



Town of Green Mountain Falls

Regular Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
September 18th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84323605085?pwd=bUE2U0xLYmJDZVRnU2VEcjl6dGpuUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 2360 5085

Passcode: 283405

To make a **public comment** please **pre-register** by 4pm on the day of the meeting via email: david@falconpartnersltd.com

REGULAR MEETING:

TIME*		ITEM	DESIRED OUTCOME
6:00	1.	CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL	
6:00	2.	ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTION TO THE AGENDA	FMC Action Desired
6:05	3.	PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA: 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER	Information Only
6:10	4.	CONSENT AGENDA a. Minutes from August 28th Meeting	FMC Action Desired
6:15	5.	OLD BUSINESS a. CUSP SFA and FRWRM Grant Projects – Update, David Douglas b. 2024 GMF Budget recommendation discussion c. Education Program Update d. Monthly tip – Paul Yingling e. September Chipper Day f. GMF resident and property owner data base update (information only) g. Slash drop off program (Spring 2024) – Lisa Huizenga h. CWPP Update discussion i. Formation of Volunteer Groups i. Block Captains ii. Volunteer Data Base and Tracking	FMC Action Desired
7:00	6.	NEW BUSINESS a. KFF Grant Application b. Recommendation to BoT for demand letter to CSU to cut dead trees by power lines.	FMC Action Desired
7:30	7.	REPORTS a. None	Information Only
7:30	8.	CORRESPONDENCE	Information Only
7:30	9.	ADJOURN	Information Only

*Please note: Times are approximate.

**The Town shall provide reasonable accommodation for those with disabilities on a case by case basis. Please send accommodation requests to clerk@gmfco.us by 4pm on the date of the meeting.

**Town of Green Mountain Falls
Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting minutes
Monday, August 28, 2023**

Committee Members Present

Chair David Douglas
Vice Chair Paul Yingling (on Zoom)
Member John Bell
Member Kelly Hunter
Member Lisa Huizenga

Trustee Members

None

Town Staff

None

Recording Secretary

Carolyn Bowers

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER Chair Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS None

4. CONSENT AGENDA Huizenga moved to accept the minutes of the June 26 and July 24, 2023 meetings. Hunter seconded. Motion approved.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. CUSP SFA and FRWRM Grant Projects – Update, David Douglas

Douglas reported that Adrian Knight, forester with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte River (CUSP), told him that two grants (SFA and FRWRM) thought to expire Dec. 31, 2023, end in April and October 2024. This allows for an additional 44 acres to receive mitigation, if Green Mountain Falls can come up with matching funds. The Kirkpatrick Family Fund has agreed to provide funds for the matching grant but must receive the application by Sept. 1. Since the Board of Trustees must approve the application but does not meet until after that date, the town manager will submit the application by the deadline with the understanding she will withdraw it should trustees decide against it.

b. Committee Input to Strategic Plan Review and Discussion – Paul Yingling

Committee members held a lengthy discussion about the need to expand goals and priorities and how to execute them. They agreed that a separate workshop to discuss specific topics would be useful. Bell moved that the committee ask Yingling to moderate a workshop by 2024. Hunter seconded. Motion was adopted unanimously.

The committee discussed a memo Bell sent to Mayor Todd Dixon, outlining his ideas for helping the town identify dead and dying trees posing the most danger. The memo had not been reviewed or approved by FMAC. Bell called it a “rough draft” that could be changed. Douglas disagreed that it was a rough draft, stating the mayor and town manager were already seriously considering it as a tool for prioritizing nuisance trees to be felled. Douglas asked if the committee wanted to vote to adopt Bell’s risk assessment

proposal as an official recommendation. Bell left the meeting, stating he was resigning from FMAC. Douglas and committee members said they hoped Bell will reconsider his decision as he is a talented, hard-working committee member who has contributed a lot to GMF's fire mitigation efforts.

c. Education Program Update Hunter said she would represent FMAC at Back-to-School Nights at Manitou Elementary, Manitou Middle School and Ute Pass Elementary.

d. Red Cross program Update Douglas said Red Cross contact Cori Tanner told him she will contact the pilot program's contractor, Rubicon, about answering questions from interested residents. So far, no word back. Douglas moved the committee remove Red Cross from agenda updates and close it as a committee action item. Hunter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Monthly tip – Paul Yingling The September tip will focus on Chipper Days, coming up Sept. 16-17, using Teller County's flyer. This time with a focus on keeping piles to a maximum of 5 feet for the sake of the operator's safety.

f. September Chipper Day publicity/volunteers Douglas noted only a handful of people were signed up for the event, suggesting that people may not realize they must sign up or their piles won't be picked up. People may also wait until the last minute to act, Hunter said. Hunter will make sure flyers are at the Post Office; Yingling will be at the Post Office if his schedule allows.

