

Minutes from the May 28th, 2025, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting at the Bolinas Fire Station.

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

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

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA/Chiefs

Chief Krakauer attended the regular Chiefs meeting for May, and reported discussion on minor changes to dispatch procedures to better serve West Marin agencies. Chief Krakauer also attended the MERA meeting for May, where they discussed the 2025-26 budget and approved some small change orders. Chief Krakauer reported that MERA plans to reduce from monthly to quarterly, now that the Next Gen system is up and active.

MWPA

Chief Krakauer discussed MWPA in item 5b.

Prevention

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

Roads

Chief Krakauer reported that the District is coordinating with Don Murch for roadside mowing on the Big Mesa ahead of peak wildfire season.

Chief Krakauer reported updates from County DPW on the Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project, which is projected to complete before next winter. The District is coordinating with the project around expected temporary lane closures and traffic impacts.

Chief Krakauer reported meeting with BCPUD and MWPA staff to discuss an assessment of hazardous roadside trees along Mesa and Olema-Bolinas roads for potential MWPA work. Chief Krakauer reported that PG&E has already identified approximately six trees in this area for removal, based on their own assessment.

Inspections

No update.

Planning

No update.

Grants

No update.

Training

Chief Krakauer reported on recent vehicle extrication trainings, using three cars recently donated by the community. Staff, including several newer volunteers were able to practice and familiarize themselves with extrication tools. Training is now focused on wildland firefighting.

Volunteers

Chief Krakauer thanked the volunteers for all their help with the Mothers' Day Pancake Breakfast and Evacuation Drill.

Apparatus

Chief Krakauer reported that Engine 283 is back in service after receiving several repairs in the shop over the last three weeks. Engine 265 is now in the shop for annual service and repairs to its starter and flywheel. Chief Krakauer reported that new hose has been delivered for Engine 285.

Chief Krakauer reported on a meeting of the ad hoc engine committee, where members worked on determining specifications for a proposed engine order. Vice Pres. Torrey asked about the committee's timeline, and Chief Krakauer responded that they may have specifications ready in another two months, but may wait before moving forward with an order. He reported build times of around two years, as well as several complications in the fire engine industry. Pres. Molesworth asked about the question of reconfiguring the Districts apparatus, and Chief Krakauer responded that this first order would likely just replace the oldest of our two Type 1 engines (Engine 283) with a new Type 1.

Disaster Council

Chief Krakauer reported Asst. Chief Marcotte held meetings for the West Marin and Bolinas Disaster Councils, and received some new interest in the Disaster Council following our evacuation drill.

Resource Recovery

Chief Krakauer reported the site is functioning well, and discussed the project in more detail in item 5a.

Buildings and Grounds

Chief Krakauer reported that the District has purchased three outdoor security cameras, pursuant to its policy, and will be installing them soon to monitor fire station entryways.

General Operations/Administration

Chief Krakauer reported that he is working with Marin County Fire Department to coordinate an engine pump test for all West Marin agencies, and to get local agency staff trained on MCFD's pump trailer.

Chief Krakauer again reported that seasonal Marin County ambulance Medic 97 is on duty seven days per week. The ambulance is in service 8am to 8pm Monday through Thursday, with 24-hour shifts on Fridays and Saturdays.

Isaac Taylor reported that the District has signed a letter of engagement with Nigro & Nigro, PC for fiscal year 2024-25 audit services.

Isaac Taylor reported that a draft budget for fiscal year 2025-26 will be presented at the next monthly meeting, with final approval expected in July.

Personnel

Chief Krakauer reported ongoing work on outstanding CalPERS compliance matters.

Chief Krakauer reported he will sit on a Chief's panel for firefighter-engineer interviews at the Stinson Beach Fire Protection District.

Isaac Taylor reported the District is continuing its recruitment effort for a new full-time Duty Officer.

Chief Krakauer reported that Vice Pres. Torrey and Dir. Pierce are working on his annual performance evaluation.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Action Item #1 – Approve Bolinas Resource Recovery Project Memorandum of Understanding with BCPUD and Stinson Beach Fire Protection District

MSC Pierce/Torrey (unan.) to approve the MOU.

Isaac Taylor reported the District was approached by BCPUD officials with a proposal for an annual contribution to the Bolinas-Stinson Resource Recovery Project's operating budget, which is held by the BCPUD. The project originated through a verbal agreement between BCPUD, Bolinas Fire, Stinson Fire, and Stinson Water. The board of Stinson Beach Water District has recently elected to withdraw from participation.

This MOU pledges an annual contribution of \$2,500 to the BCPUD to support site operations and planning for the next three fiscal years.

Discussion Item #1 – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Chief Krakauer reported on the District's free Chipper Day events, and encouraged residents to sign up for remaining Bolinas Chipper Days available through the District and Marin Wildfire (MWPA).

Chief Krakauer reported that Marin Wildfire approved their 2025-26 annual work plan, and Pres. Molesworth reported that additional money was allocated from Marin Wildfire's reserves to support vegetation management in West Marin under the Governor's recent emergency proclamation.

Chief Krakauer also reported that the District has submitted a core project proposal to Marin Wildfire for a fuel reduction project around Altura Ave. on the Little Mesa.

Chief Krakauer reported the District's recent evacuation exercise went well overall, and revealed some issues with the Alert Marin emergency alerting system, which are now being investigated and remedied at the Marin County Office of Emergency Management.

Directors engaged in wide-ranging discussion with Chief Krakauer about the evacuation drill and emergency preparedness ahead of peak fire season.

Chief Krakauer reported that Marin Fire Chiefs met regarding a proposed new ordinance for "Zone Zero." Discussions are ongoing about specifics, but the goal is removal of all flammable fuels, including vegetation, from within five feet of any structure. Dir. Dunne urged the District to focus its wildfire preparedness communications on Zone Zero.

Chief Krakauer also reported that Marin Wildfire is expanding its residential grants program this year to cover more home hardening or fuel reduction work related to their most recent Wildfire Risk Report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Pres. Molesworth discussed the MWPA board meeting in item 5b.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Advisory Committee – Vice Pres. Torrey reported a meeting of the Human Resources Advisory Committee last week, where they discussed the Fire Chief's annual performance evaluation and broader issues around the District's personnel budget and future revenue needs.

Finance Advisory Committee – No update.

Operations Working Group – No update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Pres. Molesworth commended all staff, volunteers and participants for their contributions to the evacuation drill and Mothers' Day Pancake Breakfast.

Dir. Pierce thanked Vice Pres. Torrey for her work on the Chief's performance evaluation.

Directors commended Dir. Pierce for setting an example of defensible space work in Zone Zero.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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