

**Emergency Management Committee Meeting
Bloomfield Home Lot #63
December 5, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Terry Bloomfield, chairman, at 10:10. The following POA members were present: Lois Hanks, Gary Hanks, Ruth Anne Goza, Charles Goza, Debi Patch, Rick Brandenburg, Brad Brooks, Marian Brooks, Jim Nance, Judy Nance, Ray Butters, Susie Butters, Mark Sutter, Robert Burke, Joe Weivoda, Roger Buttignol, Susanne Bloomfield, and Terry Bloomfield.

Terry explained that he and Mark Sutter, previous Emergency Management Committee chair, had met about Terry chairing the committee again and about Terry's interest in regaining this position. They agreed that Terry would be chair of the EMC. Terry explained that this meeting would be a re-organizational gathering to find out who was interested in working on various sub-committees and/or helping with the work of the EMC.

The most pressing issue of the committee was renewing Blackhawk's membership status with Firewise. Mark Sutter was able to have the deadline extended until December 18, and Susanne has been working with Firewise to fulfill the obligations for renewal. The major issue yet to be addressed is the required Plan of Action. After discussion, the group voted unanimously to accept the following Plan for 2019-2021:

- Revive Emergency Management Committee by including more and diverse members of the community, including full-time residents, part time residents, and those who only camp on their properties during the summer.
- Divide the Emergency Management Committee into sub-committees to utilize the expertise and interest of community members and to expedite action: Firewise/Education/Grant Sub-committee; Emergency/Communication Sub-committee; and Mitigation/Chipper Maintenance Sub-committee.
- Begin actively discovering, writing, and submitting grants for fire mitigation.
- Renew connections with area law enforcement, fire districts, and rescue personnel.
- Coordinate communication among residents of Blackhawk Ranch in case of emergencies, not only in case of fire but also medical emergency.
- Work with fire departments in the placement of large tanks to provide water supplies in case of fire. Fill the tanks with water.
- Facilitate individual property owners in applying for federal grants to mitigate their own properties. The POA website also has the list of steps to follow.
- Replace old road signs with reflective ones and sturdier posts. Assess where Emergency exit signs need to be added and add them.
- Utilizing volunteer efforts, once or twice monthly (May through September), schedule Community Mitigation Work Days, thinning and chipping trees to increase firebreaks along major evacuation routes.
- Collaborate with Huerfano County Wildfire Mitigation Coalition.
- Work out a plan to help individual property owners remove slash.

Susanne will submit this revised plan to complete the renewal with Firewise.

The next item was discussion of the various subcommittees and what their responsibilities might be. Because the EMC has such a wide scope of activities, splitting the Emergency Management Committee into sub-committees would accomplish more by employing the strategy of "Divide and Conquer." Mark Sutter suggested that the five preliminary subcommittees be combined into three: Firewise/Education/Grant Sub-committee; Emergency/Communication Sub-committee; and Mitigation/Chipper Maintenance Sub-committee. The group agreed.

In the discussion of the **Firewise/Education/Grant Sub-committee**, preliminary ideas for activities for the group would be to keep track of hours worked by committees and individuals and renew the Firewise membership annually; collaborate with other nearby Firewise communities; brainstorm ideas on how to provide education materials to owners using the Firewise website; schedule a POA meeting or community-wide presentation for residents with speakers/demonstrations from a forestry agency, fire department, or emergency management office; distribute "Welcome packets" with wildfire literature to all new residents; and discover, research, write, and submit grants. Reinstating a newsletter for the whole community that would focus on Emergency Management issues was also suggested and considered to be a priority. In addition, the subcommittee would maintain a BHR Website presence.

The **Emergency/Communication Sub-committee** discussion centered on the importance not only of establishing protocol for responding to emergencies but also of holding emergency drills among committee members and in collaboration with fire, police, and hospital emergency personnel. Communication on the ranch also needs major work, especially two-way radio communication in case of fire or emergency. In conjunction with this, the sub-committee would update road signs and emergency exit signs. Moreover, since the POA purchased a 3,000 gallon water tank, and a 10,000 water tank is being donated to the POA by a resident, the committee will need to discuss their placement with the fire department and fill the tanks with water. In addition to posting emergency notices on Facebook, the group needs to revive the Call-Em-All POA emergency notification system on the ranch and work with PMI in handling the cost. Security on the ranch was also discussed, especially during emergencies.

