



# Town of Green Mountain Falls

## Regular Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

July 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Join the Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85159862955?pwd=yjgGFWBkxM7A74tA4eB72K2Sk7UjEa.1>

Meeting ID: 851 5986 2955

Passcode: 359326

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

[david@falconpartnersltd.com](mailto: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	<b>FMC Action Desired</b>
6:05	3.	PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA: 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER a.	Information Only
6:10	4.	CONSENT AGENDA a. Minutes from June 24 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	<b>FMC Action Desired</b>
6:15	5.	OLD BUSINESS a. Education Program Update b. 2024 Chipper Program – 9/28-29 – Discussion c. Monthly tip – Paul Yingling d. Team Rubicon – Potluck planning e. GMF resident and property owner data base update (information only) f. Formation of Volunteer Groups i. Block Captains ii. Volunteer Data Base and Tracking	<b>FMC Action Desired</b>
7:00	6.	NEW BUSINESS a. 2025 FMAC Priorities - Budgeting and Leadership - Discussion	Information Only
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](mailto:clerk@gmfco.us) by 4pm on the date of the meeting.

**Fire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting minutes  
Monday, June 24, 2024**

**Committee Members Present**

David Douglas, chair (on Zoom)  
Paul Yingling, vice chair (on Zoom)  
Lisa Huizenga (in person)  
Lorrie Worthey (in person)

**Trustee Members Present**

John Bell

**Staff members present**

None

**Recording Secretary**

Carolyn Bowers (on Zoom)

**Guest**

Ann Esch Planning Commission

**1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER**

Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm

**2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Worthey moved to adopt the agenda with no corrections, additions or deletions. Yingling seconded. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

a. April 29, 2024 minutes Huizenga asked that the First Responders Appreciation event discussion be amended to reflect that Hunter and Worthey will ask Town Manager Becky Frank for \$500.

Yingling moved to accept the April 24 minutes with that correction. Huizenga seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

b. May 20, 2024 minutes Yingling moved to accept the minutes with no changes. Huizenga seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

## 5. Old Business

### a. Education programs update

1. Green Box hikes Douglas reported that so far nobody has signed up for either hike. In discussions with Jesse Stroope of Green Box, he learned that's par for the course. He expects people will probably sign-up last minute.

The Wallace Reserve hike takes place July 4 and will show how vegetation is re-emerging from mitigated areas. Hikers are to meet at Mountain Road at 9 am.

The hike to Douglas' house to observe a structure that meets Colorado State Forest Service standards takes place July 16 on Hondo. Douglas' neighbor is allowing cars to be parked on his property for those who don't want to hike all the way up. Douglas is also providing limited space for those who must drive because they can't hike from the neighbor's lot. Hikers are to meet at Pool Park at 9 am.

2. Bronc Day FMAC's booth will be next to the Fire Truck. Bronc Day is providing a tent and a table. Booths open at 10:30 am. Douglas, Worthey, Yingling and likely Hunter will be at the booth, their schedules to be decided. In addition to the usual information FMAC gives out, Douglas will have material from Teller County that provides information about how people can personally prepare for evacuation, such as readying pets.

### b. Chipper Days June 29 & 30; Sept. 28-29

Yingling reported that nine of 12 volunteer spaces are filled, although he and Douglas are filling more than one. More spaces could be filled by volunteer fire fighters. Worthey will communicate with Yingling and/or other team members by phone to take care of missed pickups and other issues. 54 properties are signed up to receive the service. Yingling said 17 others were turned down because 54 is the limit. For the September Chipper Days, Yingling will send an early-bird notice to them so they can get a jump on signing up.

### c. Monthly Tip

Yingling's proposed July tip is information from El Paso County on evacuation planning, including definitions of terms, plus website links from El Paso and Teller Counties that track changing fire conditions.

Douglas moved to accept the proposed July tip. Huizenga seconded. Motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

d. Team Rubicon

Douglas has been in touch with David LaRivee of Rubicon about rescheduling the May event delayed because of covid. Douglas told LaRivee our first choice would be the last weekend in August since that's just weeks before Chipper Days. Yingling said if that weekend covers Labor Day, we may have trouble recruiting volunteers. The other choice is the last weekend in September.

