

**Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District**  
Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting  
January 19, 2010



Board Members in Attendance: Jack Thompson, Marilyn Hartig, Jim Robb, Tracey Dolsen.

Fire Chief: Miles LaHue, Asst. Chief: Chris Rice

Public: Michael Ackerman

Public comment: None

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:06 at Sugar Loaf Fire Station #2.
2. We inserted a discussion of the **Comforter Mountain land swap** into the agenda here so that visiting speaker Michael Ackerman could leave early. Mr. Ackerman has been busy identifying parcels for the proposed swap. The area includes approximately 170 acres in and around Comforter Mountain, to be swapped with the east end of Sugarloaf. 13 properties are participating in a private wildlife preserve; the parcels include high call, inaccessible terrain used for rock climbing and hiking. They are in favor of the swap because they are closer to Nederland and feel they would get quicker response from them. Also they want to tighten their sense of community with Nederland.

To make the swap happen, it must be equitable, and those properties moving to Nederland have to vote to move because Nederland has a higher mill levy.

Everyone seems in favor of the swap, but there are several stumbling blocks:

- a. There are higher taxes from the mill levy for Nederland;
- b. We need to know the exact amounts of taxes for each region; and
- c. We need to understand the impact on the forest program. (?)

Mr. Ackerman will spend more time defining precisely which properties would be involved in the swap and determining their property valuations, then he will return with specific recommendations to the board.

3. Reading and acceptance of **minutes**. MH moved, JR seconded.
4. **Treasurer's Report** was skipped, as the treasurer was not present.
5. **Chief's Report**

Miles reported on the success of the Swiss Peaks **CWPP discovery meeting**. Turnout was good, especially considering late notice. Marilyn and Jack were there, and

10 neighborhood members attended. Eric Phillips attended but had little prep time. He will be better prepared for the next one, which is Tall Timbers at 7pm at station 2 on Thursday. Ben Phuel will also attend that one.

General consensus was that folks were ready to help but didn't know what to do. There was discussion of who's the cart and who's the horse (neighbors, fire dept, county – who should make the plan?). They discussed firebreaks and roadway clearances, but with no prescriptive plan, they didn't feel like there was concrete headway. Marilyn will organize a follow-up neighborhood meeting where they can discuss some specifics.

Tracey will distribute flyers for the Old Whiskey / Millionaire meeting to be held at Station 2 at 7pm on 25 Feb. Chris will line up county personnel.

Chris suggested that the **site review** spec should be included in the by-laws. Miles thought the details should be in some old minutes from the first half of 2007. He agreed to search for them.

## 7. Old Business

**Land under stations:** this effort is moving forward, albeit slowly.

**Elections:** Marilyn can't be the district election official because she is on the ballot. She can go to training sessions, though. Jim Robb agreed to be the DEO (JT moved, TD seconded) till Marilyn and Tracey are elected (assuming...), then Marilyn will take over. Marilyn is finding out the sequence of events; 26 Feb is the deadline for the call for nominations. Tracey will add info to website.

**Mitigation:** total of \$30,000 has been allocated for mitigation in 2010. All agreed this is appropriate. We'll dole out money by project, prioritizing by bang-for-the-buck. We discussed having a standing mitigation committee but decided against it. The neighbors must drive the process, and the board's role is guidance and fiduciary responsibility. The money needs to be spent by August if possible, so we'll need a plan in the next few months. Hopefully that will fall out of the CWPP discovery meetings.

## 8. New Business

All agreed to continuing meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7pm, Station 1. Jack moved, Marilyn seconded.

9. **Next meeting** will be at 7 pm on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at Station #1.

10. Meeting was **adjourned** at 9:02 pm (moved by Tracey, seconded by Jim).

Minutes submitted by Tracey Dolsen.