

Final Minutes Approved by Fire Safe Marin Directors on December 17, 2025

Note: these Minutes Are Corrected

**Fire Safe Marin
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the BoardHeld
on Wednesday, October 22, 2025**

Board of Directors Member Attendance:

Todd Lando	FSM Admin – President + Fire Agencies
Jim Chayka	FSM Admin – Vice-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
Larry Pasero	Fire Agencies – Fire Prevention Officer
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
Chris Backer	Marin Assn of REALTORS

Excused:

Jason Weber	Fire Agencies – Fire Chiefs
Andrew Johnson	Calif Landscape Contractors Assn

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.
2. **Review and Approve Agenda (LANDO):** no changes
M/S Quarles / Hansen
AYES: ALL
3. **a. Review and Approve Minutes from the June 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting (LANDO):** no corrections or additions
M/S Meagor / Hansen
AYES: ALL

b. Review and Approve Minutes from the August 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

(LANDO): no corrections or additions

M/S Meagor / Hansen

AYES: ALL

4. Treasurer's Report with Handouts for the October 22, 2025 Board Meeting (MEAGOR)

Treasurer Roger Meagor shared the October 22, 2025 Treasurer's Report with the Board, and it included the Balance Sheet (09/30/2025), FSM Income Statement (01/01/2025 – 09/30/2025), MWPA Income Statement (01/01/2025 – 09/30/2025), Expenditure Report (01/01/2025 – 09/30/2025), Bank Reconciliation (as of 09/30/2025), document entitled "Due from MWPA at 09/30/2025", document entitled, "Items to be billed to MWPA per 09/30/2025 Financial Statement", and document entitled, "Fire Safe Marin A/P Aging Summary, as of September 30, 2025". Total equity equaled **\$409,788** with a cash balance of **\$476,780**. 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 this time of year FSM files tax forms, such as IRS Form 990. Meagor asked the Directors to read the annual Conflict of Interest policy and to sign and return to him their Annual Directors Statements.

5. Staffing Update & Board Membership Discussion (LANDO)

A. Executive Director

*Interim FSM Executive Director **Bill Tyler** stepped out of the Zoom Meeting while the Directors discussed this agenda item.*

President Lando reported that FSM's Executive committee recommends that **Interim Executive Director Bill Tyler** be approved as the Executive Director. The committee has met several times about this and all agree that Bill has exceeded all expectations. Feedback from others to the executive committee has been universally positive. **Supervisor Brian Colbert (FSM Chair)** was asked for his input; he supports this appointment and feels that the executive team has done their due diligence. No other staffing changes are proposed at this time. **Director Shaun Horne** supports this change, but wanted to express that "normally nonprofits use broader searches for leadership positions."

Treasurer Meagor replied by saying that although he understands the idea of broad recruitment, the issue at hand is what FSM needs *right now* and who is the right fit. He added, "Bill, at this time, is the correct fit." Also very important, Meagor said, "Bill has built relationships at all levels." **Vice-President Chayka** offered that feedback received from FSM staff about Bill has been "enormously positive", and this consideration is crucial. Chayka added that "this is a good move at this moment in the organization; to go to the outside would be disingenuous." **Director of Operations Jennifer Gauna**, voiced her support for Bill's transition to Executive Director. She strongly believes that this organization is not ready to go through a recruitment process, what with its very ambitious current program, goals, and timelines. She said that both she and former **Director Meg McCabe** believe that FSM needs a leader "*with actual fire experience.*" She said, "[bill] is right for our needs now and has already greatly

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benefitted the organization.” Further she commented, “Bill as the Director signals stability.” **President Lando** told the Directors that FSM is not approaching this appointment “in crisis mode.” Rather, “we were in a crisis earlier this year, and Bill helped us to get out of it.” He added that FSM “lucked out with Bill” as in Bill’s career, he was a *fire prevention* person. and not suppression. When the discussion turned to term limits, both the President and Vice-President expressed that they will not support a limit on Bill Tyler’s term.

Motion to Approve Bill Tyler as FSM’s Executive Director and Remove his “Interim” Label (LANDO)

M/S Chayka / Pasero

AYES: 12

ABSTAINED: 1

MOTION CARRIED

B. Propose Holding Final Meeting of the year in person on 12/10/2025

The board discussed when to hold an in person meeting at the end of the year and agreed on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at FSM’s Sleepy Hollow site with luncheon served.

