

Board Members Present: Mike Appelman, Lafe Ball, Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff (on telephone), Michael Pique, Rigel Rafto, Linda Thorne, Yvonne Vaucher,

Board Members Absent: Mary Ellen Harshberger (alternate), Rosemary Johnston, John Lesac, Elizabeth Tainer (alternate), Michael Walsh, Jack Weisgerber.

The PMPO Board Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the Palomar Mountain Fire Department, by Glenn Borland, chair. A quorum of Board members was present. It was noted that the Board has one vacancy at this time. Also present were Cliff Kellogg, Alan Serry, Bill Leininger, and CalFire Battalion Chief Cal Hendrie.

Treasurer Rigel Rafto reported our current combined checking and savings account balance is \$50,533.08, up \$994.16 since January 1, 2019. The report was approved. The Board would like to see a summary of expenditures and income in future reports.

Secretary Michael Pique presented the minutes of the August 17, 2019 meeting, which were approved with corrections.

Old Business

Palomar Mountain Fire Department (PMFD):

Cliff Kellogg, PMVFD President and former Fire Chief, reported that the county is still sorting through bids to choose a contractor for our new fire station. Two donated 2500-gallon water tanks will probably be installed on the lot across from the Lodge.

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC):

PMFSC Board President Yvonne Vaucher reported that the Council has about \$5000 unrestricted funds in the bank. We have spent all of our Neighborhood Reinvestment Program (NRP) grant for chipping and dumpster days. We got \$2500 from SDG&E. In a recent meeting on Palomar, the CalFire Battalion chiefs were appalled by the easement roads on Crestline and Birch Hill. Evacuation was the main concern, especially after the Camp Fire, with "one way out and a lot of people". We will apply for a 4-year CalFire grant for roadside clearing; the CalFire application process is less burdensome than the Federal USFS grants, although offers a max of only \$25,000 up front. For this, we will need letters of support from Station 79, the PMPO, the PMVFD, Clay Howe, and the Mutual Water Company, along with letters of commitment from contractors. The proposal will include clearing along Canfield Road and into Pedley Valley, to widen the fuel break along power lines and to protect the telecommunication towers and radio buildings.

Linda Thorne asked how many people are on the mountain on an average day: how many to evacuate. Robert Carlyle: the county says 1000 people visit the Observatory daily, with 3000 on weekends. Bill Leininger: According to Suzann Leininger, the county estimates 220,000 Mountain visitors annually, which averages 600 daily. Robert says about 320 permanent residents.

The "emergency notification sirens" were further discussed. Yvonne says the county is opposed to them because they do not give any specific information, suggesting instead that people register for reverse 911 and Alert San Diego services.

Neighborhood Watch:

Katie Michelmores submitted a written report:

Representatives from the mountain (Burt Hulbert, Cliff Kellogg, Alan Serry, and Katie Michelmores) met with an interagency team last Thursday (November 14) to get us all prepped and on the same page for this year's snow season. We got a lot of support from the team we met with, which included representatives from CALFIRE, CHP, US Forest Service, County Roads, and the Sheriff's office. A few highlights and reminders:

Please remember to have chains and also proof of residency in your cars. When CHP does do traffic stopping, they may require these two things.

Both CHP and sheriff's office committed to more presence on the mountain during weather events. Your friendly neighborhood watch team will be on top of the weather and give these agencies a heads up that we may need more law enforcement presence. With enough warning, both agencies thought they could secure officers, on overtime if needed, to help out on the mountain.

Our friends from county roads are going to look into possible road sign enhancements, but new sign requests can take several months to be filled.

Sheriff's reps stated that they were well connected with local news and will reiterate to them to put out that there are rules on the mountains that visitors need to follow, including chain and 4 wheel drive vehicle requirements.

During a "snow day", the directive from law enforcement to the community is to call and report, not confront, in cases of trespassing. Calls should go to the Sheriff's nonemergency number (858-565-5200). Also, we all need to properly post "no trespassing" signs on private property. Initial deterrence with good signage and law enforcement presence is still our best bet. If law enforcement is present on the mountain, they will respond to calls as quickly as possible, so again, it's best to call in trespassers.

Having your 602 form on file with the sheriff's office is also helpful. You can email, fax, or mail those in. Those should go to:

Email: porscha.snow@sdsheriff.org, Station fax number: 760-751-4430

San Diego County Sheriff's Valley Center Substation, 28201 N. Lake Wohlford Rd., Valley Center, CA 92082-6742

PMPO is working on providing a residence placard for locals so law enforcement can easily identify our vehicles.

There was also some talk about potential metering of visitors on the mountains (a finite count of people who could pass through to park). CHP reps are going to look into it, but we all agreed that most likely it would take an official study to establish that policy so it would be more of a long term solution to work on.

Traffic Safety:

Alan Serry said the snow emergency plan meeting was really good, much above average. The CHP brought up the resident ID ideas

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):

CERT program manager Bill Leininger notes that the fire season appears to have extended to December this year. CERT has a new version of the Personal Emergency Plan brochure for distribution.

