

Minutes from the July 26th, 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, and Dir. Martinelli were present. Dir. Dunne and Chief Krakauer were absent. Also present: Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor.

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

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

None.

CHIEF'S REPORT

MERA

A Bolinas Fire representative was unable to attend the July MERA meeting.

Chiefs

There was no Chiefs meeting in July.

MWPA

There was no MWPA meeting in July.

Prevention

Isaac Taylor presented Chief Krakauer's discussion on District wildfire preparedness and response in item 5c.

Roads

Isaac Taylor reported that Chief Krakauer spoke with Veronica Pearson, Sr. Ecological Restoration Planner with Marin County Parks, regarding the Bolinas Wye Wetlands Restoration Project. They discussed traffic studies and a potential reconfiguration of the intersection of Olema-Bolinas Road and Shoreline Highway, which is expected to move south approximately 200 feet from its current location. The short section of Bolinas-Fairfax Road that connects Shoreline Highway with Olema-Bolinas Road will be removed, and a causeway will be built to carry Olema-Bolinas Road over the wetland area. The addition of a causeway should mitigate periodic flooding of Olema-Bolinas Road. If all goes according to plan, work could begin in summer 2024 and will require two years to completion.

Inspections

No update.

Planning

No update.

Grants

Isaac Taylor reported that Chief Krakauer learned from Battalion Chief Chris Martinelli that Marin County Fire was successful in obtaining federal funds for EMS equipment for West Marin volunteer agencies, which is expected to fund the purchase of a LUCAS device for the District.

The District is awaiting a decision from the California Fire Foundation on a grant proposal to help clear the understory of the eucalyptus grove at the intersection of Mesa Road and Olema-Bolinas Road.

The District is anticipating arrival of our new SCBAs in August, part of our regional grant led by Stinson Beach Fire Protection District. The first shipment arrived this week.

Training

Training has been focused on wildland firefighting in preparation for the upcoming Marin County Fire wildland academy for West Marin volunteer agencies on July 29th. Recent trainings have included exercises in progressive hose lays, mobile attack, and structure defense.

Asst. Chief Marcotte has been coordinating departments participating in Marin County Fire's wildland academy. This event will be hosted near the Hicks Valley station, and include live fire training.

The District is hoping for a demonstration of the new PG&E firefighting helicopter under contract to Marin County Fire.

Volunteers

Eli Likover has generously offered to prepare dinner for the volunteers every quarter, and she recently made a dinner featuring tuna caught by Jeff Clapp off the coast of southern California. The District sends its appreciation to Eli and Jeff.

Apparatus

Wildland Engine 265 was towed to Donahue Truck Center last week to diagnose and repair a stalling problem that began on July 4th. Fortunately, the problem was identified as faulty sensors connected to the fuel system, and the engine has been repaired and placed back in service after only one week.

Dir. Martinelli drove Engine 285 from Bolinas to Hi-Tech Emergency Vehicle Services in Oakdale, CA to repair a leaking valve on its pump. The District thanked Chris for making the long drive in hot weather without air conditioning.

Marin County Fire Captain, and former Bolinas and Stinson Beach firefighter Aaron Jarvis offered to adjust leaking pump packing on Engine 283. All engines are now back in service.

The District's UTV, Utility 241 has been getting frequent use and is proving to be a great addition to our fleet.

Disaster Council

Isaac Taylor shared that Asst. Chief Marcotte and the Disaster Council met on July 17th to go over procedures for setting up an Emergency Operations Center in the Community Meeting Room of the Bolinas Fire Station.

Isaac also shared that Chief Krakauer received a notification just after midnight July 16th that a 7.4 magnitude earthquake had struck off the coast of Alaska. After a brief period of concern, he was notified that no action was needed in our area.

Resource Recovery

A grind was completed last week. Chipper events continue to drop their chips at the site.

Belle Wood at the BCPUD is in the process of revamping the Resource Recovery Site website.

Buildings and Grounds

The District continues to await installation of a new sewer lift station pump, originally scheduled for July 7th.

General Operations/Administration

Calls remain above average for the year, with 19 emergency calls so far in July.

Bolinas-Stinson 4th of July festivities went well. There was a brief period in the middle of the day when we received five concurrent emergency calls, but firefighters were able to respond. The District thanks all the volunteers who contributed to the festivities.

