

# Firewise Committee Meeting Minutes, January 15, 2020

- I. Meeting started at 1:03 PM
- II. Review and update plans for (voluntary) emergency evacuation drill on May 14., 2020
  - A. Gold Mt: Article, check list, Go-Bags, etc.
    1. Emergency items were listed to put in the Go-Bag
    2. Five-minute plan
    3. We have 3,000 of each flyer, and some will be distributed to members with new gate stickers
    4. The rest of those flyers will be distributed to the Fire District.
- III. Schedule for newsletter articles and updates on NABR website.
  - A. Thank you, Kristy Cox for doing these articles and “ready, set, go” check lists!
  - B. First article will be due 1/17/20.
    1. Any recommended changes to articles or check lists?
      - a. The last article (May should be changed to June). The opening part of article needs to be rewritten regarding the dates, and/or combine article 3 with 4.
- IV. Shall we apply for \$500 grant for Wildfire Awareness Week (May 2-9)?
  - A. Deadline to apply is February 29, 2020.
    1. The money must be spent on the first weekend of May.
    2. The activity must be on May 2<sup>nd</sup>: a booth at the fire station, going door-to-door, etc. It will be seed money to be used for next year.
    3. The check has to be cashed, but the money can be spent afterwards because they do not ask for accounting
- V. At the drill everyone will evacuate to clubhouse
  - A. Chief Pini will give pointers
    1. Capt. Andy could be at a second location (Hamilton Branch or Fire station 2) with the rest of the people in the Almanor Basin
    2. Suggested that at a future drill when people leave their homes, they need to follow thru and leave LACC and drive to Chester airport, theater in Chester, etc. as a group evacuation.
    3. Paradise put together a video where people of Paradise discuss how the plan worked to evacuate, but it was slow. Fireman, garbage man, etc. picked people up to leave Paradise. The video has good footage and is well-done. Perhaps we can use that video.
    4. Have a townhall meeting beforehand, and maybe show the video then. We want people to think they need to leave ASAP—even without power.
    5. Have a follow-up meeting in the fall.
    6. Traffic issues in this area only really occur during 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, or maybe after bandshell concerts
    7. A-13 is an issue due to people evacuating from Hamilton Branch, and the real emergency evacuation, law enforcement will be directing people
    8. LACC has an evacuation problem too because we only have two main roads, and one or both may be closed. There may be alternate evacuation routes: golf course, the lake, etc.
    9. People would have an opportunity to discuss how their evacuation went, did they put together a Go-Bag, full tank of gas, etc.?

10. Were they able to get out of their house with the necessities that they need?
11. People will know how it feels to leave their homes and arrive at the fire station together, and there will be traffic
12. Chief has three sirens: LACC, the Village and Hamilton Branch, near HWY 147.
  - a. Listen for the siren, and go! We should set a definite time in advance.
  - b. Put stickers on the green fire department address signs for households with the residents that are “at risk,” so someone and/or neighbors are designated to help them be evacuated
  - c. Some of the “at-risk” people are too weak to move gates, drive cars, etc.
13. New Garage door opener units have battery operated, and they have a 10-year battery life. The battery is about the size of a motor cycle battery for \$90.00
14. Have it before Memorial Day weekend. We selected May 14. We may want to change the date to accommodate Chester Fire Department if they participate.
15. Assisted living places are required to have an evacuation plan, but we could include them and see how they respond. There is a huge “shut-in” population of people who do not have vehicles.

VI. Go Bags and supplies for possible fund raiser.

- A. Discuss what we would provide (see Gold Mt. lists)
  1. Go to local businesses and see if they will sell to us at a discount?
  2. Check from website (Stealth Angel) and see if the merchants will match
  3. Try Amazon: plyers, multi-tools, flashlights, radios, walkie-talkies, whistles, etc.
  4. We could have the core items and start people’s Go-Bags.
    - a. Walkie-talkies: cell towers and phones will be down. There are two types are available (what type of batteries?), and if people have two vehicles, each vehicle has a radio. Make sure the frequency works in our area.
    - b. Barbara is going to start putting items together for a sample “Go-Bag.” LACC could front the money, and payback with proceeds, and the rest of the money goes to the fire department.
    - c. Fire Sirens and Chester schools could put “Go-Bags” together for fundraisers?
  5. In Paradise the emergency services were able to communicate— the building did not burn.

VII. Can we make this a basin wide event?

- A. We want to include The Pines, Chester, Hamilton Branch, Canyon Dam, residents on HWY 147, etc.
- B. Opportunity for publicity and educational awareness.
  1. Chester’s Firewise (Karen Lichti) needs to check with their fire chief— first

VIII. Fire Safe Council Meeting: LNF Stevens Grant application for fuel break area, also includes A-13, and along Clifford Drive, the amount is \$356,774.

IX. Can Cal Fire crews do more roadside thinning this spring?

- A. Who do we talk to? Jan Hammill has a contact
- B. Chief Pini should have contacts, and ask him to make the request
  1. It can be called a training of the crew
- C. If convicts are hired, Chester provides lunch
  1. They cannot go on roadside crews in LACC.
- D. In some areas the HOA contracts with the water district to do the thinning

X. CWPP needs to be updated. Will be put on next agenda. Required every 5 years.

XI. Take part in chipping program again?

A. If we can get the road-side program, we could do the chipping program.

1. The program still has money. If we put out piles, the chipper of branches will be paid for, but we must dispose of the chips. Collins Pine may be willing to take the chips—if we put the chips into containers to be delivered.

XII. There was a flue fire last Friday, so remind people to clean their chimney flues every year.

XIII. Next meeting February 12, 2020

XVI. Meeting adjourned at 2:30

XV. People in attendance: Barbara and Bob MacArthur, Kristy Cox, Ed Orgon, Randy and Heidi Wright, Scott Devereaux, Eric Thaden, Wanda Floy (Chester Firewise), Karen Lichti (Chester Firewise), Bill Davies ( Hamilton Branch Firewise ), Cliff & Lynn Shelton, and Kim and Bob Hammill (Hamilton Branch Firewise).