Huizenga said volunteer slots for Chipper Days have been filled.

g. GMF resident and property owner database update (information only) Yingling said 72 names are currently on the database. Jane Anderson, head of security at Manitou High School, also went on the database. Anderson will disperse information in Yingling's emails to database members to the high school community. Douglas said he is receiving more emails from people on the database and this is a positive sign that interest is growing. Yingling said the database hasn't resulted in many volunteers, however.

h. Formation of Volunteer Groups Nothing new to report.

i. Block Captains Nothing new to report.

j. Volunteer Data Base and Tracking Huizenga said she'll be sending the QR code out to potential volunteers.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Mile High Youth Corps Grant Application The town manager has submitted the application. Douglas assisted her on it. No word expected until the end of 2023.

b. Kirkpatrick Family Fund Grant Application For matching grant to continue mitigating town property, working with CUSP.

c. Slash drop off program (Spring 2024) – Lisa Huizenga Chief Murphy wants to wait until Spring 2024 to begin a slash drop off program. Huizenga has discussed the possibility of Joyland as a dropoff site with Jesse Stroope and he is open to the idea. We need a method for delivering the slash to the site. People could drive it in. If they can't, certain days would be set aside for volunteers to help them.

d. 2024 Budget Discussion and Develop Recommendations The Board of Trustees has asked committees to submit budget requests as line items, not lump sums, so members can better understand how the money is spent. Hunter has proposed asking for \$1,000 to support education outreach.

Douglas floated the idea of asking the board to allocate \$40,600 to pay a portion of the cost of completing mitigation on 44 “workable acres” in and around GMF. The total cost is estimated at \$176,000. Grants from Great Outdoors Colorado and FRWM would pay 40 per cent (\$70,400); GMF would be responsible for \$105,600, an amount the town cannot bear financially. Douglas has spoken to Jesse Stroope about applying to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund for a \$64,400 grant. FMAC would ask trustees to approve the remainder: \$40,600.

FMAC will make its final decisions on budget recommendations to the Board at its September meeting.

e. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Update discussion The town manager has asked FMAC to provide a representative to serve on the working group updating the CWPP for the fire district that includes Green Mountain Falls, Chipita Park, Cascade and Crystola.

f. Adjournment 7:46 pm

Agenda Item 5. B.

Budget Recommendations

A. Matching funding for CUSP grants:

\$40,600

Of the two current CUSP grants, (FRWRM and SFA), one grant runs until April 2024 and the other runs until Oct 2024. This was update I received from Adrian Knight recently.

“So, it looks like between the 2 grants and taking into account for what is planned, we have about 44 acres to be used up. at an average of 4k/acres that comes to 176,000. 60% of that is 105,600. Big numbers. If those funds can't be found, anything would at least help chip away at the acres available on the grant and help connect some fuel breaks in GMF.” – Adrian Knight

The breakdown among the parties:

1. CUSP - \$70,400
2. KFF - \$65,000 (Grant Application pending)
3. Green Mountain Falls - \$40,600 (2024 Budget Proposal)

B. Education Events (Kelly Hunter)

\$1000

Bo had an idea months ago that we have a Fire Mitigation Tools Lending Closet. I think this is a fabulous idea to go along with the Neighbor Helping Neighbor group. If we already have the tools it makes it that much easier to help each other mitigate our properties. I know if I had a lawn mower, weed whacker, limb cutter it would be far easier to get it done.

I would also like to have more education opportunities for the community like we did at Church in the Wildwood. I think it was Lisa's pies that got them there more than the video. But I hate to see her always having to do that much work. What if we \$ponsored some pizza and movie nights throughout the year so people could come right from work for the Fire Mitigation 101 video or the Paradise fire movie? We can get more folks aware, involved and prepared.

Agenda Item 5. B.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA MEMO

DATE: ..2023	AGENDA NO	SUBJECT: 2024 Budget Funding for Nuisance Tree Ordinance Enforcement
Presented by FMAC		

Recommended Action

Whereas fire mitigation is an important priority for Green Mountain Falls; and
Whereas enforcement of the nuisance tree ordinance is important to fire mitigation;
Resolved, that Green Mountain Falls will fund the enforcement of the nuisance tree ordinance in the FY 24 budget

Recommended Motion

The Board of Trustees approve funding in the Green Mountain Falls 2024 Budget as recommended by the Town Manager for the purpose and sufficiency to effectively enforce the town’s Nuisance Tree Ordinance.

Background

The BoT of Green Mountain Falls has adopted a revised definition of Nuisance Trees for current public reading prior to approving the revised Municipal Code. This revised definition is for the express purpose of making the town’s Nuisance Tree ordinance enforceable. No clear plan of enforcement of the ordinance has been stated. If funding of the enforcement requires any funding, the FMAC is making this recommendation to assure funding is appropriated in the 2024 budget.

Discussion

Alternatives

DRAFT

Agenda Item 6. B.

The Green Mountain Falls Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee unanimously recommends that the Board of Trustees direct the Town Manager of Green Mountain Falls to send a demand letter to Colorado Springs Utilities to remove all dead and dying trees within the town's ROW's and near utility infrastructure within the ROW's or allow the town to remove said trees on its ROW's without further delay.

There are numerous examples of wildfire resulting from power lines and other utility infrastructure. To wit, the Paradise Canyon fire in California and the recent Lahaina fire in Hawaii. To date, despite numerous requests for action, CSU has refused to remove nuisance trees from and around its infrastructure. Indifference, reluctance, and resistance from our utility provider is an unacceptable risk to our town's welfare and property as already experienced in other communities.

Colorado Springs Utilities denied CUSP's contractors the right to remove trees on town property which were within a certain distance from CSU's utility infrastructure. Residents of Green Mountain Falls have requested that CSU remove dead trees and have been told that CSU does not remove dead trees near its infrastructure. This is an unacceptable response from CSU. The risks are too great and we must demand action immediately through a formal process such as a demand letter written by Green Mountain Falls' legal counsel.