Yingling is still working on scheduling chain saw training in GMF. He has proposed 8/24, 8/25/, 8/26 and 9/6. 9/7, 9/8 to LaRivee but hasn't heard back. Sawyers-in-training must be Team Rubicon members. Yingling says membership can be obtained by signing up for member training on Team R's website. They must watch 2-3 hours of training videos. There is no financial obligation to become a member.

e. Resident and property owners' data base

Yingling reported 10 new entries since last month's report. Douglas added that there are spaces available for the Team Rubicon mitigation program.

f. Block Captain recruitment No progress.

**6. New Business**

a. Chairmanship, new members

Douglas, who has served as committee chair for four years, says it's time for a new chair. He also said the committee must look at recruiting strong people to serve on it.

b. FMAC budget and priorities

Douglas asked members to come to the next meeting with ideas and suggestions on what the committee's funding needs will be for carrying out its mission.

**7. Reports** None

**8. Correspondence** None

**9. Adjourn** The committee adjourned at 7:10 pm.

The next meeting takes place on Monday, July 29, at Town Hall. Zoom will be available.



## Community Education Topics

Dear FMAC,

As we are brainstorming education ideas to be discussed at the December 18 meeting, here are some resources for us to consider. A big thank you to Carolyn Bowers for getting these ideas to us, and asking for community input on educational needs. Nancy Dixon was a respondent with excellent ideas. Thank you Carolyn and Nancy!

“Be Red Cross Ready” <https://www.redcross.org/local/colorado/about-us/our-work/preparedness-program/be-red-cross-ready.html> This program can be adapted to our area’s needs. Top of our list of educational needs that the Red Cross has programs for are: a Home Fire unit, and a Wildfire Unit.

Nancy Dixon writes in response to Carolyn’s posting of Paul’s November Tip of the Month and Carolyn asking readers what they want to know more about, here is an excerpt, “I was reading the Red Cross flyer and I like how they address Disaster Preparedness which included winter storms. Our little mountain town concentrates on fire, which is appropriate, but there are other natural and manmade emergencies that our residents should be prepared for. This could include: winter storms (power outages), flash flooding, active shooter, chemical spills (remember WP and the gas truck?). Maybe these could be fleshed out in monthly tips and/or education nights?” Here is a Red Cross link for addressing a few of these issues (and there may be more.) <https://www.redcross.org/local/colorado/about-us/our-work/preparedness-program/active-threat-preparedness.html>. This brings up the question of scope of FMAC’s work and a discussion to follow?

Nancy also would like information on recovery from an event. “Such as adequate insurance to rebuild, taking pictures/videos of your belongings, etc.” Would having an insurance expert be of help?

In May, 2024 Community Partnership <https://cpteller.org/> will be sponsoring the Wildfire unit in their offices. Options...We could join them in that effort, or have Red Cross present it at Church of the Wildwood.)

The Red Cross also offers education for kids that can be coordinated at the same time as the adult presentation. Here is that link....

<https://www.redcross.org/local/colorado/about-us/our-work/preparedness-program/prepare-with-pedro.html>

Ideas from Carolyn:

### **YouTube Videos**

These might be suitable for a movie night. The National Fire Protection Assn. sent them out.

A word about the NoFloCo video: It's wonderful, beautifully-produced and inspiring. It does a good job of demonstrating practical mitigation tips. I think it's a bit long, however, for the amount of

useful information it conveys. These videos are shorter, more to the point and, for me, do a good job of speaking to the homeowner. More on NoFloCo later.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL\\_syp1ZScM&t=54s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL_syp1ZScM&t=54s) This repeats the oft-heard message about how inexpensive, little things that can make a difference in protecting a home. However, it's the visual impact and commentary that really make the point.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQIHtMQ\\_y5k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQIHtMQ_y5k) This does a side-by-side comparison of two simulated homes assaulted by the same shower of embers. One structure had a redwood deck and mulch going all the way up the house. The other had a metal gutter, vegetation away from the house and multi-pane windows.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4JpOdS9ffi> I still don't think people get what defensible space is all about. This video starts with showing how defensible space saved a house in the desert while his neighbors' homes without it were destroyed. That said, the fire chief commentator goes on to explain why defensible space doesn't mean people have to clear-cut the space around their homes to make it defensible. It means choosing the right plants, structures, etc. In other words, "firescaping." How about using that when talking about defensible space?

