

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILDLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION
POST OFFICE BOX 1289
GOLETA, CA 93116**

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

The Annual Membership Meeting of the WILDLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, a California nonprofit corporation, was held at Cold Spring Tavern, 5995 Stagecoach Road, Santa Barbara, California, on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

DIRECTORS/OFFICERS PRESENT: Mike Williams, President; Butch Arnoldi, Vice President; Ina Brittain, Secretary; Ted Adams, Rocky Siegel and Amy Love, Area Coordinators.

ABSENT: Susan Del Real.

ALSO PRESENT: Joseph Garred, Laurie Lauer, Carl Lauer, Tracy Adams, Bill Hurst, Alex Abatie, Chuck Ryno, Yesenia Thomas, Tim Brophy, Mary Siegel, Li Kim, Bernard Mines, Jessica Tunney, Nic Proctor, Phil Seymour, Clark Cowan (for Trela Cowan), Bob Carmody, Jason Lekas, Peter Hasler, Greg Van Sande.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Mike Williams.

MINUTES: Minutes of the August 19, 2019, WRA Board meeting were reviewed. It was then moved by Butch and seconded by Rocky that the minutes be approved as written; approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mike Williams presented the monthly and annual financial reports as prepared by WRA bookkeeper Cynthia Miller, including the current Balance Sheet with assets totaling \$64,906.48 and a \$59,826.39 balance in the checking account. The YTD Profit & Loss report comparing 2019 and 2018 through August 31 was helpful, showing additional income for 2019 over 2018 primarily due to the *Community Alert* grant. Expense comparisons for the same period indicate increased administrative expenses and decreased fire department expenses over the prior year for a bottom line YTD total income after expenses of \$3,688.54 in 2019 vs. \$6,603.62 in 2018 for the same time period. As Mike noted, an overall review indicates the WRA is financially stable.

The membership drive has brought in \$13,050 through August, 2019, with an additional \$6,500 in firefighter sponsor donations for the YTD total of \$19,550. Insurance remains a big expense with 2019 YTD totals of \$2,847.18 for Workers' Comp and \$3,397 for general liability. The Board agreed to defer approval of the financial reports until the October Board meeting as the bookkeeper will be available to field any questions at that time.

As a financial highlight of the Annual Report, Mike also noted the Board has contracted with Cynthia Miller, bookkeeper, and the McGowan-Guntermann CPA firm for financial oversight and tax reporting. The Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof by this reference.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The 2019 Annual Report was presented in narrative form by President Mike Williams, who began by commenting that the day's light rain was a big surprise. Mike went on to announce that, after ten years of service, Roger Haines has retired from the WRA Board of Directors; Mike also gave thanks to Amy Love for filling in as Treasurer since the resignation of Tracy Adams; thanks to Tracy, as well, for her service to the community.

WRA will host a **CERT** training course in January, 2020 at San Marcos Camp on Stagecoach Road WRA has been a SB County CERT member since its formation. Mike noted that certain public safety grants become available once CERT classes are completed.

The weekly radio show *Community Alert – Not If, But When* - is in its eleventh year. Barbara Andersen, Chief Strategy Officer for the Santa Barbara Foundation, Inc., was last week's guest. Emergency Medical Services will be the topic for next week. City and County Fire departments are looking into becoming the sole providers of EMS.

The **new WRA website** is online and being further developed. The site address is the same: www.wildlandresidents.org. Amy Love says it is a work in progress with a modern look and a consistent, more easily navigated format. There will be new information/documentation added monthly.

WRA has expanded public information capabilities by establishing a licensed amateur radio club, call sign **KI6HFQ**. Although it is preferred that those wishing to participate in Amateur radio communications be licensed by the FCC, unlicensed folks are allowed to operate under the club license as long as there is a licensed amateur present, acting as control operator. In order to assist with communications in an emergency, WRA also agreed to a memorandum of understanding with the local **Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)** group.

The **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** program is paying off through reconnaissance for search and rescue (dogs, so far) and for monitoring pile burns, all as part of our partnership with FLIR and the drone manufacturer. SMPVFD firefighter Yesenia Thomas gets kudos for development and implementation of this program. Mike introduced cooperating UAV pilot Alex Abatie and listed some of his extensive capabilities. WRA general liability insurance covers the equipment and program.

