

# Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Committee Santa Fe Trail Ranch Property Owner Association Minutes

Date: Saturday, 26 February 2005  
Time: 10:00 am  
Location: Lazaro Martinez Substation  
Chaired by: Diana Novacek, Committee Chairperson  
Present: Diana Novacek  
Jay Aufderheide  
Bob Dye  
Ed Hockett  
C.K. Morey, CSFS Consultant  
Dave Skogberg  
Betty Withington  
Joyce Wolff  
Not Present: Charlotte Aufderheide  
Mike Bahm  
Kristen Spinning  
Bill Wenstrom

## **Agenda Item I** **Call to Order**

Diana called the meeting of the Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Committee to order at 10:00 in the Lazaro Martinez FPPFD Sub Station.

## **Agenda Item II** **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the January 15, 2005 meeting were approved with no corrections.

## **Agenda Item III** **Statement Goal of this Meeting**

Diana reviewed the statement goal.

## **Agenda Item IV** **Old Business**

### **Report of Mapping Sub-Committee**

C.K. named several consultants from whom he will seek proposals, samples, costs and advice regarding the GIS mapping project. He has a comprehensive GPS unit that he will teach Committee members to use. The system eliminates the need to hand manipulate the data; the process is entirely automatic. He thinks by using it the Ranch data can be acquired quickly. Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is dedicating more effort to Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).

Diana and Dave have started writing the text for the CWPP and Jay will prepare an initial draft.

Risk assessment was discussed in some detail. Given adequate information a homeowner can do an initial self-evaluation. Every home owner should strive to make his property Firewise not only for his sake but for that of his neighbors. Ed will suggest to the FPPFD that they work on individual hazard assessments. If the home owner has not provided a fire assessment and a fire occurs on that property the firefighters will make the assessment on the spot.

### **Education Sub-Committee Report**

Jay will take charge of mass emails and Website postings. Joyce will work on a Webpage dedicated to FHWM activities.

Joyce will arrange a tour of the Lake Dorothey and Bosque del Oso forest projects when weather permits.

The CSFS will present a Firewise Workshop for this area on 26 March. Please see attachment for complete details.

Plans were discussed for a Firewise tour of the Santa Fe Trail Ranch. Ck will identify likely locations. 21 May was chosen.

Dave passed out Firewise videos that he hopes Area Leaders will encourage residents to watch.

### **Grant Writing Report**

Diana described her recent trip to a GOCO grant writing seminar. Dave talked about funding through the NRCS.

### **Agenda Item V Other Old and New Business**

There was none.

### **Agenda Item VI Set Date of Next Meeting**

Date: 30 April 2005

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Lazaro Martinez Substation

### **Agenda Item IX Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

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Minutes submitted by: Joyce Wolff

### **Upcoming Activities**

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13 March ♦ Sunday	Mapping Sub-Committee, 7:00 Lazaro Martinez Sub-Station
26 March ♦ Saturday	Firewise Workshop ( <a href="#">Click here</a> for more info))
30 April ♦ Saturday (tentative)	FHWM Committee Meeting, 10:00 am ♦ Lazaro Martinez Sub-Station
14 May - Saturday	Fisher's Peak Fire Protection District Auxiliary Garage Sale ♦ Starkville Station

**Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Committee members:**

Diana Novacek	846 9090	<a href="mailto:ddnovacek@yahoo.com">ddnovacek@yahoo.com</a>
Charlotte Aufderheide	846 2126	<a href="mailto:caufderheide@bransonschoolonline.com">caufderheide@bransonschoolonline.com</a>
Jay Aufderheide	846 2126	<a href="mailto:drj@bransonschoolonline.com">drj@bransonschoolonline.com</a>
Mike Bahm	303 660 9230	<a href="mailto:mbahm@lamar.colostate.edu">mbahm@lamar.colostate.edu</a>
Bob Dye	846 2614	<a href="mailto:ranchodye@aol.com">ranchodye@aol.com</a>
Ed Hockett	846 4981	<a href="mailto:senor_ed_nm@yahoo.com">senor_ed_nm@yahoo.com</a>
C.K. Morey	845 0423	<a href="mailto:ckmorey@lamar.colostate.edu">ckmorey@lamar.colostate.edu</a>
Dave Skogberg	846 9090	<a href="mailto:dskogberg@msn.com">dskogberg@msn.com</a>
Kris Spinning	520 760 0388 845 0423	<a href="mailto:krisspin@comcast.net">krisspin@comcast.net</a>
Bill Wenstrom	846 7457	<a href="mailto:bwenstrom@bacavalley.com">bwenstrom@bacavalley.com</a>
Betty Withington	740 4448	<a href="mailto:bearcanyonranch@plains.net">bearcanyonranch@plains.net</a>
Joyce Wolff	845 1091	<a href="mailto:copsmom@starband.net">copsmom@starband.net</a>

# Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Committee Santa Fe Trail Ranch Property Owner Association Meeting Minutes July 23, 2005

Attendees: Bob Dye  
Ed Hockett  
Diana Novacek  
Dave Skogberg  
Sheryl Smith  
Steve Smith  
Kris Spinning  
Bill Wenstrom  
Betty Withington

## **Call to Order**

Diana Novacek called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M. In Joyce Wolff's absence, Sheryl Smith took meeting minutes. Diana read a memo from Mike Bahm indicating why he and CK Morey were unable to attend.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous meeting were discussed. Steve motioned to approve, Kris seconded and the minutes were approved.

## **Review of Committee Accomplishments**

Diana gave a high level review of what the committee had accomplished to date, highlighting items such as the Firewise Training, WUI grant, research on CWPP, etc.

She also outlined the goals of the meeting:

- everyone should leave confident of overall committee goals/tasks/needs
- determine tasks and assign responsibilities of individuals
- determine level of complexity needed in the CWPP
- determine core group to proceed with the CWPP

## **Old Business**

**Firewise Training** - Diana indicated there were 31 attendees and the Foresters appreciated the interest and engagement of the attendees. Permission was given to the committee to duplicate materials. Our appreciation was expressed to the FPPFD auxiliary for providing the refreshments.

**Firewise Site Tour** - The postponement and rescheduling was discussed. It was proposed that a tour be considered as the Friday agenda item at the October POA Annual Meeting. Bill will obtain board agreement. The need for committee communication to the community was discussed with ideas such as working with the Emergency Services Committee. Also, breaking the tour with a lunch and guest speaker was brainstormed. Diana will determine availability of speakers and tour guides, Betty volunteered to lead the efforts in communications and food.

## New Business

Kris Spinning provided a demonstration of the **FH/WM Web Page** that she and Joyce Wolff had been developing. The benefit of meeting the education provisions in many potential grants was discussed. There will soon be an announcement on the SFTR site indicating the FH/WM site is available and how to access it. Kris recommended a separate domain name so that the site could be linked to the SFTR official web page, as well as, a stand alone site. The cost would be \$13.00 annually. Sheryl motioned to accept the recommendation, Dave seconded, a vote approved. This will allow users not affiliated with the ranch to utilize the site without going through the official SFTR site.

Kris provided a summary of an **interview** she had with **VPR Head Forester, Scott Chase**. Kris has written an article for the web page and submitted it to Scott for accuracy and completeness. An additional tour of the shaded fuel break will be held after completion of the project and Kris has already given a heads up communique that a future tour of the site is upcoming.

Kris provided a status report on **Contractors that could be used for property mitigation**. She outlined costs of:

- Timber axing ♦ Approximately \$130 an hour and the contractor has recently purchased new updated equipment and is currently working at Lake Dorothy
- Hydro Axing ♦ Approximately \$200 per hour and approximately 2 acres per hour.

The contractor would like to meet with individual property owners to discuss individual needs around 8-6/7. Kris also indicated there was a final option where a company would hand cut, chip and haul the wood out for approximately \$1000 per acre. There was a general discussion on the process needed to allocate WUI funds. Property owner financial matches were recommended and Diana indicated that CK is the decision maker in project approval for grant funding. Kris will accumulate some interested property owners names and arrange the meeting - at this point the cost would be covered completely by the property owner with a potential reimbursement from the grant depending on the allocation provisions. There was also the recommendation that the information on the contractors be included on the web site.

Kris provided information on a gentleman who lives in the **Mason Gulch Fire** area. He had mitigated around his house but was encouraged to do more and did not. When the fire reached the mitigated area it did not proceed, however, the area around was blackened with fire damage. Kris will try to contact the property owner for an interview and pictures for the web site.

Diana gave an update on behalf of Joyce on the **Bosque/Sugarite Tour**. She is attempting to reschedule in the fall, perhaps Sep/Oct. It was recommended not to tour in October assuming a ranch tour would be included in the POA Annual Meeting.