C. Terms Expiring for Directors as of January 2026

Secretary Eva Denegri Baker presented the board with a list of FSM Directors whose terms will expire as of January 2026:

Todd Lando

James Chayka

Roger Meagor

Eva Denegri Baker

Larry Pasero

Shaun Horne

Adriana Rabkin

Chris Backer

There were other considerations noted:

- **Catherine Way** previously stepped down from her FSM role.
- **Larry Pasero** will check with the *Marin Fire Prevention Officers* at their December meeting to see if he or someone else will fill the position.
- **Jim Chayka** accepted the Deputy Director position at Marin County Parks and will likely step down.
- **Adriana Rabkin** said that, while she intends to continue on the board, she does want to make sure she is the right fit or someone else.

At this point in the meeting, there was an “interlude” to the agenda where **Jennifer Gauna** introduced a new FSM staff member to the Board of Directors. **Julian Kaelon** has been hired under a contract ending June 2026 to do outreach for FSM. Kaelon is an expert in digital communications and marketing. He has previously worked for Marin County Department of Public Works as a Media Communications Manager and Public Information Officer (PIO). **Jim Chayka** praised Julian for his work with County Parks.

Bill Tyler offered that Julian has already been onboard and made many positive contributions to FSM.

6. Strategic Planning (LANDO)

President Lando told the board that FSM's previous 5-Year Strategic Plan (2013-2018) "got us to Measure C." **Secretary Baker** said that **Forrest Craig** (Novato Fire, retired) was the facilitator, and it was a multi-day process that took place in the old Interim EOC at OES. She said that they had involved multiple stakeholders from the community in the planning process. Lando said it is time for new strategic planning. He will be calling together an ad hoc committee to begin the process.

7. Fire Safe Marin Updates (with Handouts) (TYLER)

📌 Ember Stomp

Bill Tyler gave a quick recap of Ember Stomp, which took place September 6, 2025. New this year was an evacuation drill (self-directed) with over one thousand residents joining in. There was also an art exhibit, a live burn directed by **Director Stephen Quarles**, an art contest for K through 12th grades, and *Ember Demo Games* showing ways that ignitions can start. A vast list of participating agencies and donors contributed. The event earned about \$85,000 in revenue. With costs coming to around \$150,000, FSM will bill the MWPA to make up the difference. He stressed how tirelessly staff worked to pull this off and gave them much credit for the achievements earned. President Lando added "what a huge heavy lift from FSM staff to produce Ember Stomp."

📌 MW FY 25 - 26 Projects

Bill Tyler, FSM Interim Executive Director, presented the FSM FY 2025-2026 Activities Report to the FSM Board for the period September 1-30, 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.***

Some Highlights from the Report:

- New information on *Zone 0 legislation* is now available on the FSM website.
- Fire Adapted Communities has released, "Adapting to Smoke."
- FSM Ambassadors went to nine community events, engaging 7,550 individuals.
- Two monthly e-newsletters were published.
- New video completed on *Fences*.
- Supported two new Marin Firewise sites making a total of 83: *Knollwood Townhouses San Rafael* and *Skywalker Ranch San Rafael*. There are 70 points of contact within all sites. Two Firewise meetings were held. Looking at possibly creating a Firewise dashboard through **Fire Aside**.
- Marin Wildfire and its partners including FSM are participating in the new

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Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) project team and stakeholder meetings. Marin's CWPP was last published as an update in 2020 (with **President Lando's** involvement from Fire Safe Marin) following the original plan in 2016. The original focused on science-based hazard assessment and collaborative strategies. The new CWPP is intended to be dynamic and can change over the next five years and will integrate new projects and address emerging risks. Bill added that the CWPP "is really a huge deal and will hopefully take the MWPA through its next renewal."

8. **Call for Future Agenda Items (LANDO):** nothing submitted

Please send agenda requests to **President Lando** or to FSM staff for the next regular meeting of the Board, to be held on Wednesday December 17, 2025.

9. **ADJOURN:**

Next meeting will be held live and in person on *Wednesday, December 17, 2025*. Being no further business, the President called for a moment of silence to honor two recently deceased members of the Marin County Fire Department family: **Engineer Breanna Buchanan Brown** (occupational cancer), and a many-decades-served and beloved Fire Dispatcher, **Teresa Yamanoha** (complications from stroke). Both were extraordinary people and highly respected. **President Lando then called for a Motion to Adjourn this Meeting at 1118 hours.**

M/S Quarles / Hansen

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 October 22, 2025.



Eva Denegri Baker, Secretary, Fire Safe Marin

December 17, 2025

Date