



# Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

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Steve Leighton, CHIEF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
Edward I. Miller  
Korie Kromydas  
Louie Fielding

## Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting

### Minutes

February 16, 2022

**Directors Present:** Director Fielding, Vice President Kromydas, and President Miller

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors for the month of February was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Miller.

**2. Additions to Agenda/Approval of Agenda**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**3. Approval of Past Minutes**

There were no additions or changes to the minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to approve the Board Minutes dated January 19, 2022, as submitted and posted. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**4. Financial**

There was a discussion between Board and staff.

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to accept the financial reports, items 4.A-E, as presented. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**5. Public Input**

There was none.

**6. Business Requiring Action**

Note: Item 6.C was moved up to accommodate Mr. Canfield's schedule.

**C. [Correspondence regarding burn restrictions with Daniel Canfield, Sierra District Superintendent, California Department of Parks and Recreation](#)**

President Miller was pleased to receive Mr. Canfield's letter which indicated that State Parks will correlate the burn restrictions in State Park campgrounds with the local fire districts.



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Mr. Canfield added that positive steps were being taken to move ahead towards this goal and agreed that it is a Basin-wide/Sierra-wide issue. The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (“TFFT”) developed a draft fuels plan for all agencies in the Basin to coordinate fire restrictions, taking into account the federal standards, the uniqueness of the area, and the human factor. They are working towards utilizing one point person to coordinate amongst all the agencies. The plan is agreeable to the neighbors, and they are working with Parks and Rec restrictions as well. Letters of support or opposition are welcome to be sent to the Governor, who gives the State Parks direction and allows them to accomplish joint actions like this.

President Miller supports the Senate Bill 1012 that was submitted on February 14 by Senators Glazer and Nielson. This bill aligns the regulations of State Parks with local fire departments/districts, which should eliminate a lot of conflicts.

There was a discussion regarding the draft plan. Mr. Canfield felt comfortable offering it to the Board for review because it was already presented at another public meeting. Chief Leighton has concerns because it is not a finalized document, and he doesn’t want to create confusion as the draft plan is subject to change. Director Fielding suggested the Fire Chief include it in his report next month.

Mr. Canfield agreed to attend a future Board meeting if necessary to answer any questions.

There was no public comment.

This was for informational purposes only. No Board action was required.

### **A. Review of Candidate Application(s)**

There was one candidate application received, and it was distributed to the Board under separate cover. It was noted that there are now two vacancies on the Board. One can be filled only by general election or appointment by the Board of Supervisors since the time period for filling by appointment by the Meeks Bay Fire Board has passed. The person filling the second seat may be appointed by the Meeks Bay Fire Board if the appointment is done within 60 days of it being vacated.

President Miller introduced Candidate Bob Millslagle who is attending the meeting tonight. He submitted his letter of interest and resume on February 1. He gave a brief summary of his background which consisted of paramedic and firefighter experience. Currently, he is a general contractor and lives within the boundaries of the district. President Miller has known Mr. Millslagle for about a year through volunteering with the Tahoe Cedars Property Owners’ Association.

There was a discussion between the Board and staff regarding appointing Mr. Millslagle at this meeting. The Fire Chief clarified regarding the rules of posting.



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Director Fielding confirmed that the other position could be appointed before the next election if done by the Board of Supervisors. President Miller stated that when the Board of Supervisors was initially alerted to the first vacancy, they were not concerned because there was still a quorum available to govern.

**B. Resolution Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency Issued on March 4, 2020, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of Meeks Bay Fire Protection District for the Period of February 16, 2022 – March 17, 2022, Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions**

This is a housekeeping item to allow board meetings to be held virtually.

It was moved by Director Fielding, seconded by Vice President Kromydas to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2022-03, allowing the district the option of holding the February and March meetings in a virtual setting. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

There was a discussion between Board and staff regarding hybrid and/or in-person meetings. The Fire Chief reiterated that we don't have the capacity to do hybrid meetings. Director Fielding requested the Clerk research reasonable options. Chief Leighton said the March meeting will be held virtually, with the hope of going to in-person meetings in April.

President Miller also stated that the counties and municipalities have control of lifting restrictions, and the Fire Chief mentioned COVID protocols are still in place at the stations.

Director Fielding asked if, when the meetings go back to being in person, will it be possible to attend virtually? The Clerk stated that he would need to post a notice wherever he is and allow the public to attend. Director Fielding reiterated the importance of getting a fourth Board member to maintain a quorum in the event he couldn't attend.

**D. Future Planning with North Tahoe Fire Protection District**

Chief Leighton updated the Board regarding the progress of the LAFCO process. While the hope was to submit the LAFCO application on March 1, the fiscal analysis will most likely not be completed by then. This is the part of the application that could have been done by an outside consultant, but it was approved to do it in-house. It involves submitting the North Tahoe Fire budget and audit, the Meeks Bay Fire budget and audit, and combining both to make one budget. Before submitting the application, he and Kim want to make sure they understand what the numbers say. The Chief and Kim met with Sue Hennike at El Dorado County regarding the different tax rates of El Dorado County and Placer County. For example, if homeowners in the Meeks Bay Fire District are paying \$240 per parcel, and homeowners in the North Tahoe Fire District are paying \$220 per parcel, there's a \$20 difference. Would that mean that NTF residents pay the additional \$20 or vice versa. Either way, we need to know what the impact will be.