Diana distributed an outline of Forest Health/Wildfire Mitigation Committee Tasks. She asked members to assess their skill sets against the task and indicate what they perceived as the best fit. Volunteers preliminary assignment selections were:

1. **Education** - Joyce, Betty, Kris, Sheryl
2. **SFTR CWPP** - Dave, Bill, Bob, Ed
3. **Funding** - Dave (lead), Diana & Bill (backup), Betty, Ed & Sheryl (support)
4. **Plan, coordinate, monitor mitigation projects SFTR** - Diana, Kris, Sheryl

Dave provided a **general grant writing report**. He distributed and discussed pertinent web sites and potential grants for the future. Diana indicated she had arranged a presentation by Levi Montoya, the District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service ( **NRCS** ) to the POA Board on 8-20 @ 9 AM and Diana encouraged committee attendance. Mr. Montoya's PowerPoint presentation will include various funded programs available through NRCS that may apply to land/wildlife habitat management on the SFTR. Diana also discussed the need to have a **501 (c)(3)** status either directly or by association with another organization with this status. She provided an estimated cost of \$1200 to \$1550, should we attempt to obtain our own status. We could use the Culebra Range's status as one of their designated programs; however, they may not yet be in a position to support our necessary paperwork. Diana had also unsuccessfully attempted to contact the Fisher Peak Fire Department. The committee discussed that a program under the FPPD was the most appropriate. Bob and Ed will attempt to schedule a meeting with the Fire Board to give an overview of the CWPP purpose/benefits, and to obtain permission to utilize their 501 (c)(3) status.

Diana provided a status report on the **2005 WUI Grant**. It was recommended to her that we start considering applying for a 2006 grant. There is 24 months to allocate the funds, and as mentioned before, CK is the decision maker, he is also the one who approves what mitigation needs to be done. Bill will standardize a form & completion instructions to track in kind hours. It can include on ground individual mitigation projects providing CK has approved such projects. It was recommended that tracking begin with the Firewise Training. Everyone needs to insure they are tracking committee work.

Discussion was held on the **status of CWPP Planning**. Diana discussed a conversation with Judy Serby on minimum standards for mapping and that there are not requirements for GPS or high tech mapping, allowing a great deal of latitude. Dave talked to Jim Webb, President of Forest Stewardship Concepts (a CWPP Mapping Contractor). Dave discussed the quantity and type of maps that could be provided. Everyone agreed that GIS mapping would be preferable, if affordable. It was agreed that the committee would like a more formal laundry list bid from Jim with specifics and examples. Dave will arrange a date.

#### **In review:**

- Interested parties will meet with contractors regarding personal mitigation, Kris is arranging
- Bob will pursue a meeting with the FPPD Board Members and solicit any help needed to prepare his presentation
- Dave will arrange a meeting for a mapping presentation to the committee
- The committee's next business meeting will follow the above mentioned presentation

Diana adjourned the meeting at 4:55 P. M.

# Emergency Services Committee Meeting

October 29, 2005

Fire Station #3

A special meeting of the Emergency Services Committee was called to order for the sole purpose of reviewing and approving the purchase of the EZWatch Pro Digital Video Surveillance System to upgrade our present system at the gate/guard shack. (See [www.ezwatchstore.com/ezwatch-pro-features.php](http://www.ezwatchstore.com/ezwatch-pro-features.php) for product details and sample video recordings.)

Mr. John Sanders and Mr. Ed Gieske have been working diligently on improving our present system and gave an overview of the purposed equipment. The main goals in upgrading our system were:

1. Avoid tape changes
2. Improve resolution of existing recorded images

Mr. Sanders and Mr. Gieske stated that with the purchase of this video capture card and associated software, we would be able to use the computer hard drive to store video surveillance. Since the system uses a FIFO (first in, first out) mechanism to store video on the hard drive, it would have the capacity to store approximately the most recent 30 days of 24/7 constant recording. Since it can also be configured to save only images which have changed since the last image (motion detection), many months of images could be saved. For example, if no one comes in or out of the gate for 15 minutes, we do not store 15 minutes of unchanging images, only images where motion is detected.

Mr. Gieske and Mr. Sanders stated that the system might potentially require the additional purchases of (1) a teleconverter for the black and white camera's lens to improve the resolution of distant objects and (2) a more compatible video graphics card for the PC.

Mr. Sanders and Mr. Gieske also said that they would assume the responsibility for installation, assessment and possible return of the hardware and software if it does not meet with their expectations. There is a 30 day return policy.

