Notes of May 10, 2014 Meeting
Station 44
Diamond Springs – El Dorado Fire Protection District
6109 Quartz Drive, El Dorado, CA

Call to Order: Marilyn Olson-Petersen (Vice-Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:05 in the absence of Pat Dwyer (Chair). Board Members Present: Ken Hasse, Rod Repschlaeger, and Kevin McAllister.

Introduction and Sign-In: Marilyn announced that Pat was out of state this weekend celebrating Mother’s Day with his Mom and family and that we will do our best to walk through the Agenda he set. Nancy Hasse passed around the Sign-In Sheet and noted those in attendance. Ken reminded us to fill-out the Spring Cleaning Time Sheets for “time” worked in clearing your property for defensible space. We get credit for the hours our community dedicates to making our properties fire safe when we renew our Firewise status. A copy of the timesheet is attached. Rod suggested that we acknowledge/recognize Bobbie for his efforts and donations to the Council’s activities. Ken offered that we could present him with an Award at the Annual Hot Dog Social in October.

Vice Chairman’s Report: Fire Event & Evacuation Exercise Critique. At the March Meeting we invited state, regional and local agencies involved in Fire Suppression. Each agency gave a presentation as to their role in a Fire Incident. Attendance was excellent and overall, the feedback was positive. Only two suggestions for improvement: shorten the time; perhaps split the presentations between two meetings and change the order of the presentation: do the “Exercise first” which would then free up the agency staff to return to their day operations in a more timely manner. Community Clean up Day Critique. Our April Meeting was the “Spring Clean-Up Day” at Bobbie’s Market. It too was a success. Snowline was pleased to receive over 4,000 pounds in donations. Both the E-waste Collection and Green Waste Dumpsters were popular. The Household Trash Dumpster was well used, however, in the evening it received “illegal items” and these had to be removed the following morning. Pat Dwyer and Ed White cleared out the items the next morning. It was suggested that next year we arrange to have the dumpster picked up on the same day so as not to invite a repeat of the problem. SET Brochure Distributed. The first quarter of the year we focused on getting “READY” – establishing defensible space for your house/property. This quarter we are focusing on the “SET” phase – the development of a Plan (an Evacuation Plan) for you in case of a fire. We are already heading into the High Fire Season earlier this year. This is the time to sit down and get everyone familiar with an agreed upon strategy. Some items to consider – have an emergency meeting place; several escape routes, a plan for your pets/large
animals: a communication plan; extinguishers on hand; know the location of the shut off valves; maintain/update emergency contact numbers; have a portable radio scanner. The “SET” Brochure walks you through this phase of preparation. Please take time to review and update your Plan if necessary.

**Nominations for Board Elections (Slate of Candidates).** We are a voluntary board with 5 members. Two-year staggered terms. Our elections are held at the June Meeting and we are requesting nominations now. Kevin announced that he will not be running for another term. Ken is not certain if he will run again. So we may have two openings. Please submit any nominations to Pat; obviously check with your nominee first. Nominations can also be taken from the floor at the June Meeting. This Board makes a significant contribution to the safety of our community so please consider volunteering your time. Everyone’s level of commitment is based on their own availability.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Ken advised that our Bank Balance is $5,816.00. Recent expenditures: Postage ($82.35) and Printing ($474.00) of the Spring Newsletter - 300 Newsletters were sent out (amount is little less than last year as we used a “lighter” paper and had less postage; Signs for the Community Clean-up Day and October Hot Dog Social ($324.92); Port-a-Potty Rental ($115). (El Dorado Disposal donated two extra green waste dumpsters that saved us about $700.) Next item requires Board Action. El Dorado County Fire Safe Council revised their By-Laws for 501c3 non-profit entities. We are now required to do our banking at a subaccount of the County’s Master Account. We need to switch our banking from USBank to Umpqua Bank. Ken made Motion to change our banking account to Umpqua Bank; Marilyn seconded. The Motion passed on vote of 4-0.

**El Dorado Home and Garden Show:** Nancy advised that she, Ken and Pat volunteered last weekend at the Home Show. They helped staff a booth along with other volunteers from the EDCFSC and State/local fire related agencies and handed out information on fire safety/prevention.

**Video “Lessons Learned Waldo Canyon (CO) Fire”:** This 10 minute video was an excellent example of fire related agencies and local residents working together in advance to prepare for the event of a fire. Without the advance work – more homes would clearly have been destroyed. We can be thankful that we have such excellent fire agency coordination/cooperation in El Dorado County. Nationwide “Fire Safe Councils” are essential components to effectively prepare communities for wild land fires.

