

Minutes from the June 25th, 2025, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting at the Bolinas Fire Station.

Vice Pres. Torrey called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:00 P.M. Dir. Martinelli, and Dir. Pierce were present. Also present: Chief George Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor. Pres. Molesworth and Dir. Dunne were absent.

Vice Pres. Torrey asked for unanimous consent to approve the Agenda. Seeing no objections, the Agenda was approved.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA/Chiefs

No update.

MWPA

No update.

Prevention

Chief Krakauer discussed District wildfire preparedness and response in item 5b.

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported that Marin Wildfire supported a survey of nesting birds ahead of planned Bolinas Fire roadside mowing this week on the Big Mesa. Chief Krakauer also reported that the National Park Service and Marin County completed additional mowing along Poplar Rd and along the access road to the MERA site.

Chief Krakauer reported that he and Isaac Taylor are working with BCPUD and Ray Moritz of Urban Forestry to obtain a new arbor report assessing hazardous roadside trees at the intersection of Mesa Rd. and Olema-Bolinas Rd. Bolinas Fire and BCPUD are also coordinating with the County of Marin DPW and PG&E, who each have responsibility for certain trees in this area. Chief Krakauer reported that PG&E has identified approximately six trees for removal, and are expected to begin work this summer. PG&E crews have currently been working to remove hazardous tree limbs along Mesa Rd. in the area of Commonweal Gardens.

Chief Krakauer reported he is discussing traffic control plans with Marin County Parks and DPW ahead of upcoming work to complete the Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project. The project is expected to be complete by late fall.

Inspections

No update.

Planning

No update.

Grants

Isaac Taylor reported that the District will be submitting a grant proposal to the California Fire Foundation for volunteer wildland PPE. Decisions on this and a pending CAL FIRE Volunteer Fire Capacity grant proposal are expected sometime in August.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported that training is focused on wildland firefighting safety, PPE, and beginning tactics. The department hopes to send three firefighters for an off-road driving class offered by Marin County Fire Department later this month.

Volunteers

Chief Krakauer reported one new volunteer firefighter applicant. Resident firefighter Nate McNeal has left his position to return to school.

Chief Krakauer reported substantial work has been completed on a new bocce ball court in Mesa Park, in memory of Amleto Rossi, per the wishes of late Bolinas Fire Captain Peter Smith.

Apparatus

Chief Krakauer reported that Engine 265 is back in service after repairs to its starter and flywheel.

Chief Krakauer reported he is continuing to discuss build specification with the ad hoc engine replacement committee for the eventual replacement of Engine 283 with a new Type 1 engine.

Chief Krakauer reported that Bolinas Fire hosted an engine pump testing event last week for West Marin volunteer agencies, with the assistance of Marin County Fire Department. All Bolinas engines passed their pump tests. Chief Krakauer thanked Patrick and Liam for their help.

Disaster Council

No update.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer reported that the site is operating normally, with a high volume of drop-offs. Chief Krakauer noted the new MOU between BCPUD, Stinson Fire, and Bolinas Fire that has each agency contribute \$2,500 per year for the next three years to support site operating expenses. The District continues to support significant repairs on its front loader, which was purchased with a Marin Wildfire grant.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer reported that the District is planning to buy materials to complete upgrades to the station's lighting, attic staircase, and to complete minor building hardware replacements.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported that the department is at 130 calls through the first six months of the calendar year.

Chief Krakauer reported that the department is preparing to support Independence Day activities, starting with the annual Bolinas-Stinson Beach tug-of-war.

Chief Krakauer reported that AT&T cell tower lease amendment discussions are continuing. Staff are reviewing a RF emissions report received from the lessee, and plans to request additional information about proposed additions to the tower.

Isaac Taylor reported he expects the District to finish the fiscal year under budget, with a larger-than-budgeted contribution to its reserves. He is also preparing to pay several large annual invoices due at the beginning of fiscal year 2025-26.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer reported ongoing work on outstanding CalPERS compliance matters.

Chief Krakauer reported that Duty Officer job interviews have been scheduled for three candidates in the first week of July, and he is working to organize a panel, questions, and scenarios.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Approve Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

MSC Martinelli/Pierce (unan.) to approve the Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Isaac Taylor reported the draft budget has been in development since March. He described a 6.19% increase in budgeted income and 6.93% increase in operating expenses, with personnel expenses making up the largest portion. Personnel increases are budgeted for planned hiring, as well as for higher benefit costs and increases to wages and salaries. A Communications budget subcategory for dispatch services has been removed, as the anticipated fees are no longer expected.

On the income side, Taylor reported that County pool interest income was underbudgeted this year and has been adjusted. General property tax income has been budgeted according to the latest Department of Finance projections. This is a net zero budget, without any planned capital expenditures or reserve contributions. The focus is supporting personnel expenses, as the department works to expand its staffing capacity.

Isaac Taylor explained that the budget had already been entered into the District's books, but may be adjusted between now and final adoption at the July regular meeting, when more complete actual income and expense data will be available.

Chief Krakauer thanked Isaac Taylor and the Finance and HR committees for their work on the draft budget.

Discussion Item #1 – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer reported one remaining District free Chipper Day event, as well as three more Marin Wildfire Chipper Day events in Bolinas through early fall.
chipperday.com/marin

Chief Krakauer reported on the District's proposed Marin Wildfire core project for fuel reduction between Wharf Rd. and Altura Ave. on the Little Mesa. Letters have been sent to eleven property owners, with some positive initial responses.

Chief Krakauer reported continuing work with Marin Wildfire on roadside mowing and shaded fuel break proposals in the greater West Marin zone.

Chief Krakauer reported a response from Alert Marin on an issue observed during the recent Evacuation Drill in Bolinas. Issues related to missed alerts have been identified and resolved. Alert Marin emailed certain residents asking them to update their contact information and alert selections.

Chief Krakauer reported the District has mailed a new wildfire preparedness postcard, highlighting the importance of an ember-resistant Zone Zero for protecting homes during wildfire. Isaac Taylor described the postcard as a simplified communication highlighting the issue and a few steps residents can take to better prepare. Isaac Taylor shared the postcard design and thanked Dir. Dunne for his help with design.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Martinelli/Pierce (unan.) to approve the Consent Calendar.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Advisory Committee – Vice Pres. Torrey reported an upcoming meeting of the HR committee to discuss the Fire Chief’s annual performance evaluation.

Finance Advisory Committee – No update.

Operations Working Group – No update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Pres. Torrey asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

Note: Minutes of all Board meetings are available for review on the District’s website.