Resident Stickers or hanging signs:

Cliff Kellogg says the CHP likes the idea of residents having rear-view-mirror hanging ID signs to speed clearances during snow days or certain road closures. Lafe Ball says he can order 500 serially-numbered custom hanging signs for about \$400. The board approved \$600 for signs; Lafe to prepare and circulate a draft design for approval.

Palomar Mountain State Park:

Rosemary Johnston, President of the "Friends of the Palomar Mountain State Park" board, sent a written report:

Friends of Palomar Mountain State Park board are meeting this morning to create a strategic plan to guide the organization's growth in the next few years so we cannot attend today's PMPO meeting. Our park interpreter Will Myest has had a busy summer and fall schedule of walks, talks, and park programs since the last PMPO meeting. This afternoon, he has a 3:30 p.m. event for children ages 6-12 about navigating the park, and at 7 p.m. tonight there is a campfire sing-a-long at the campground campfire center, also known as the amphitheater. Tomorrow, Nov. 17 at 10:30 a.m. there is a program about observing and journaling about nature. And on Friday, Nov. 22 at 7:30 pm. at the campfire center will be a talk entitled "Don't take parks for granite," about the geology of the area. Saturday, Nov. 23, join Will for a 3 mile round

trip hike on Boucher Trail. That afternoon visitors can learn about herpetology(reptiles) in the park beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the campfire center. It is geared toward kids 7-12 but adults welcome as well. That evening on the 23rd at 7p.m., join Will for another campfire sing-a-long at the campfire center. His last program this month will be a talk on birds on Palomar at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 24 at the campfire center. Again the talk will be geared for kids 7-12 but all outdoor enthusiasts welcome. Remember, none of these programs would be possible without your support of the Friends of PMSP, which funds Will's position!

We also recently purchased a set of interpretive materials for Will to use in his presentations including a deer skull, fold up table, plaster casts of mammalian paw prints, and compasses and binoculars for children to learn how to use them in the outdoors. A new book on native plants in the San Diego county area will also help.

Friends is not financing improved access to the restrooms at the campfire center, but it will be a big help for disabled visitors. The sidewalk near the restrooms has been widened to five feet, and a concrete bridge will be installed to create a much less steep ramp adjacent to the restrooms. Early next year, campsite #31 will be partially paved to make it completely accessible for disabled camp visitors.

We anticipate the beginning of the amphitheater renovation project any day now, and we will be funding transportation for students from Hidden Valley Middle School in Valley Center school to come to the park for a day later in the season for a special tour and program coordinated by Will. Thank you for your continued support!

Gold-Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB):

Joelene Tamm, a college biology major who volunteers at the La Jolla Indian Reservation, said that it appears the beetle will keep spreading north. She discussed possible ways to contain and deal with the effects of the infestations. The GSOB infests canyon oaks, black oaks, and coastal live oaks, but seldom engleman oaks. The USFS and the BIA recommend only the pesticide 'carbaryl' to control it, but the treatment costs \$100 to \$1000 per tree. The only way to contain infested trees is by screening them at least 3-4 meters up. The University of California Riverside (UCR) site <http://www.gsob.org> has forms for local survey and reporting. If you see evidence of infestation, report to UCR or our local USFS forester Cheyenne Borello. Next expected pest is the "Shot Hole Borer". These shiny beetles farm funguses in trees and spread from tree to tree faster than the GSOB. They can infest 300 different tree species. Joelene's email is joelenetamm@gmail.com, phone 951.473.9142.

County Planning Groups and Sponsor Groups:

Glenn Borland asks if the PMPO wants to become an officially recognized San Diego county "sponsor group". Alan Serry says the PMPO board has looked out for the mountain for many years and the county has met with us, such as for the 2020 General Plan revision, so we don't need to become a sponsor group with all the public disclosures of the members' finances that a sponsor group would entail. Mike Appelman has looked into the details and the PMPO cannot itself 'become' a sponsor group: the county supervisors would appoint 5 to 9 sponsor group members after resolving to create the group. Mike says that if Palomar had had a sponsor group in 2018, it would have been consulted before the speed limit signs went up; as it was, Pauma Valley group was 'consulted' but they had no interest. Mike further informed the board that the county started creating a Palomar Mountain sponsor group earlier this year and, next week, the supervisors are expected to authorize it, with people to be appointed around the end of the year. Mike Appelman and Michael Pique will attend the supervisors' meeting and, before the vote, discuss the appropriate group size (5, 7, or 9 members) with Ben Mills of the county staff.

PMPO Web Site:

Our www.pmpoinfo web site remains in limbo. Glenn Borland will contact Charity Hartley about whether she is available to be hired to maintain the site.

2020 Pancake Breakfast, Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and newsletter:

The 2020 breakfast and Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday, May 23. We will ask Cliff Kellogg to request permission of Captain Kowalski for use of the station and kitchen for the breakfast. We have one vacant board position, and five board members' terms will expire in May 2020: Cecelia Borland, Glenn Borland, Robert Carlyle, Elizabeth Getzoff, and Michael Walsh.

Cecelia and Glenn Borland will coordinate newsletter article assignments and follow-up, requesting drafts by March 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM.

Next meeting is Saturday February 15, 2020, 10:00 AM.

Michael Pique, Secretary (email: secretary@pmpoinfo.com)

Minutes approved by PMPO board February 15, 2020.