**Home Owners Insurance:** Question was raised as to whether the Insurance Companies are still skittish on granting home owners insurance in this area. Kevin advised that they are and with the exceptionally dry winter, things would likely get worse. So best do all you can do to make your property fire safe.

**Fuel Reduction Update LT-10:** The Monitor Section (LT-10) is part of the CWPP Fuel Break. We had a series of problems in securing a contract and getting work started. We had a signed contract and the company underestimated their costs and tried to renegotiate; we fired them. We secured another contract, took a while to get to the site and then weather delayed the start – first it was too dry and then too wet. The contractor used a big masticators and when wet it is difficult to operate safely on slopes. It is a 41 acre project. The Grant period ended March 1 and we got 14.1 acres done. Right of Entry is still good until June of next year. All but one landowner signed up.
Tom Tinsley, Cal Fire Head Forrester, was at the El Dorado County meeting last month and advised that they are expecting to have SRA funds available (Fire Fee) to do some fire prevention work in the future and this project (LT 10) is a prime candidate for that funding with all the approvals in place. We are hopeful if those funds are available that we will be able to complete that project.

**County Fire Safe Council Update:** Board of Supervisors Last October Pat and other EDCFSC board members went to the BOS and requested Title III monies. They gave us $25,000 in Title 3 and $26,000 in County funds. Ken advised they received the money last week and it is now in our bank account. Title III funds can be used to update and develop CWPPs and related projects and Firewise activities. The County funds are less restrictive. Those will probably be used to do an audit of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council – it has been 4 years since the last audit. **Friends of Seniors Program.** Also the County funds could be used to re-establish the Senior Assistance Program which has not been funded for 2 years. We have been working with Friends of Seniors to put that program back in place. Some of you may have attended the Spaghetti Fund Raiser Dinner the proceeds raised ($4800) went to support that program. They would like to do 2 jobs per month. We may get some additional funds from the El Dorado Community Foundation which funnels money to various non profit local groups. Rod’s wife, Marsha, is very active on the Foundation and advised that their fund raising effort exceeded expectations; they have $125,000 to distribute and there are some matching funds. Question raised: how are the projects selected. Ken advised that anyone can nominate. Even organizations like ours can nominate - also Meals on Wheels organization that know who is in need of assistance. Friends of Seniors will be lead in selection and we may help. Our role will be to inspect the property and determine what needs to be done and then M.O.R.E. or other contractors will do the work. **New Web Site:** This is the County Fire Safe Council Website. Ken has done a lot of work to get pertinent data uploaded to the site. It had valuable information before (Mission Statement/governing authority/ CWPPs and affiliate Fire Safe Councils) but now it is easier to update locally with our Sacramento contractor. Ken has loaded our Notes from the meetings.

**Neighborhood Coordinator’s Updates:** Everyone agreed that with the pending Fire Season upon us it is time to review/update their Phone Tree lists. It is an ever changing effort as people continuously move in and out of the area. The phone tree was set up to alert residents to fire alerts but it is also used to alert the community to security issues and often lost/rescued animals. The Sherriff’s Office can activate the “Reverse 911” System to distribute Evacuation Notices etc. These two alert systems are complimentary. Your land line phone is already in the Reverse 911 system. If you want your cell phone added you need to go to the El Dorado County Website and enter that information. Bill Kaign brought up an alternative notice system. He forwarded that information to Pat Dwyer to look into its application for our alert system. The benefits of which can be discussed at the next meeting.

**Public Comment:** Nancy mentioned that it is important to check out the fire hydrant near your home and if it needs to be cleared go the extra mile and clear the area around it. Rod was at a Kiwanis Club meeting where a County Representative was present and mentioned that Logtown Council was highly respected and proactive and that our efforts here are not going unrecognized. Steve Morgan offered to donate some funds to the “Senior Assistance Program” and also suggested a candidate for assistance.
Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:30. Next meeting is June 14, 2014

Signed: Marilyn Olson-Petersen

Logtown Fire Safe Council: Pat Dwyer, President (622-7121) Ken Hasse, Treasurer (620-7220), Marilyn Olson-Petersen Vice Chair/Secretary (620-2461), Kevin McAllister (295-9123) and Rod Repschlaeger (621-3219)