Discussion about the work for the **Mitigation/Chipper Maintenance Sub-committee** focused on where, when, and how best to utilize the volunteers that we have and encourage more to help with the all-community mitigation days. It was suggested that if we have a lot of volunteers, we could have community mitigation days twice a month, alternating between weekend and weekday dates. Rather than have the same six people responsible for all the community mitigation work, with more volunteers, workers would not have to attend each work day. Once the subcommittee decides upon the dates and the most needed places to mitigate, they would contact property owners to get permission to trim and thin trees on those properties. The subcommittee would also be responsible for keeping fuel on hand for the chipper, completing routine maintenance as described in the Vermeer manual, and sharpening and replacing blades. The subcommittee would also schedule a national Wildfire Community Preparedness Day project around the 1st Saturday in May, the National Firewise Day. It was also suggested that the EMC committee volunteers help individual property owners with chipping their slash, but since this could overwhelm the volunteers who would also be participating in the community mitigations as well as the subcommittee work, the group decided to table this until the subcommittee meeting when this could be addressed in more detail.

A signup sheet was passed around for volunteers for the three committees. The committees will then each meet separately sometime in January and report back to the general meeting in February. (The first person on the list for each committee will arrange the time and date for their subcommittee for this initial meeting.) The subcommittee members include the following:

Firewise/Education/Grant Sub-committee

*Judy Nance, Susanne Bloomfield, Lois Hanks, Ray Butter

Emergency/Communication Sub-committee

*Brad Brooks, Marian Brooks, Di Wassom, Mo/Don Wassom, Mark Sutter, Jim Nance, Terry Bloomfield

Mitigation/Chipper Maintenance Sub-committee

*Terry Bloomfield, Debi Patch, Rick Brandenburg, Gary Hanks, Brad Brooks, Ray Butter, Joe Weivoda, Roger Buttignol

Terry reported that the Huerfano County Wildfire Mitigation Coalition meeting will be held this Friday, 12/7, at 1:00 PM at the LVFPD fire station in La Veta. Brad and Marian Brooks, Terry and Susanne

Bloomfield, and Mark Sutter will attend and report back. Others in the group also mentioned that they might attend.

Concern was voiced that with a different board after the elections this summer that the Emergency Management Committee might lose its momentum once again if they do not have the necessary support to implement its important goals in its work to safeguard the lives and property of Blackhawk residents and owners, especially after the tragedy of the Spring Creek Fire so close to our ranch. Mark Sutter said that he would be serving as co-chair of the EMC and that the EMC would be able to move forward with the support of the current board.

The next general meeting of the EMC will be held Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Bloomfield home. At this time, subcommittees will report on their January meetings and those who attended the Huerfano County Wildfire Mitigation Coalition will present a review of information from the meeting. An agenda will be sent out prior to the February meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

ADDENDUM:

Susanne Bloomfield completed the renewal of Blackhawk Ranch to Firewise, and it was accepted on December 7, 2018.

At the Huerfano County Wildfire Mitigation Coalition meeting, Brad Brooks volunteered to be on the Firewise/HOA committee and Susanne Bloomfield volunteered for the Public Outreach and Education committee. Terry Bloomfield spoke with leaders Jim Littleton and Paul Branson about the interest of the Blackhawk EMC in working with the Firewise Communities and the Coalition.

2018-2019 EMC Committee Members Contact Information

Susanne Bloomfield (308-991-4647 stbloomfield@hotmail.com)
Terry Bloomfield (308-991-8264 stbloomfield@hotmail.com)
Rick Brandenburg (719-251-5284 drhome.rick@gmail.com)
Brad Brooks (719-252-5621 tractorboy2017@gmail.com)
Marian Brooks (303-915-7326 anmarcb1974@gmail.com)
Robert Burke (719-252-4890 motorpool64@gmail.com)
Roger Buttignol (315-272-6101 rboot812@gmail.com)
Ray and Susie Butters (719-989-3056 snronbhr@yahoo.com)
Charles Goza (719-989-0975 crago38@hotmail.com)
Ruth Anne Goza (719-989-7444 crago38@hotmail.com)
Gary Hanks (682-553-3498 be1913@yahoo.com)
Lois Hanks (719-252-5947 loisannt@yahoo.com)
Jim Nance (559-917-6239 jim_nance@hotmail.com)
Judy Nance (559-917-3620 judynance1@yahoo.com)
Debi Patch (719-251-9776 debipatch@yahoo.com)
Mark Sutter (719-989-8946 lostspur162@gmail.com)
Di Wassom (719-661-4793 surlevent@gmail.com)
Don/Mo Wassom (970-217-5771 loradomoriarty@yahoo.com)
Joe Weivoda (719-738-2161 beweivoda@hotmail.com)