

# Q4 BHR Emergency Management Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

November 13, 2023, 11am – 2:30pm

Attendance: JP Angelillo, Susanne Bloomfield, Terry Bloomfield, Wendy Jackson, Art Jackson, Marian Brooks, Brad Brooks

## Strategic Thrusts:

### 1. Fire Mitigation / Prevention / Response

#### a. Quadrant Updates and Staffing

Discussion evolved around the need to assure Quadrant Teams are fully backed up. Quadrants have taken on additional responsibilities – not just, fire spotting, search and recovery, but other items such as weed management.

#### b. Search Teams and backup

- We need to assure that each quadrant has sufficient backup

#### c. Fire response Team recalibration

- We need to determine our actual readiness, at the Quadrant level, to respond directly to fires (i.e. commitment, gear and training) – Brad will query current quadrant captains

#### d. Team Exercises - 2 per year one in winter / one in summer?

- Request volunteers to plan these exercises

#### e. Update on CSFS FRWRM Grant – Brad will reach out to targeted residents

- Grant has been completed to the satisfaction of CSFS
- A reimbursement check for \$31,842.51 has been cut by CSFS payable to Blackhawk Ranch

#### f. Blackhawk Community Wildfire Protection Plan due now

- **Significant undertaking**, we will need to work as a team to get this done
- We have reached out to Paul Branson (CSFS Fire Prevention Coordinator) for assistance in this undertaking. Members of the EMC will work to leverage Paul, as well as our own resources to get this done.

#### g. Suggested budgetary approach for EMC 2024 projects

- current plan is to use 50% of budget on reworking past mitigation, 40% on new mitigation and 10% on Fire training. \$10k budget

### 2. Accidents / Recovery – Winter Preparation

#### a. New Plowing Guideline – 6”

- We anticipate the need to observe traffic patterns, etc. due to this change.
- Discussion on Snow Reporting Cameras – **Susanne and Terry** are interested in doing this, but need assistance in siting and installation of the cameras.
- **Ron Lovely** has expressed interest in installing a camera at their place.

#### b. South Mountain Project is still scheduled and imminent as of this meeting.

- Brad will get a better estimate on timing from Mike Ferrero

#### c. Timber will remain an issue for some – **Dirty Harry** Issue, that is

- The general consensus of EMC members present, Blackhawk residents are capable of making up their minds as to whether they use Timber during Snow months.

#### d. Need to gear up – recovery winch, snatch blocks, ropes, shackles, maybe install a deadman at key intersections This will be largely self-funded by individual EMC members.

- We will be using the South Mountain project to determine if the road engineering changes are enough to significantly reduce winter road accidents at this intersection.

At present, it is anticipated that at least some of the EMC members will need to gear up and train further to be able to respond appropriately to these slide offs, etc.

### 3. Communications Plan

- a. Radio Readiness – charging, check channels, scanning, vendor use
  - Brad and Art/Wendy are scanning BHR Emergency Channel when on-ranch
- b. Facebook Page – Purpose and potential uses
  - Open chat room for quick messaging and chit-chat; best coverage of all Apps in use on the BHR.
  - Not for BHR business discussions
- c. Signal App – purpose and potential uses, ownership/home
  - Under test. App seems stable and easy to use.
  - Value to EMC really lies in its disciplined use by its members, not the App itself
  - Further discussion on usage and coverage (e.g. do we include wildlife issues) is necessary.
  - As requested, by the POA Board President, JP Angelillo, and further supported by Brad Brooks, Wendy and Art Jackson, the EMC will assess and determine the need for, sanctioned use and oversight of, the Signal App as it relates to the EMC. The EMC has determined that if a communication tool is to be implemented for BHR emergency usage, it must be managed by the BHR EMC and its' designates.
- d. See Something, Say Something
  - Still a very valuable concept and tool across the ranch and should remain encouraged and sanctioned by the EMC. Best proactive reporting guidelines will be developed.
- e. Lessons from actual responses to Fire, Accidents and Security reports.
  - The need for fully vetted, factual information when reporting to EMS, Fire or Law Enforcement
  - The need for fully vetted information when someone on the EMC will depend on reported information to physically act upon it (it should be assumed that they WILL)
  - Based upon experience in real emergencies, you will not have the time, coverage nor steadiness, to be texting folks. Hence, we will continue to depend upon radios as our first line comms in real emergencies or recoveries.
  - Some emergencies will require more folks responding than others. The ability to summon on the fly, will be important. Procedures for this will be developed.

### 4. Emergency Exit Ground Proving

- a. Maps / Signs
  - Wendy Jackson has done an incredible job in developing and providing escape route maps for both Big Horn Ranch and Blackhawk Ranch owners.
  - We are looking at additional escape route signage that directs Big Horn Ranch residents to 4-Mile Canyon and out through our North gate. Similar signs are needed on Big Horn Ranch to direct Blackhawkers out through their ranch.
- b. Signed Agreements with Landowners
  - We are researching the current landowners involved in the Blackhawk/Big Horn escape routes. We will develop and request these landowners to sign permission documents for crossing their land in emergencies.
  - It is important that all Blackhawk residents using emergency exits during a real emergency be directed to carry with them bolt cutters, just in case gates are locked, etc.

### 5. Continuing Infrastructure capacity / human capability build out

- a. Rugby Mines / South Mountain – Safety-based re-engineering improvements
  - This project is based upon the frequency of accidents at this intersection
  - Our work there is intended to significantly reduce accidents and assure passage across the eastern side of the ranch, especially during snow season
- b. Siting of 2<sup>nd</sup> Firefighting Water Tank – use of HCFPD in siting
  - A proposed cost-free project for 2024 to work with HCFPD to site another firefighting water tank at a strategic location within Blackhawk Ranch
- c. Proposed 2024 EMC Training
  - Vehicle Recovery 101 – Brad to discuss with Cody Julian
  - Preliminary Fire Assessment – Brad to discuss with HCFPD
  - Quadrant Team Exercises – EMC will recruit a team to plan and execute

## 6. Ongoing Security Issues

- a. Hunting trespassing remains the most frequent security issue (seasonal)
  - It was discussed how difficult these types of incidents are to track and cover
  - It was discussed that the Colorado Parks and Recreation agency may be a better reporting agency than the County Sheriff Depts
- b. Surveillance behavior by non-Blackhawk vehicles is the second most reported issue
  - Similar to item 6 a. above, difficult to chase these incidents down
- c. Breach in the ranch boundary fence on lot 82, looks to be older with barb wire gate
  - The BHR property owner allowed this breach. This issue will not be addressed by the EMC.
- d. For us to make much progress in reporting security issues to local law enforcement, etc. WE MUST:
  - Get a vehicle license plate and description - photos ok
  - Occupant description if possible – photos ok
  - More details, if the situations allow for it

## 7. Other New Business

- a. Terry Bloomfield discussed his felt need to do further cleanup on the CSFS grant area. He will follow up on that.
- b. Susanne Bloomfield brought up the need to consider other herbicides to control the woody ladder fuels on the newly cleared grant area, as well as other non-grant areas.
  - A short discussion ensued related to the relative toxicity of more aggressive herbicide treatments. It was noted that the more aggressive herbicides are effective, but require strict attention to both the mixture concentration and Personal Protective Equipment necessary to mix and apply them safely.
  - The need to clarify WHO will do future spraying in both grant and non-grant areas in the ranch was raised. The need to clarify responsibilities for woody ladder fuels vs noxious weeds was raised.

The meeting was concluded by general agreement at approximately 2:30pm

Respectfully Submitted 11/15//23,  
Brad Brooks  
EMC Chair