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**MINUTES OF THE
EUREKA/DIAMOND VALLEY COMMUNITY FIREWISE COMMITTEE**

The Eureka/Diamond Valley Firewise Committee held a public meeting on June 25, 2015 at the Eureka County Annex Building, Eureka, Nevada.

Members Present: Jessica Santoyo, Hallee DeChambeau (via phone conference), Kathy Porter, and Leslie Zimmerman

Members Absent: Christine Smith

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Santoyo at 3:00 p.m. and a quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

None

Board Business

Approval of April 22, 2015 meeting minutes.

Leslie Zimmerman motioned to approve the minutes as written from the April 22, 2015 meeting. Hallee DeChambeau seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Member Reports.

Kathy Porter stated that she was able to distribute all of the Ember Aware pamphlets.

Review Correspondence and consider action items on the next agenda.

Ms. Santoyo stated that the 2015 Firewise renewal stickers for the Firewise signs were received and the signs have been updated with those. An email from Faith Berry was also received, Ms. Berry is from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and she is asking the Eureka/Diamond Valley Firewise board for permission to publish this year's event information that was submitted to the Firewise.org website. Along with asking for permission to publish the event information, she is requesting that the board or the chairman provide a brief two sentence quote. The quote should revolve around the positive impact that the Firewise event has had in the community. Mrs. Santoyo stated she doesn't want to write the quote on behalf of the board but would like everyone's input in writing the quote.

Wildfire Education, Preparedness, and Projects

Debrief regarding Firewise Event on May 3, 2014.

Ms. Santoyo stated the Firewise Annual Report includes the cleanup project, booths, volunteers, and estimated attendance. The overall attendance at the Eureka event was 206 including volunteers. This year the overall total attendance between both events was estimated at 320. The overall attendance total went down this year, compared to previous year's total attendance. The overall total attendance decline is mostly due to Crescent Valley's (CV) low attendance, they only had 110 people in attendance including volunteers. The ember house is very nice and well put together thanks to the Eureka High School shop. The only issue with the ember house is that it doesn't travel because it is on wheels, the wheels come in handy for moving it around in the same location. After discussing the ember house travel issue, it was decided to leave the ember house as is and they will be looking into other options to have another ember house built for CV. The clean-up project went very well and they had a lot of volunteers. The homeowner was very grateful for the cleanup done on her property. Ms. Santoyo stated that she attended the NV Wildfire Awareness Month (NWAM) debrief meeting on Monday and

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submitted all of the Eureka County's Firewise event totals. The results will be published in the Statewide 2015 Annual Report. During the debrief meeting the NWAM requested that everyone submit their list for the thank you letters that they send out to all vendors to say thanks for helping out. Ms. Santoyo recommends that the Firewise board send out thank you letters as well to all of the vendors on behalf of the Firewise board so the vendors know that they are acknowledged on the county level as well.

The board agreed to send out a thank you letters to all vendors.

The school presentations went very well with the help of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Smokey Bear. In CV, they had the presentations as well and they also had a Defensible Space 3-D model contest. The students submitted their models for a grade and for the contest, they had one overall winner. Next year, Ms. Santoyo is hoping to get the chance to present the same contest at the Eureka Elementary School, this year there wasn't enough time to get the project approved by the teachers. The principal has requested that Ms. Santoyo present the model contest at the health and science fair in September but the only issue with that is where would store the models until the next Firewise event. Ms. Santoyo stated that she is continuing to look into other options for getting the contest introduced here.

Mrs. Porter suggested working with the art teacher and maybe it can be part of an art project she also suggested talking to the courthouse about the availability to use their display cases. They could pick the top ten models and set them up for display at the courthouse.

Ms. Zimmerman stated that the FFA students enjoyed the clean-up project very much and they would like to do it again.

Ms. DeChambeau stated that the 4-H students also had a good time and that they would like to do it again as well.

Discuss and make decisions on the Eureka/Diamond Valley defensible space contest.

Ms. Santoyo stated originally the contest entries were going to be judged today but no entries had been submitted until yesterday morning. The one entry for the contest is from Dorothy Rowley. Ms. Santoyo stated she is not sure if Ms. Rowley understood the concept of the contest because the pictures do not show her house. It just looks like her driveway and they do not show the home's defensible space. This year there was a big lack of interest in entries, maybe for the following year they can consider re-vamping the contest somehow.

After brief discussion regarding the contest, Ms. DeChambeau and Ms. Santoyo will go out and judge the home tomorrow.

Ms. Santoyo stated in CV they have the home of the month contest and recently the board upped their scoring threshold to 85%. This was done because the board had judged a home and the home scored an 83.5%. When reviewing the areas that needed improvement it was realized that those areas only needed minor improvements that could easily be done to raise the score. The overall issue is that they don't just want to hand out prizes to people who didn't do much to deserve the prize but it should be to someone who does have a Firewise home. Ms. Santoyo stated this contest does not have a threshold limit set yet because this is the third time they have hosted the defensible space contest in Eureka.

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Mrs. Porter moved that there be an 85% threshold for first place with a \$75 home depot gift card and a 75% threshold for second place with \$50 gift card. Ms. DeChambeau seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Discuss and make decisions to progress on projects from the work plan and community wildfire education.

Ms. Santoyo stated the work plan hasn't changed from last year, it is still the same. In the past they have discussed having fall clean-up days similar to the May clean-up days. Firewise could partner with the Public Works Department and Firewise would fund the project for some type of clean-up deal in the fall. The fall clean-up would only be for flammable vegetation or dry vegetation.

Mrs. Porter stated that they should promote keeping stacked wood piles away from the house during the hot summer weather. They can send out some type of friendly tip by mail.

Ms. Santoyo stated that she can put together a flyer or something that offers a Firewise tip for homeowners.

Mrs. DeChambeau stated when they do the clean-up deal, they need to clarify that it isn't for general trash it's for dead weeds, tree branches, and dead vegetation not household trash.

Public Comment & Discussion –

Ms. Santoyo stated over the last few years she has noticed less and less of an interest from the students towards Firewise. The Firewise house has become something the kids have memorized from seeing it so much. This year she decided to change the presentation and make it more hands on. For kindergarten through second grade, she presented the house and Smokey Bear was present during the presentation. For the older students, they had an outdoor presentation of Firewise tag. Ms. Santoyo printed out dead trees, live trees, houses, embers, and trash. The students then picked what type of vegetation or building they were. Ms. Santoyo walked the students through wildfire scenarios and what a clean defensible space looked like. As the scenarios were explained she would release the embers if needed. The embers would chase the buildings or vegetation and catch them on fire by tagging them. The students enjoyed being outside and being part of Firewise tag. BLM brought a fire engine to the school and the students were allowed to walk through the cab of the engine.

Next Agenda & Meeting Date-

Next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for the third week in September at 5:00 p.m.
Agenda items will include potential projects from the work plan and school presentations.

Adjourn – The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Porter and seconded by Ms. Zimmerman. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted & Approved By:

Jessica Santoyo, Secretary/Chairwoman