM FY 2026 Activities Report to the FSM Board for the period July 1-31, 2025. ***This report is detailed and will not be completely 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](mailto:evadbaker@outlook.com).

Bill Tyler noted that the format of this activities report has changed.

### **Some Highlights from the Report:**

- Community engagement by the FSM Ambassadors is “off the charts.” Eleven of them were deployed to nine events, engaging 2,939 individuals in wildfire-related discussions.
- Monthly e-newsletters offer considerable content and motivate residents to

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take wildfire preparedness actions. The recent e-newsletter delivered to 14,850 recipients had an open rate of 9.9% and was focused on kickstarting readiness, contractors, mulch, and fire lookouts/cameras.

- Almost 60 participants attended a Firewise meeting in July engaging directly with 24 site leaders. In addition, FSM's Firewise liaison, **Stuart Tanenberg**, met separately with twelve community sites, some of which are interested in becoming part of Firewise. These meetings were held in collaboration with the local fire agencies.
- Zone Zero codes are coming soon to California. Both **President Lando** and **Director Quarles** have been participating at state meetings.
- Now complete in English and Spanish is a new resource: Fire Smart Yards: a Visual Guide. **Bill Tyler** added that when he reviewed the beautiful photos in this guide he was reminded of Sunset Magazine, adding, "the guide should be celebrated." This guide is still a work in progress needing more examples. It contains information on Zone 0, plant spacing, hardscapes, use of succulents, mulch, laddering of fire and slopes, types and styles, and how to make the zone beautiful, and much more. **President Lando** added news that Home & Garden TV has approached FSM about a possible pilot show to be filmed in Marin on home makeovers with an emphasis on fire smart landscaping.
- There was a new piece in the August 24-25 Marin Independent Journal called, "*Imagine You could Protect Marin from Wildfire.*"

### **✚ Marin Community Foundation Grant**

FSM (in conjunction with MWPA) received a grant from the Marin Community Foundation in the amount of \$218,000 for both construction workforce online asynchronous training ("to help contractors to understand the nuances"), and for the *Fix-the-Risk* video series. The training will be tested by several Marin realtors going through it. This project is being managed by **Rich Shortall** with help from **Meg McCabe**.

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

FSM was awarded the County Coordinator grant running from May 15<sup>th</sup> to July 31, 2026. Funding was provided by a grant from CAL FIRE. This grant is currently funding **Bill Tyler's** position.

### **✚ Ember Stomp**

New at this year's Ember Stomp event is a self-paced countywide evacuation drill. Firewise sites have been encouraged to participate as this drill will satisfy the requirements for renewal. Check-in for the evacuation drill will take place in a tent at Ember Stomp.

## **7. Update on FSM Staff and Board (LANDO)**

**President Todd Lando** told the board that **Jen Gauna** has determined to stay on

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board at FSM as Director of Operations, "which is great news!" Although **Meg McCabe** has stepped away from her former creative director role, she will be consulting with FSM on a few projects. Todd appreciates how quickly **Bill Tyler** has picked up his load. Bill added, "we have a solid foundation going forward; the team is very passionate wanting to stay" despite being given added workload. "Jen and staff do very high-level work." He also said, "FSM is a trusted partner since 1991 and has a seat at the table with MWPA." Bill said that his goal is a "successful MWPA renewal campaign."

Jennifer and Bill are currently working to identify local resources to fill Meg's position. They did look at a full recruitment campaign, but it would have cost between ten to twenty thousand dollars. They will tap local talent instead.

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

- ✓ **Shaun Horne** thinks it would be beneficial to have a broader report on strategic FSM staffing and funding.
- ✓ **Shaun Horne** said perhaps FSM could put in an application to the *California Climate Action Corps Fellowship* that Marin Water participates in.

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 1025 hours.

**M/S Hansen / Denegri Baker**  
*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 August 27, 2025.



**Eva Denegri Baker, Secretary, Fire Safe Marin**

**October 22, 2025**

**Date**