The District is awaiting delivery of and training for our new Long-Range Acoustic Device, to be used in evacuation and other emergency notification scenarios.

In early August Chief Krakauer will be participating in an interview panel for Stinson Beach Fire Protection District, who are hiring two new full-time fire captains.

The District has purchased a new “short-throw” projector for the community meeting room. Ian Johnson will be assisting us with installation of the projector, which will feature wireless connectivity and preserve the entire room for seating.

The District was visited by the Marin County Public Works Certified Unified Programs Agency for a test of our Aboveground Storage Tank. All went well, and we updated portions of our Emergency Contingency Plan during the visit.

Isaac Taylor reported that, after reviewing a draft lease proposal from T-Mobile for ground space and potential shared antenna space on the existing Verizon cell tower, a subcommittee decided that the District is not interested in further discussions at this time. Pres. Molesworth inquired about the decision, and Isaac Taylor responded that the proposed rent was considered quite low, and the proposed ground space would take even more of the station’s back yard, which is used for training.

Isaac Taylor reported that the FY22-23 is beginning, and he has agreed to fulfill initial audit requests by early August.

Isaac Taylor reminded the board that they will be presented in August with proposed language to comply with a required response to the 2022–2023 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report: Build More ADUs - An Rx for Increasing Marin’s Housing Supply. The District must respond by early September.

Isaac Taylor reported that the project to switch over our internet and phones to an upgraded internet switch is finally complete. The new switch will allow us to set up more simultaneous phone lines, which could be useful for our Emergency Operations Center. Also, a phone tree has been set up so callers hear a menu first, and can select an option for the Chief, administrative manager, Assistant Chief, or any on-duty firefighter.

The District is also in discussions with AT&T FirstNet to acquire a new CradlePoint device and account, which will allow mobile or backup internet connectivity. Marin County Fire vehicles are equipped with these devices.

Personnel

Firefighter Easom had a surprise engagement on Saturday, July 15th! The District congratulates firefighter Easom on her engagement. Chief Krakauer is on vacation through July 29th.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion Item #1 – District Wildfire Preparedness and Response

Isaac Taylor shared Chief Krakauer's updates on the Palomarin vegetation fire. The fire occurred on the Coastal Trail approximately one mile from the Palomarin trail head, and was contained to 1/4th of an acre. Firefighters hiked in for access, with firefighter Pendergraft using the NPS e-bike for rapid access. We soon received air support from fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, including retardant and water drops and additional firefighters. The UTV was also deployed to the scene. Pres. Molesworth noted this was a good proof-of-concept for the wildland fire response capabilities of the MWPA-funded UTV vehicle. The cause of the fire remains unknown. The District extends its thanks to Marin County Fire for their assistance and resources provided. These included a battalion chief, two hand crews, and multiple type 3 engines. Stinson Beach Fire also provided a water tender, and NPS and California State Parks provided law enforcement support. High moisture content in fuels kept the fire from spreading rapidly, however, it could have been a different outcome had it occurred later in the season. This incident is a good reminder that we are in wildfire season, and now is the time to do defensible space work. The District webpage has links to wildfire preparedness materials. County Defensible Space inspectors will be in Bolinas beginning July 31st. Please contact dSPACE@marinwildfire.org, or call (415)275-1185 with any questions, or for assistance accessing your online report.

The District's second Chipper Day was completed on July 13th, with all spots filled. The next District Chipper Day will be July 27th, and a few spots remain. The next Marin County Chipper event is full, but there is space remaining for September and October. Residents must register online (chipperday.com/marin), but may call the fire station for assistance.

Don Murch will be mowing some of the dirt roads when he returns in early August. The District has twenty NOAA Emergency Alert radios available for free at the fire station, compliments of the Bolinas Disaster Council. We also have Evacuation Tags, courtesy of the Marin County Sheriff's Office.

Asst. Chief Marcotte and crew are looking forward to the wildland academy this Saturday.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Martinelli/Torrey (unan.) to approve the Consent Calendar, with one revision to the June minutes.

Pres. Molesworth had one security-related revision to the June minutes.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

No update.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Resources Advisory Committee – No update.

Finance Advisory Committee – No update.

Operations Working Group – No update.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Pres. Molesworth extended thanks from the board to everyone in the department for their response to the recent fire at Palomarin.

ADJOURNMENT

Pres. Molesworth asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Taylor
Administrative Manager

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