As part of the **Secretary's Report**, Ina Brittain spoke to the WRA history of neighbors helping neighbors through volunteering – as firefighters and Board members. Ina also presented the **Membership Report**, itemizing the approximately 270 residents and supporters from 129 households and businesses who have renewed so far for 2019-2020, bringing in the \$19,550 listed in the Treasurer's report.

Laurie Lauer brought the group up to speed on preparations for the **7th Annual Art & Garden Sale**. It's coming up October 19th at Cold Spring Tavern. There is quite a bit of community support for this event, witnessed by the list of great donations made so far. Laurie asked that event announcements be included on the WRA website, on SMPERS 1040 and on *Community Alert*. She will post on the community calendar and signs will be up soon. The committee is asking for set up help the day before. Abe Mira has agreed to play music and the layout will essentially be the same as last year.

SMPERS 1040 is back on the air. Frontier telephone service is a problem when there are power outages. Mike is looking into a telephone hookup through Impulse. Phil Brittain and Mike will be working tomorrow to alleviate the "noise" on SMPERS.

Mike also mentioned the **WRA/Firesafe Council** partnership and new grants are becoming available. **Aware and Prepare** is also going to expand grant writing capabilities. The Annual Report further lists and describes all the WRA membership/partnerships, including the **National Volunteer Fire Council**, the **California State Firefighters' Association** and the **National Fire Protection Association**.

WRA members and Painted Cave residents Nic Proctor and Jessica Tunney, Board members of the newly formed **Mountain Ember Team (MET)**, addressed the team's need for training information.

Joseph Garred questioned Edison notifications on recent **Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS)**, saying "we were in the zone, then we weren't, then we got shut down anyway." Power shut-offs were predicted due to planned-for winds but Edison has been guilty of providing unreliable information. It was pointed out that the newer smart-meters can focus on individual homes for shutoff. The proliferation of home-owned generators is a new potential threat to safety, including concerns of back-feeding the grid and carbon monoxide poisoning. There was discussion about posting guidelines and cautions on the WRA website. Mike noted *Community Alert* will soon be hosting a Southern California Edison representative.

Carl Lauer and Amy Love posed the possibility of a Quarterly newsletter/email to include safety warnings, education and other safety-related info. Carl suggests WRA pursue more outreach of this type, besides just asking for money. Joseph talked about the radio show being informative and helpful. It was also suggested the website **Nextdoor** might host a routine posting of seasonal safety information which could also direct folks to the WRA website and other specific safety-oriented resources.

Looking ahead to 2020, the list of WRA projects that have been discussed but not yet developed are myriad, including: a newcomer program; the update of Twenty Weeks to Preparedness program; hosting an Annual

Preparedness Workshop. WRA also wants to establish a speakers list to include lectures on plants, animals and where to find out what you need to know. Evacuation planning is also in our future. WRA plans to host a workshop with local water groups of all sizes to talk about common problems and concerns, resource management, legal issues and the list of “what if” questions. No expansion is planned in the firefighting arena - education and communication is the new front.

In conclusion, Mike addressed other issues for future consideration. **Homeowners’ insurance** cancellations are a new plague for the mountain communities; what can we do individually and as an association? New rates are all over the map - \$6K to \$12K per year. What can we do? Will someone take this on as a research project? Some folks have turned to California Fair Plan with a wrap around policy. By law, insurance companies pay into the pool. If anyone has any ideas, let’s follow up. There has been more talk of a **new County fire station** at the summit of 154. Will that make a difference with insurance companies? It is being talked about. Lake Cachuma is another possible new station location; or an engine and staff at the summit, sharing space with USFS to add 24/7 coverage; insurance companies want to see a five-minute response. There was further discussion about the aging population and the odds that people over 80 will require EMS beyond the capability of the system. **What does the WRA need to become to continue to be helpful?**

A correction was made to the Annual Report. On page 11, Fire Department Status Report, there are four support members, not three. It was moved by Butch and seconded by Amy that the Annual Report be approved as corrected. All those in favor said “aye” and acceptance was unanimous.

CHIEF OFFICER REPORT: Chief Officer Rocky Siegel presented the SMPVFD report, noting calls for service as itemized in the Annual Report. To quote Rocky, the San Marcos Pass Volunteer Fire Department will “continue to respond to anything on the mountain if it’s got fire in it.” Mike commented that USFS, when on duty, has been responding quickly to fires on 154 but the Los Padres Forest force remains woefully understaffed – currently down 500 positions. There are now only two engines at our local Station 41 where there used to be six, forcing local governments to be more responsive.

