

Minutes from the September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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 7:01 P.M. Pres. Molesworth, Vice Pres. Torrey, Dir. Pierce, Dir. Dunne and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer, Asst. Chief Marcotte and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor.

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to approve the Agenda, with an amendment to move item 5a to the beginning of the meeting. Seeing no objections, the amended Agenda is approved.

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION**

Public expression was limited to item 5a.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

**MEMBER REPORTS**

Chief Krakauer was unable to attend the September MERA meeting.

**Chiefs**

Chief Krakauer attended the September Chiefs' meeting via Zoom. There were no major updates.

**MWPA**

Chief Krakauer discussed an MWPA meeting in item 5c.

**Prevention**

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

**Roads**

Chief Krakauer, along with BCPUD General Manager Jennifer Blackman, Operator Stewart Oakander, consulting arborist Ray Moritz, and representatives of PG&E, inspected some roadside trees on BCPUD land along lower Mesa Road. Chief Krakauer hopes to help coordinate evacuation hazard mitigation efforts already being discussed.

The MWPA core project for roadside evacuation route hazard mitigation is nearly complete in Bolinas. The project has cleared a significant amount of roadside brush within ten horizontal and fourteen vertical feet of County-maintained roads, including Mesa, Olema-Bolinas, Elm and Overlook. This adds to fuel reduction work completed by Asst. Chief Marcotte and Don Murch on additional Big Mesa roads. Don Murch has also mowed the understory area of the BCPUD "Zone 5" eucalyptus grove at the intersection of Mesa and Olema-Bolinas roads.

**Inspections**

Asst. Chief Marcotte and firefighter Easom have completed initial life and safety business inspections of Smiley's Saloon, Eleven, and the Bolinas Community Center.

**Planning**

No update.

**Grants**

Chief Krakauer reported that the District has received its full shipment of new SCBAs awarded through the multi-agency regional FEMA AFG grant. The department held its first training with the new SCBAs this week. The new SCBAs bring the department to the same equipment standard of Marin County Fire Department and other local agencies.

### **Training**

Training has included a volunteer training on the District's new long-range acoustical device (LRAD) for use in evacuation and emergency alerting, hose evolutions, and most recently the new SCBA systems.

Asst. Chief Marcotte has completed a second week of his Emergency Medical Responder course for West Marin volunteers. Asst. Chief Marcotte reported enthusiasm from the students, and is encouraging them to continue on to EMT certification. Chief Krakauer and Pres. Molesworth thanked Asst. Chief Marcotte for volunteering his time to instruct this course. Chief Krakauer hopes the District can offer a hybrid online/in-person EMT course in the future.

### **Volunteers**

One new volunteer, Alex Carleno, has been voted in by the Association. The volunteers are also preparing the 2023 Annual Raffle mailer to be sent out in early October.

Fire Safety Day will be Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11am to 3pm, and will include food, helicopter and firefighting demonstrations, fire extinguisher sales and service by Fire King, and fun for all ages.

### **Apparatus**

The flatbed Utility 232 is at Cheda's Garage for annual service and long-awaited electrical repairs.

### **Disaster Council**

Asst. Chief Marcotte reported that the West Marin Disaster Council will be meeting tomorrow. He is also anticipating the relocation of a disaster radio transmitter to a higher location near the MERA site, which should greatly improve radio capabilities in Bolinas and Stinson Beach.

Asst. Chief Marcotte reported discussions of holding a training in the community meeting room for area coordinators to practice setting up and running an emergency operations center. Vice Pres. Torrey asked whether there might be a call for additional volunteers to specifically work in emergency operations, and Asst. Chief Marcotte stated that it was being considered, and would be a focus of the District after the conclusion of his EMR course.

### **Resource Recovery**

Chief Krakauer reported that repairs have been completed on the front loader's oil leak, but the mechanic believed the valve gasket cover still needs to be replaced. The loader is operational, but additional maintenance is planned using the existing budget from our 2022 MWPA core project funds.

Chief Krakauer is organizing a free green waste drop-off event through MWPA at the Resource Recovery site in late October.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Chief Krakauer reported that the new lift station septic pump has been experiencing issues staying on, but has now had a float ball replaced and some additional wiring work. Staff are monitoring the pump to ensure the issues are resolved. The District has received a cost-share reimbursement from the Bolinas Clinic and awaits reimbursement from the Firehouse Community Park Agency.

Chief Krakauer reported that the Bolinas Clinic has been repainted.

Chief Krakauer reported that District staff helped the Firehouse Community Park Agency install a chain-and-post gate at the corner of the soccer field. The barrier is intended to prevent visitors from driving onto the field, while allowing emergency vehicles access for helicopter transfers.

Chief Krakauer also reported that several parking blocks have been painted red, in effort to preserve these spaces in our parking lot for firefighters responding to calls, members of the Board, and people attending fire station events.

Chief Krakauer reported that the fire station generator got its annual service and load test, passing with a recommendation to install a new battery.