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Another issue that must be determined is what the Board make up will be. Placer LAFCO will determine the makeup based on the desires of the districts. Directors on the NTF Board receive different benefits than those on the MBF Board. Also, the number of directors on the consolidated board needs to be determined. Nine is too many. Five is ideal. Seven may be the number for the interim board. Placer LAFCO would have to approve. They must also determine that no harm is done to either district. The Fire Chief will meet with Placer LAFCO to make sure the application has all of the required information before submitting.

Finance Director Kim Eason added that they are trying to figure out the conflicting information regarding taxes. If there is deficit spending, adding more costs is difficult. By attrition, there could be savings in three to five years. She wants to get the budget correct before submitting the application.

There was a discussion between board and staff. There was no public comment.

**E. Resolution regarding Board members being included on workers' compensation insurance policy**

Finance Director Eason addressed this agenda item. She advised that the directors have been on the workers' compensation policy back to at least 2016, but a resolution was never completed to allow them to be covered and to be on the record with the carrier.

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2022-04, allowing the Board of Directors to be covered under the workers' compensation insurance policy. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**F. Adoption by Resolution 2022-05 in Appreciation of Director Jennifer Lemke**

It was moved by Director Fielding and seconded by Vice President Kromydas to waive the reading and adopt Resolution 2022-05 in appreciation of Director Lemke's service on the Meeks Bay Fire Board. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

An election for Secretary/Treasurer will be done at the March meeting to fill the vacancy.

**G. Pancake Breakfast – July 3, 2022**

Chief Leighton said he had nothing new to report. President Miller said State Parks is looking for locations for banners and are hopeful one of the electronic signs will be available. He noted that the "No fireworks" wording is more important, but he was confident the details would be ironed out well in advance of the event.



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### H. Next Board Meeting Dates

The next regular meetings of the Board of Directors are scheduled for March 16, April 20, and May 18, 2022.

Chief Leighton confirmed that the next three meetings will remain on the third Wednesday of each month in– March, April, and May. He requested permission to move the June and September meetings from June 15 to June 29 and from September 21 to September 28 because June is when the preliminary budgets are approved, and the Meeks Bay Fire budget can't be approved until the North Tahoe Fire budget is approved.

There was a discussion between Board and staff. There was no public comment.

It was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to approve changing the regular meeting dates of the June and September meetings from June 15 to June 29 and from September 21 to September 28. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

### 7. Chief's Report

President Miller stated that, after seeing the call volume and the types of calls, even Public Assist calls, the crew is heroic. He's so proud of our staff. He commented on the outstanding group of people working with us.

Chief Leighton agreed and said he's very proud, too. The crew handles issues that don't always make the newspaper. It is a hard job on a regular basis.

He went on to answer Director Fielding's question from last month about our relationship with Steve Teshara. He stated that Steve is a valuable asset for both North Tahoe Fire and Meeks Bay Fire as well as the whole Tahoe Basin. He contracts with us and other individual fire agencies and attends meetings we can't get to. He is also one of the legislative advocates for the Basin. He explained that we are "subscribing" to his service as the other individual agencies do. We have the ability to request tasks specific to our Districts, if necessary. Mr. Teshara has offered to attend a board meeting to explain his services.

Items of particular interest in Chief Leighton's report included:

- January 2022 had the second highest call volume for January in the last six years.
- Be sure to check weather conditions and use caution while in the backcountry.
- Because the Tahoe Douglas fire boat was destroyed, we will rely on other neighboring agencies to assist with water-related emergencies until it is replaced.
- Grant applications were submitted for:
  - extrication equipment;
  - new air compressor;
  - wellness/cancer screenings;
  - funding three firefighter positions with no match for three years; and
  - reducing hazardous fuels in the Alpine Meadows community.



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### 8. Information Items

- The report from Sustainable Community Advocates was included in the board packet. (See the discussion in Item 7 above.)

### 9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Vice President Kromydas and seconded by Director Fielding to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Martin  
Clerk of the Board

#### **Staff Attendees:**

Fire Chief Steve Leighton  
Division Chief Alan Whisler  
Director of Finance Kim Eason  
Fire Marshal Brent Armstrong  
PIO Erin Holland  
Administrative Assistant II Gordana Wood  
Battalion Chief Naman Beatie  
Battalion Chief Sarah Lagano  
Captain Paul Moen  
Clerk of the Board Kelly Martin

#### **Additional Attendees:**

Heidi Doyle  
Ellie Beals  
Bob Millslagle  
Daniel Canfield, Sierra District Superintendent, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Daniel Weintraub, Chief-of-Staff, Senator Steven Glazer