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

Paradise: Joseph Garred commented that in continued response to recent drought conditions, trees are still falling down. The USFS has been doing some clearing and the new concessionaire is doing a great job of parks management, clearing around all the camping areas, etc.

San Marcos Pass: Butch says CalTrans roadside mowing is complete. Probably drain cleaning will be addressed next. Butch also talked about how 154 is maintained through two different CalTrans offices/jurisdictions.

West Camino Cielo: Amy says all is quiet. There have been a lot of deer sightings. Paving has improved WCC. Bob Carmody inquired about the 35mph speed limit sign on WCC but Amy doesn’t know about the sign or who installed it.

Rosario Park: Mike has nothing new to report except to note there have been some real estate changes.

Painted Cave: A number of Painted Cave residents spoke to changes and conditions in the area, including Ted Adams, Phil Seymour, Peter Hasler, Nic Proctor and Jessica Tunney. Phil Seymour announced that Painted Cave no longer has a volunteer fire department so residents have formed the Mountain Ember Team (MET), organized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. MET members have been clearing brush, creating and maintaining community fuel breaks, and have taken up the cause of providing roadside hazard reduction through the Santa Barbara County Roadway Enhancement Partnership Program (REPP). MET’s Community Defense Team training is ongoing. Residents are learning what they can safely do should they decide to stay during a fire threat. The MET and individual homeowners are working together, gathering equipment and positioning water storage in preparation for defending the community. While fire is the hazard that comes to mind first, the MET purpose is to help in case of any disaster or emergency. Members are also serving on the MET Board of Directors and various committees, all designed to benefit the health and safety of the Painted Cave Road and East Camino Cielo neighborhoods.

Trout Club: Rocky says another house sold, this one for the third time in ten years. Brush clearing and chipping continues as usual and all is well.

OLD BUSINESS:

The WRA membership drive status, the Art & Garden Sale and CERT training were addressed while reviewing the Annual Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Directors: Butch Arnoldi nominated himself and other current WRA Board members Amy Love, Susan Del Real and Mike Williams to continue in their positions. WRA member Bob Carmody seconded the motion. Except for the nominees, the membership voted and the vote was unanimous that the slate of directors continues to serve. In addition, two new Directors were elected to the Board: Amy Love nominated WRA member Bill Hurst to be an alternate WCC area representative and Ina Brittain nominated WRA member and Trout Club resident Laurie Lauer to the at-large position. Butch seconded the nominations and the membership approved the new directors by unanimous vote.

Election of Officers: Mike Williams introduced and nominated Jason Lekas for WRA Treasurer. Jason has lived on the mountain and currently runs San Marcos Camp. Mike reviewed Jason's resume and qualifications, further noting Jason is a WRA member and owns a house in Rosario Park. Rocky moved to elect Jason Lekas to the position of WRA Treasurer and to reappoint the current officers for another term. The motion was seconded by Amy and the vote was unanimous that Mike Williams continue as President, Butch Arnoldi continue as Vice President, Jason Lekas become Treasurer and Ina Brittain continue as Secretary.

Secretary Oath of Office: Board Secretary Ina Brittain signed the required Oath of Office.

Workers' Compensation on Officers not Firefighters: It was moved by Mike and seconded by Butch that the WRA does not obligate itself to carry Workers' Compensation insurance on Officers that are not assigned as firefighters. The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Ratification of Past Acts: The following was moved by Rocky, seconded by Butch and approved by unanimous vote of the Board:

RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby ratify and affirm each and every action undertaken by the Officers and Directors of the Wildland Residents Association on behalf of the Corporation wherein the Officers and Directors have full knowledge of the actions and wherein the actions have been fully and accurately stated and explained to the Officers and Directors.

The undersigned hereby certifies that she is the duly elected and qualified Secretary and the custodian of the books and records of the Wildland Residents Association, a corporation duly formed pursuant to the laws of the State of California, and that the foregoing is a true record of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Wildland Residents Association, and that said meeting was held in accordance with state law and the bylaws of the above-named corporation on September 28, 2019, and that said resolution is now in full force and effect without modification or rescission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed my name as Secretary of the Wildland Residents Association this 28th day of September, 2019.

Ina Brittain, Secretary

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Mike Williams, seconded by Butch Arnoldi and approved unanimously that the meeting be adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ina Brittain, Secretary

September 28, 2019