

FIRESAFE MONTANA
Executive Committee Meeting
by conference call
August 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order at noon by Jake Kreilick, president. Others attending were Carol Daly, Pat McKelvey, Dick Rath, Paul Spengler, Sonny Stiger, and Jon Trapp, directors; Mike Dannenberg, BLM liaison, Bruce Suenram, DNRC liaison; and Crystal Hagerman, executive director

Jake explained that the two main agenda items would be discussing the upcoming Fire Ready Montana programs and the role that FireSafe Montana (FSM) will play in them. Additional discussion of the upcoming FSM planning retreat is also needed

Crystal said that early in July she, along with Bret Watters and Terina Mullen, met with representatives of the Governor's Office of Community Service to update the OCS staff on what was already happening in the state with regard to fire preparedness events and activities. She sent FSM publications to OCM for their reference. The OCM staff told her they had received a emergency preparedness grant and had decided to focus on wildfire – showing how community service activities could contribute to community preparedness.. They decided to have a series of "Fire Ready Montana" events in various locations from August 24 through 29. Bret, Terina, and Crystal reviewed the PSA and radio announcements that OCS will be using in connection with the events, and provided feedback. They radio ads will be airing from August 14 through September 30. The script tells listeners to go to <ready.mt.gov>, which will provide a link to FSM's website. Others involved include the State Auditor's office, Montana Conservation Corps, the Governor's Community Service director and the Citizens Corps training manager, the Department of Labor and Industry, and the Governor's Office.

Jake asked if FSM was only other non-profit involved besides the Montana Conservation Corps. Crystal said OCS is trying to work with fire departments, the fire wardens' association, the BLM, DNRC, and other local communities. Paul said his main concern was that FSM could lose its own message and focus by working on these meetings in addition to the ones we are already working on. But if we're just participating with folks who are already having these meetings anyway, and that's probably a good thing.

Mike wondered where OCS's funding came from. Paul said it was from Homeland Security. Mike suggested that that everyone from FSM who is involved in the Fire Ready Montana events this year keep track of how much time and other resources they put into providing that assistance. Perhaps, if OCS does a similar program next year, FSM could be a partner in the grant or even subcontract with OCS to carry it. Meanwhile, Crystal will keep everyone updated on FSM's involvement on this year's events.

Regarding the upcoming FSM planning meeting, Crystal reported that Don Lorenzen has the notes from the last planning meeting, and she is working with him to see which projects and activities have been completed and which need further work. Tentative arrangements have been made with Fairmont Hot Springs for a meeting from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, September 11, and from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 12. The meeting room is \$60 per day, and would be available to FSM all day both days. Crystal has also reserved five hotel rooms at \$99 each. Pat, Paul, Bruce, Jake, Dick will be attending and needing rooms.

Jake said the board needs to do its preparation work now so that when we get to the meeting, we will be able to finalize our short- and long-term plans. Perhaps we could try to have a draft plan put together prior to the meeting – an update and extension of the plan we did last year in Butte. It was decided to have a board conference call on September 2 at 10 a.m. to discuss planning issues.

Crystal gave everyone her schedule for August. She is trying to get the various local events posted in advance on the FSM website.

The 2010 *Wildfire and Communities* planning committee met by conference call yesterday. Paul, Pat, and Crystal participated. A decision needs to be made on a location soon. Jake said we could do that in the conference call on September 2.

Crystal asked if everyone was satisfied with the emails and other communications she was having with board members regarding FSM. There was agreement that she was doing a good job communicating with the board.

Regarding the FSM website, Crystal hopes to visit with Bob Fry about the new template and then get bids from possible site hosts.

FireSafe USA recently did a presentation to BLM representatives throughout the US. Crystal suggested a web conference with the FSM board and the FSUSA steering committee to address FSM's questions about acting as the fiscal agency for FSUSA. Mike said he needs to have FSM's decision in the near future, because if FSM does not do it, he will have to make alternate arrangements, de-obligating the money he now has programmed into FSM's agreement to cover that work. Crystal said she hopes the web conference can be accomplished in August, with a decision made at the September 2 FSM board telephone conference call.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.