### **Borrowing from NoFloCo**

There is one idea from the group that you might be able to adapt. Before the NoFloCo meeting John and I attended last March, Don Moore asked participants to send in pictures of their homes. At the meeting, Don projected those pictures on a screen and pointed out areas of good mitigation and areas needing improvement.

### **Other Brainstorming**

Firefighter Appreciation Night in conjunction with an education piece. FYI... First Responders Appreciation Day in 2024 is October 28th but this event any time of year can have the opportunity to enhance partnerships.

### **Quarterly Meetings**

Time frames of Educational Forums done "Quarterly"  
Proposal of timing to accommodate summer residents (So not strictly following a quarterly schedule.). Perhaps our best chances to reach summer residents are during Green Box.

First Quarter: Late January to Early February

Second Quarter: April to Late May

Third Quarter: In conjunction with Green Box . 2024 Green Box event is July 1 to July 14, 2024.

Fourth Quarter: September/October

Topic of 1st Quarter - Home Fires by Red Cross and Emergency Preparedness with Firefighter Appreciation night????? Team Rubicon apparently has been in recent contact with town hall. Becky is putting Dave from Team Rubicon in touch with our own David Douglas to join our next FMAC

MEETING. POSSIBLY Team Rubicon would be available for January 18 or February 7 education night.

Topic of Second Quarter TBD.... Encourage participation in the Community Partnership's event planned in May.

Green Box - Movie Night, Defensible Space videos, Mitigation Pictures of Residents homes and Review by ??? (Paul or Ute Pass Firefighters or ???)

Other Ideas, "what is wrong with this tree" Forester could come and help residents determine potential diseases in their trees (aka nuisance trees.) Or ???

Topic of 4th Quarter TBD

Place: Church of the Wildwood or Green Box campus

Ideas for Promotion of events:

1. Carolyn's posts on Facebook
2. Church of the Wildwood Newsletter
3. Mayors monthly email
4. Green Box
5. GMF and Chipita Park fire stations
6. Personal invites to folks on the FMAC list. Ask volunteers on that list to invite their neighbors

Carolyn, if you could keep asking for residents input when you post Paul's monthly tips that would be invaluable.

Kelly and Lisa



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA MEMO**

<b>DATE: 2024-07-29</b>	<b>AGENDA NO</b>	<b>SUBJECT: 2024 Budget Funding for Nuisance Tree Ordinance Enforcement</b>
<b>Presented by</b> 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**

## FMAC 2024 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

More education events for the community like NoFloCo speaker and video 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. FMAC sponsored pizza and speaker/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. Four events at \$250 per event = \$1000.

### C. Professional Consultation on Nuisance Trees (Paul Yingling) \$1500

With the implementation of the revised Nuisance Tree Ordinance in which enforcement my require, in some circumstances, a professional opinion regarding a tree(s) meeting the definition of a Nuisance Tree, the FMAC recommends budgeting for the cost of such professional opinion. The Colorado State Forest Service currently charges \$75 to provide a tree assessment for homeowners. The FMAC estimates that 20 such consultations may be required in a year. The math of this is \$75/consultation X 20 Consultations = \$1500.

## TOTAL FMAC 2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION: \$\$43,100

Furthermore, it is the recommendation of the FMAC that the total recommended funds may be fungible and reallocated to other fire mitigation initiatives in the event actual expenditures of any of the above is below what forecast. The reallocation of unspent funds to other FMAC recommended initiatives will be subject to review and approval of the BoT. There will be other grants funded by government agencies which may required cash matches as a qualification of receiving the grant. GMF must have a reserve for these grant opportunities.