



**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Steve Leighton, Fire Chief  
**Date:** August 17, 2022  
**Subject:** Pancake Breakfast

Background:

About 5 years ago, when we no longer had volunteer firefighters to work at the Annual Meeks Bay Fire (MBF) Pancake Breakfast, there was consideration given to discontinuing the event. Paid staff were far too busy on the holiday weekend to provide time and labor. A decision was made to partner with a local non-profit so this beloved and popular 50+ year event could continue. A relationship was developed with the Sierra State Parks Foundation (SSPF), and they agreed to handle staffing and promotion of the event. MBF provided the location and “historic reputation”. The agreement was for an 80/20 split of profits with the SSPF retaining 80%.

As of this date we are not in receipt of a report on the MBF/SSPF Pancake Breakfast. Hopefully we will see one prior to our next meeting.

At its June board meeting, the Sierra State Parks Foundation (SSPF), at the request of some MBF Board members, discussed their practice of selling firewood at the State Parks in our community. (This issue was also discussed last summer with no action taken). Considering the high fire danger and specifically the basin wide (and beyond), solid fuel burn ban, some of the SSPF Board members again expressed concern regarding this issue. A committee was formed to give timely attention to the policy. The committee met and at its July board meeting reported to the full SSPF Board. The directors then voted 9 to 2 in favor of continuing firewood sales.

In light of this vote/practice, and public input received, I am asking for discussion and vote on discontinuing our relationship with the SSPF for production of the Annual Pancake Breakfast. Although the SSPF is an excellent organization and contributes greatly to the spectacular parks in our community, partnering with an organization which supports a policy in direct opposition to all Basin (and other local) fire agencies regarding the outdoor burning of solid fuels is counterintuitive to our mission. It not only enables a potential danger to our community; it is a source of embarrassment and a potential public relations nightmare for us and our colleagues at North Tahoe Fire.

As for the future of the Pancake Breakfast, since consolidation may be achieved prior to next summer, continuation of the event in any manner will be the responsibility of the consolidated board.

Recommendation for action:

Meeks Bay Fire District should sever our relationship with the SSPF for the production of the event immediately.