### **General Operations/Administration**

Calls have been slightly above average, with 24 emergency calls so far in September. The District recorded 0.27 inches of rain overnight.

Isaac Taylor reported that the final stage of the FY23 audit is scheduled for the second week of October. He also reported several ongoing technology projects, including the installation of a new short-throw projector in the community meeting room, a new high-speed internet Cradlepoint for command vehicle 219, and a new printer copier. Pres. Molesworth asked Taylor if the Board could host a guest instructor remotely using the new projector, for a Board training event, and Taylor confirmed.

Isaac Taylor reported that the District has opened an investment account with California CLASS, and will be making an initial investment soon. Isaac Taylor also reported contacting the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF), and expects to bring a resolution before the Board to enable investment with this fund in October.

### **Personnel**

Chief Krakauer reported that he and Isaac Taylor have been working on a preliminary job description and hiring timeline for the anticipated mid-year hire of a new full-time Duty Officer.

Chief Krakauer reported that new volunteer Alex Carleno is ready and eager to learn and contribute to the department.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Action Item #1 – Letter of Support, Bolinas Eucalyptus Project “Zone 5” Proposal**

Pres. Molesworth introduced the item by thanking the Bolinas Eucalyptus Project (“BEP”) for their presentation and request, and for their sustained work with the District Board on important community issues. Pres. Molesworth explained that the Board received an email and packet of materials, requesting the District’s endorsement of the BEP’s “Zone 5” proposal. Pres. Molesworth also noted that the Board was aware of the

BEP's request to the BCPUD and the decision of the BCPUD Board to endorse this project.

Pres. Molesworth explained that the District understands there was a permit pre-application submitted to the Marin County Community Development Agency, who then issued a detailed response to the pre-application. Therefore, the Board and District staff have prepared a Letter of Support from Chief Krakauer, which is a draft response to the expected request for comments from the CDA, as part of its regular permit application process.

Chief Krakauer further introduced his draft Letter of Support, and thanked and acknowledged members of the BEP for working with him on this issue. Chief Krakauer stated that he has reviewed the BEP's complete packet, along with items from the recent BCPUD meeting, and including several arborist reports. Chief Krakauer stated that he generally believes property owners should make their own decisions on tree hazard mitigation, in consultation with certified arborists. Chief Krakauer also stressed the importance of including the District's perspectives on wildfire prevention, emergency access and public safety, because this is the type of feedback which would be requested as part of the County's permit application process.

He stated that tree removal and environmental restoration is a complex topic, and that it is important for the District to acknowledge that complexity in its Letter of Support. Chief Krakauer stated his belief that the Letter of Support does support the BEP's "Zone 5" proposal, while limiting the District's comments to issues of wildfire prevention, emergency access and public safety. Pres. Molesworth also noted that the Board would not be engaging in discussions of ecological or habitat impacts of the project.

Members of the BEP then gave presentations, and afterward engaged in questions and discussion with all members of the Board. At the conclusion of these discussions, the Board took no action. A revised Letter of Support may be considered for Board action at a future meeting.

#### **Discussion Item #1 – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response**

Chief Krakauer reported an upcoming federal Wireless Emergency Alert test on October 4<sup>th</sup>. This alert is separate from local alert systems, and is intended for large-scale emergency notifications. Chief Krakauer also reiterated the importance of signing up for Alert Marin and Nixle for emergency and non-emergent notifications, respectively.

The District's fourth Chipper Day event is tomorrow, and is filled. The District's final Chipper Day will be October 12<sup>th</sup>. The District still has NOAA Emergency Alert weather radios and MCSO Evacuation Tags available at the station.

MWPA is holding weekly West Zone meetings, which have been going well. The District is finalizing polygons representing areas for potential wildfire prevention projects, to be submitted to MWPA's consultants for preliminary permitting and compliance work.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

#### **BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

Pres. Molesworth attended an MWPA meeting last week, where a field trip to view a wildfire prevention fuel break project in Stinson Beach was discussed. Though Pres. Molesworth was away and could not attend the field trip, several MWPA board members attended and gave positive reports. Chief Krakauer noted that the Stinson Beach project is on federal park land, which is subject to a separate compliance framework. Chief Krakauer noted that he has been working with the National Park Service on a similar project on federal land along Schipper Lane in Bolinas, and is hoping that NPS will commence project work soon.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Human Resources Advisory Committee – Vice Pres. Torrey reported that the HR Advisory Committee simply reviewed the new job description and hiring timeline, as well as small changes to Admin. Manager Isaac Taylor’s schedule. Vice Pres. Torrey asked for an update to the timeline, and Dir. Pierce asked about potential policy revisions. Isaac Taylor reported that the job would likely be posted early next week, and that he and Chief Krakauer are exploring potential changes to the overtime policy and accrual of vacation and sick time policies, depending on the timeline to transition to a new firefighter schedule model.

Finance Advisory Committee – No update.

Operations Working Group – No update.

### **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

None.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Pres. Molesworth thanked everyone for engaging in tonight’s discussions.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor  
Administrative Manager

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