

**VILLAGE OF ANGEL FIRE**  
**Wildfire Protection Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 15, 2014 at 1:00pm at Village Hall**

- I. Call to Order.** Chairperson Rick Sprott called the meeting to order at 1:00.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge was led by Chairperson Rick Sprott.
- III. Roll Call.** Voting Members Present at the meeting were: David Hartson, Scott Jones, Mark Rivera, and Rick Sprott.  
Staff Members and Council Liaison: Rick Tafoya, Andy Bertges, Burl Smith, and Brinn Colenda.  
Members Excused: Mike Clemmons and Dan Rakes.  
Visitors: Ernie Lopez, Arnie Friedt, Kyle Sahn, Susan Clark, Don Clark, Josh Colenda, and Rory Butler of Butler Company.  
Voting Members present: 4; a quorum was declared.
- IV. Approval of Agenda.** Hartson moves, Rivera seconded, passed unanimously.
- V. Approval of Minutes.** Rivera moved, Hartson seconded, passed unanimously.
- VI. Old Business.**
- A) Research, Education and Outreach
1. Ruidoso Village Staff Visit Nov 20-21: Dick Cooke, Ruidoso Forester. Main learning points:
    - Ruidoso has 10 years invested, and AF can get there in time.
    - Forester on board a semi-critical need, and since we have more acreage than Ruidoso we'll need more than 1 Forester / 2 technicians someday. The model would be a fire-fighter with a forestry background.
    - Tax bases matter and AF will have a harder time because of the smaller tax base.
    - Ruidoso utilizes a multi-agency WUI committee – could be an Angel Fire model.
    - Ruidoso Ordinance pretty strict (10 foot crown spacing actually adhered to and enforced). There is also a way to go to different measurements (basal area, canopy spacing, stems per acre) for ordinance purposes.
    - “Condo” model discussed – AF Condos can meet spec by trimming trees up above the eaves and counting the tree as within the buildings space.
    - Ruidoso has a burn area to demo *why* the thinning is regulated. Great way to onboard the public. The block of lots model works really well for Ruidoso (700 lots a year, plus or minus).
    - Sahn points out that fuel breaks need to be a minimum of a half-mile.
- B) Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update – intending to take project to Anchor Point (in discussions with Chris White) as vendor for delivery, but 3 members of the committee have done some strategic work. Anchor Point is advising that we will need to redo modeling in much more detail, since the number of variables required/available has increased. AP also recommends choosing the timing for public meetings. Appendix F addresses CWPP recommendations, priorities, new action items, new recommendations (e.g. early warning system, i.e. sirens). Format is: Priority, Delivered, deliverables, who/what/when. Hiring a Village Forester is the Top Priority Recommendation of the three member committee work group. Committee asks us to include the CWPP update as one of the priorities and deliverables.
- C) Status of Ordinance Draft: Rivera/Clemons/Hartson have a first pass and started review with WPC Chair.
- Draft has four sections: Defensible Space, Healthy Forest, Large Parcels, Healthy Forest Certificate.
    - In this draft, 30 foot is the defensible space (30 foot definition, dead/diseased and down removal, trim up under driveway guidelines, maintenance (e.g., gutters with pine needles)).
    - Healthy Forest section is all recommendations (including stem spacing at 10 feet). All has “wobble room” based upon a Forester evaluation and prescription.
    - Large Parcel will be mostly reconstituted out of the older versions of the ordinance drafts.
    - Healthy Forest Certificate is an engagement model to bring on board property owners in order to affect insurance costs and property values for the landowner. The HFC would be awarded based on meeting a prescription laid out by the Forester.
  - V of AF and Village Counsel need to determine whether the ordinance should be housed with

Safety and Health regulations of the village. Drafts coming out to the entire committee (not just voting owners).

- D) ISO review completed November 10th, capping two months of work. Review executed by the State Fire Marshall's representative, initial feedback positive, final ruling in 2-3 months from now. Large changes in water system infrastructure has been made since last rating – makes more work for the reviewers and they won't turn the ISO review around on their side within 4-5 months total. ISO system also had dramatic changes (e.g., new ranking tables), which impacts the evaluation process.
- E) Air Curtain Incinerator permitting: Is required, paperwork sent in in October, have not gotten a response from the State.

**VII. New Business**

- A) Rory Butler of Butler Company, located in Washington state. Custom prescriptions, trucking and disposal of the timber. Thinks in terms of 100-600 acres. Skid roads provide access to fire-fighters later. Often hired for Insect control (eradication of trees to eradicate the beetles) and mistletoe control. They purposely leave animal habitat (# snags / acre). Gary Kruger of the AFR has met Rory, and committee promoting early working with the Resort.

Q: Want to deal with a single owner?

A: Can work with multiple owners.

Q: Weyerhaeuser owned and operated in AF in the 50's. The slash is still there, and it's so dry that things don't decompose. How does Butler handle? Will you take the "off" species?

A: Fir, lodgepole pine, and ponderosa pine, spruce have markets, haven't developed markets for others, e.g. aspen. You have to grind, burn, or truck off for disposal. Partnership within the local community to create and give-away firewood. Small trees are not really economic for Butler.

Q: Would Butler join the VoAF Register?

A: Determine later after full discussion.

Q: Can you work small lots randomly spaced?

A: We can, but we might be in a business model where it costs the landowner (more).

Q: Specifically, what do you do with the slash?

A: Where appropriate we scatter (can become an issue, but best economics). Grinding is also an option, and then you scatter the chips. Want to avoid the forest "looking like a bomb went off."

**VIII. Questions / Comments from Audience Members**

Q: Don Clark asks, "Can we see the drafts of Appendix F and the working ordinance coming out of subcommittee.

A: We'll put it on our webpage.

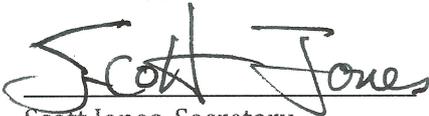
Q: New slash truck grant?

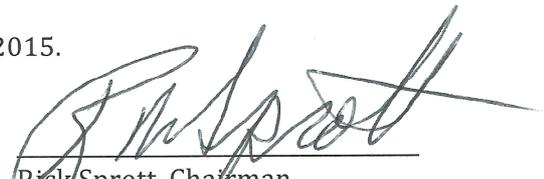
A: Submitted to FEMA

**IX. Adjournment**

With no further business, Rakes moved to adjourn, Hartson seconded, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:55.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2015.

  
Scott Jones, Secretary

  
Rick Sprott, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Terry Cordova, Village Clerk

