

OPEN MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Board Members in Attendance via Video Conference: Nic Proctor, Dennis Clegg, David Dellinger, Jenny VanSeters, Lane Clark, Al Flinck, Fraser Kersey, Carla D'Antonio, Uwe Kleinschmidt

Guests Present via Video Conference: Phil Seymour, Ina Brittain

Call to Order 6:04PM

Review / Approval of 02-16-22 Meeting Minutes: Nic asked for comments or questions re: the minutes. Dennis made the motion and Carla seconded that the February minutes be approved as written. The Board vote was unanimous except for Jenny, who abstained.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report (David) – Finances are fine. Just waiting to hear about the goals. Questions? The Board thanks David for the narrative accompanying the financial reports. Al moves approval of the financial report, Lane seconds the motion, and the vote to approve was unanimous. The Treasurer's report is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof by this reference.

CDT Report (Phil) – February's focus was fuel break maintenance. Three piles were burned but there has been too much wind to proceed further. Maybe this coming Saturday will be a burn day. Also, burning on Uwe's property is still in the wings. County Fire has prepared with line cut around the burn area and hose lays. Phil would like the CDT to be on alert on Rim Rd., just in case. It is time to rev up for an early fire season. Phil commented on the Hollister Fire area having a lot of dead fuels. Re: CDT participation, Phil wants to follow up with new MET members to see if they want to be part of the community defense plan.

Laurel Springs had another mountain lion vs. goat incident which may curtail their fuel break program.

The Firewise question is to be addressed next month (Carla is pursuing that).

Carla questions the MET website "low fire danger" post. Is it accurate? Jenny clarifies we follow the USFS stated conditions. Fuel moisture is still above 100%, per Phil; Carla mentioned the rating system addresses live fuel vs dead fuel moisture.

Regarding vegetation management, Nic & Jess observed no star thistle on ECC. County is starting vegetation abatement work next week on WCC; ECC after that. The Board inquired about attendance at CDT meetings. Phil says we are looking at starting

meeting again in April. Al moved to approve the CDT report; David seconded the motion, and the Board vote was unanimous.

Fundraising Report (Nic) – Fundraising is on hold, pending the consultant's report. Barbara Anderson has communicated that the report is close to being finalized, including goals and priorities. Her contract was extended from March 1 to March 25. We received a working draft on March 12, and she was looking for feedback.

Welcome to Community Members and Input to the Board (Open to All Members)

Dennis: Fundraising should be going on constantly - we know our needs. Barbara is sharpening the outlook, but Dennis would like to see an ongoing effort. Nic noted that specifics count when asking for funds. A plan will help.

Jenny added that new members are interested in assisting with fundraising, and she will share an updated email list of those who want to help.

Old Business:

Election of Officers:

President – Call for nominations – Carla nominates Dennis Clegg and David seconds the nomination. During Board discussion, Al noted that it is not necessary to resolve the issue now. MET bylaws state the VP can fulfill the duties if we want to wait and consider. We could take time to recruit. Fraser commented things are in limbo regarding the expected strategic plan, making it hard to nominate and go forward. Phil says it is okay to appoint an officer now and make a change later. Let's just go forward. Dennis is willing to serve, but then a new VP will be needed. The vote to elect Dennis President is unanimous with Dennis abstaining.

Vice President – Call for nominations – Dennis nominates Nic, but he declines to take it on. Carla nominates Fraser for VP, Lane seconds, and the vote to approve is unanimous.

Secretary – Call for nominations – The primary duties are note-taking and record-keeping. Bree is no longer available for note taking. Fraser and Lane suggest the need for a nominating committee. Jenny can't take on the job, but explains it is one of the best ways to know the MET as the secretary is involved in every aspect of the organization. A system is already set up for notetaking or change it to suit you - just so everyone can find the info. It is a super rewarding role. Nic suggests as Uwe is wanting to be more involved, how about as Secretary? Uwe can do record keeping, etc., but not minute-taking. Dennis reminds that MET can hire a note-taker. Phil says the office of Secretary is required by corporate law, but the office functions can be delegated. Uwe points out that we can use technology to distill the recorded zoom script into meeting minutes. Al agrees that is a good idea so let's move forward. He would be willing to give note-taking a go from a recording of the meeting. Dennis reminds that a record of votes and decisions count; we don't have to go into a lot of detail. We can just say, "A

Discussion was held” and summarize the votes. Al will follow up on the various minute-producing possibilities, starting with a summary from Ina’s notes of the current meeting as a trial run. Jenny will provide the necessary Zoom log-in information. Al nominated Uwe for Board Secretary, Dennis seconded the nomination, and the vote to approve is unanimous.

