

**Jemez Mountains Firewise Association
Virtual (Zoom) Board Meeting, 09/28/2023**

Present: Harry Jones, Ann Cooke, Patricia Jones, Tom Swetnam, Paul Lisko, and Basil Swanson.

The meeting was called to order at 14:36.

Board Changes

After two board changes were proposed by Harry Jones, Basil Swanson moved for Paul Lisko to replace Harry as President, effective at the end of the meeting. Tom Swetnam seconded, and all approved. Basil then moved that Harry replace Pat Jones as Secretary so that she can resign from the board. Paul Lisko seconded, and all approved. Pat volunteered to continue web-site maintenance. Harry noted that there are now two vacant board positions.

Firewise Reports and Registration

Community Firewise work reports should be reported to Ann Cooke soon. Ann has contacted the NFPA regarding registration renewal given the uncertain status of the Sandoval County CWPP and is waiting for a response.

Project Development

Harry opened discussion regarding development of “shovel-ready” projects ready for inclusion in the prospective Sandoval County CWPP and for response to announcements of opportunity.

Basil brought up the need to thin Forest Service areas immediately adjacent to Thompson Ridge to Firewise standards and would like to discuss this with Jeremy Golston, the new district ranger. Paul thought that it would be better to meet as a group rather than individually. Another possible topic for discussion with Jeremy is the possibility of opening a second slash pit at or near the county’s Jemez Valley transfer station which Paul discussed with Lee Taylor and Louise Bradley at the town hall. Paul suggested we create and send a list of possible projects for discussion with the district ranger.

Harry, Paul, and Tom discussed inclusion of Lee Taylor and the fire department, curtain burner/chipper, and protection of source water such as tanks and springs in the Areas and possibly other places. Harry noted Martha Graham’s email which had mentioned modelling and assessment. Paul and Tom were in favor of focusing on problems we already know. Paul suggested contacting Gabe Kohler/Forest Steward’s Guild about training. Tom suggested a meeting with Martha and at least Paul and Tom to get more information about her ideas. The consensus was to meet with Martha and the Forest Guild before approaching Jeremy and Lee Taylor.

Regarding an air curtain burner and/or chipper, Paul suggested that we consider also proposing for a shelter and vendor training of paid fire department personnel which would involve coordination with the county fire department. Ann pointed out that the county had purchased a curtain burner, which it has since disposed of, about 30 years ago but did not use it much because of logistic problems with storage and transport of material to the burner. Paul suggested that the Ponderosa fire station might be a storage site. Harry pointed out that a mobile curtain burner can be purchased. Tom pointed out that air curtain burners are much cleaner and probably easier to permit. He thinks that curtain burners are likely to see increasing use in forest management and believes we should at least explore proposing for one. Ann would like to see slash used for heating buildings as is done in the Gallinas school system.

Harry turned the meeting over to Paul to determine action items and for adjournment.

Paul will set up a meeting with Martha Graham to be followed by meetings first with Jeremy Golston and then with Sandoval Fire & rescue to urge progress with the CWPP and consider coordinating projects such as big equipment operation and storage.

Harry motioned to adjourn, Pat seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 15:28