A vote was taken and the committee unanimously approved the \$499.00 purchase. Mr. Sanders said that he would proceed with the purchase on Monday, October 31, 2005.

Additionally, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Gieske have graciously accepted the job of monitoring the system to be sure that it is operational at all times. Once again, a heartfelt thanks to these gentlemen for stepping up and accepting yet another job in the day to day running of our ranch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Jo Shelton

# Forest Health and Wildfire Mitigation Committee Santa Fe Trail Ranch Property Owner Association Meeting Minutes December 7, 2005

Attendees: Diana Novacek  
Dave Skogberg  
Bob Gyde  
Julene Gyde  
Bill Wenstrom  
Sheryl Smith  
Nancy Allred  
Tony Riley

Meeting called to order at 5:30

Minutes approved from July meeting

Diana welcomed new committee members Bob Gyde, Julene Gyde, Nancy Allred and Tony Riley. Nancy is the new committee treasurer and will be handling the completed forms for property owner mitigation work. Julene will be tracking in-kind hours for mitigation work by property owners.

**Hydro-Axe Project:** Bill Wenstrom will be the new Hydro-axe project lead. The Hydro-axe contractor wants to bring his equipment to the ranch by Dec 14. This is the last date change that we will have for the hydro-axe equipment coming to the ranch. We still have some ranch property owners sitting on the fence about having hydro-axe work done on their property. Property owners have committed to roughly 100 hours time for the hydro-axe and we have several owners ready to begin work on Dec 14. While the hydro-axe contractors are working on the ranch, they can meet with other property owners to discuss their hydro-axe projects. Property owners can view the initial hydro-axe sites done on the ranch if they are still unsure about the viability of their particular project. The contractors have committed to staying on the ranch as long as there are owners that want work done. It is very expensive for them to bring their equipment to the ranch and once they leave it may be quite some time before we get another opportunity like this.

There was a brief discussion about scheduling a tour in early January of the Lake Dorothy sites that have been hydro-axed in 2004 and 2005. This would be led by Jeremy Gallegos of the Department of Wildlife. Before the hydro-axe dates for the ranch were moved up to December it was thought that this would be beneficial for prospective members thinking of having work done on their property. They could have a first hand look at what to expect and what the land would look like a year later. The Lake Dorothy tour will be scheduled depending on interest next year.

Diana is looking into some new possibilities of bringing a sawyer crew onto the ranch to work in the same timeframe as the hydro-axe project. This may be beneficial to owners easily getting rid of a lot of slash created by the sawyers when the hydro-axe comes through.

**2005 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grant:** Diana reviewed the SFTR property owner cost share



reimbursement guidelines for the WUI grant. They will be posted on the FHWMC website. Also posted will be forms for individual property owners to request their personal mitigation plan evaluation. Each plan will have to be approved by our CSFS District Forester. All FHWMC committee members will also have these forms available in hard copy.

Also available from the website and FHWMC committee members is a form for tracking in-kind labor, supplies, equipment use and cash expenses. It would be extremely helpful to the FHWMC to have any documented hours of labor and expenses which can be used for a 50% match from federal \$. Julene Gyde will be collecting these completed forms.

It was noted that in-kind hours on past work and WUI grant \$ must be for original mitigation work and not for maintenance of previously mitigated efforts.

**Colorado Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP):** Diana and Dave have reviewed the draft of the CWPP and have begun making copies. They have identified the items that need to be mailed out to all SFTR members. The mailing will include the CWPP plan, some of the key appendices that go with the plan and several supporting documents from the Colorado State Forestry Department. Additionally, a DVD produced by the Colorado State Forest Department on wildfire protection will be sent with the mailing. Katherine Timm from the Colorado State Forest Department has requested \$10,000 of work in-kind from old previously completed work to defray these costs. We'll just need documentation of old work in-kind to meet this number without spending any real \$. Diana estimates the total mailing to be about 42,000 pages. Sheryl Smith is looking into the cost of a new company in town to do the print, bind, mail of the packets. It is not an option for us to not mail the CWPP plan and supporting appendices and just refer people to the web site. Colorado State Forestry wants these plans delivered in hardcopy to all the property owners.

**Other items:**

In the future there may be a tour scheduled of the emergency evacuation route from the end of Owen Baldwin road through Vermejo to the Raton Golf course.

Levi Montoya and CK Morley have announced \$200,000 of new grant money available but a grant will need to be written by Jan 25th.

Next Committee meeting will be Wed Jan 4th, 2006.