New Business:

Patrol 1 and the fire house: Nic reported that high winds moved the firehouse, which resulted in Patrol 1 having a broken windshield. It has been replaced for \$207.

Modifications to Board roles: Al submitted to the Board, in writing via email, recommendations for modifications to Board member roles, meant as guidance for how members/meetings can proceed effectively. Fraser read the suggestions and thought they could be helpful in making meetings more productive. Al made a motion to form a temporary committee tasked with reviewing/addressing his recommendations. David seconded the motion. Board discussion included Dennis’ concern for making sure everyone is heard. Uwe points out that everyone is busy; therefore, discussions should happen before monthly meetings (working out problems, etc.) so the meeting can move along with most decisions having already been made. This process should be written so anyone can look back and see how a decision was derived. Only unresolved elements would be brought to the meeting to work out. Fraser notes in his experience, back and forth often happens outside the meeting. Nic wants to see folks come to the table prepared. Dennis is willing to lead a committee, however, Al might want to lead the committee as this resolution is his idea. Dennis will follow up on forming the committee. Al is willing to serve. Uwe says to focus, it is important to know the challenges and goals. (The 2-minute elevator speech.) Carla notes it is important to avoid confusing tangents and make progress toward the goals with more directed meetings. The Board vote to form the committee was unanimous.

CDT progress in equipping the east end of Ogram:

There is a basic compliment of equipment, per Phil. All items for the \$800 donation have been acquired. Some reconfiguring required at Dennis Clegg’s.

CDT progress in purchasing equipment specified in CalFire grant:

Jason Sweet requires 60-day notice before spending grant money. Among other things, equipment must be battery powered. We can buy different items from those listed in the grant but must let him know first.

Progress in providing ID cards for CDT members:

If planning to stay or “get back in”, one must take courses/training and show actual knowledge and interest. Currently, the cards expire annually. There are about ten new folks in the program.

Comments/Announcements (All)

Nic says our REPP membership is up for renewal. Do we want to continue? Pros: It gives us more latitude on how much clearing takes place. County comes and chips what we've cut. They pick up the trash we consolidate. As program members, County is more responsive when we call for help.

Nic made a motion to renew REPP membership. David seconded the motion. Phil pointed out that the agreement gives us the opportunity to promote the community's best interests. Lane says let's do a better job of letting the community know why MET is in the REPP program. Dennis reminds that we said we would be in REPP as part of the CalFire Grant. The vote to renew was unanimous with Al abstaining.

Uwe asked how best to communicate between meetings in order to promote discussion and better meeting preparation. Uwe suggests topic-specific social network - **Microsoft Teams or SLACK?** Does it cost anything? Uwe will follow up.

Living With Mountain Lions: Jenny reported that on March 1, the three Mountain Lion events were a big success. The interview with Robin Parks on the radio show, **Community Alert**, is recorded and available to stream on the WRA website. There were 44 in attendance at the mailbox "walk and talk" and all the mountain neighborhoods were represented (except for ECC). There were 32 signed on to the ZOOM PowerPoint presentation, and some had multiple family members watching. Both MET and WRA sent email announcements to their membership; Phil and Jenny designed a fabulous flyer and WRA printed and distributed 400 of them to mountain mailboxes. WRA hosted Robin's night-before dinner and motel costs. Phil and Jean cooked him dinner on March 1st. Mike Williams pitched the event non-stop on KZSB AM1290.

Closed Session (If requested) NONE

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

March 16, 2022

Ina Brittain