

BHR Emergency Management Committee Meeting
Bloomfield Home, Lot #63
February 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Committee members present included Susanne and Terry Bloomfield, Judy and Jim Nance, Marian and Brad Brooks, Roger Buttignol, Gary Hanks, Debi Patch, and Rick Brandenburg. BHR Board members present were Glenn Key and Mark Sutter.

The minutes of the December 5, 2019, EMC meeting were reviewed and accepted. Debi Patch presented a summary of the EMC report to the BHR Board Meeting held on January 19, 2019. Many of the EMC Committee members also attended this meeting. Brad Brooks then discussed the recent Spanish Peaks Wildfire Coalition that he, Marian, Susanne, and Terry attended in La Veta on January 18, 2019. Because of the threat of flooding from the burn scar to the La Veta and Cuchara areas, most of the Coalition work has centered on this concern. The Chairs of each of the Working Groups reported on their January meetings.

OUTREACH (Chair, Susanne Bloomfield)

Susanne reported that the 2019 BHR Firewise Certification renewal was accepted. She will apply for a grant from State Farm to support a BHR Firewise Community Preparedness Day on May 4, 2019. The grant is for \$500.00. The money will be used for fuel for the POA chipper, rental of an additional chipper, a promotional banner, and ten ear-protection muffs for volunteers. The grant application is due March 1, 2019. The group discussed where to mitigate on May 4th, and it was decided that the emergency evacuation route on Howard's Draw would facilitate a safer evacuation in case of a fire and allow emergency vehicles easier access. The mitigated area would also serve as a fire break. The group offered suggestions regarding the promotion of the May 4 Firewise event, such as banners, Facebook posts, and email blasts to all property owners. The Outreach working group will be planning, acquiring tools, and implementing promotional for May 4 event. Susanne will also coordinate with PMI to update and reorganize the Emergency Management link on the Blackhawk website.

Susanne met with David Poletti, Colorado State Forester stationed in La Veta, regarding mitigation grant applications. He suggested that the Colorado State grants would be best as federal grants must go through the county and be county wide, rather than just BHR. Grant monies can be used to pay for services of groups like Americorps to come in and work on larger mitigation projects and to hire contractors to cut and thin trees. For all grants, we will need to define and prioritize specific areas to be mitigated. The Mitigation group will assess these areas and report to the EMC committee. The group also discussed the need to search for possible grants to purchase a radio repeating tower to enhance ranch-wide 2-way radio communication and 2-way radios

BHR's Colorado Wildfire Protection Plan (CFPP) is outdated. David Poletti has offered to assist us with the updating process. Most importantly, the plan does not need to be rebuilt from scratch, for that would be expensive. Susanne will follow up on this.

COMMUNICATION (Chair, Brad Brooks):

Jim Nance reported that he met with a Walsenburg Fire representative, who explained that GPS is not a good resource for emergency services to locate sites on the ranch. Both the Walsenburg Fire and Sheriff's departments stated that being met at the Ranch entrance by someone to lead them in is the best, fastest practice. Both use street names, addresses, and

parcel numbers to locate persons and places on the ranch. Both agencies also requested updated maps. An extensive discussion ensued on how to generate updated maps. Debi and Rick will contact Land Properties to see if they have any original plat maps of the Ranch. Brad and Marian will look into digitizing our outdated maps. Walsenburg Fire was non-committal about our having water tanks for firefighting on the ranch. They did say they may fill the tanks if we implement them. Jim will follow up.

Brad has created a map that shows the strength of radio signals across the ranch. He will continue testing and mapping ranch-wide. He also reported that there is a good site for a repeating tower that would greatly enhance vital emergency radio communication capabilities for the entire ranch and that we have owner permission to situate one on their property. Brad discussed 2-way radio use for emergencies. Good radios can be purchased for less than \$125.00. As we proceed, it may be worthwhile to facilitate bulk purchases if property owners are interested.

Marian has been in touch with "Call 'em All." This is an emergency notification system specifically for property owners. We have used this in the past and have credit with them. Emergency notification can be received by text or voice messaging. Each property owner must request enrollment to participate, and enrollment is not mandatory for owners. Encouraging all property owners to sign up for Huerfano County's "Code Red" online was emphasized.

MITIGATION (Chair, Terry Bloomfield):

The wintery weather has delayed starting spring mitigation plans. The group discussed mitigation priorities, and it was suggested that the designated CWPP Safety and Staging Zones be the initial concerns for Community Mitigation. The Mitigation group will evaluate these locations and develop a working plan.

The tentative plan for Community Mitigation is for two Saturday mornings per month, starting with May 4, the Firewise event. The group discussed the possible use of a hydrax machine for the Community Mitigations, but it was decided that it would not be cost or time effective for the small amount of slash each time. In addition to the Community Mitigation days, the Mitigation committee members will work on other days to mitigate blind corners and prepare for the new street signs. Joe Weivoda made a list for the group of these overgrown intersections. EMC committee members will coordinate with Glenn Key, Road Chair, to help install the signs.

Mark Sutter had questions about chipper maintenance. Terry explained that he had changed the chipper blades when it was at Ken Diehl's. Members of the committee who have had experience with chipper maintenance explained that blades can last 20-30 hours before needing sharpening, depending upon the type of wood being chipped. The POA has at least two sets of blades, and sharpening costs in Pueblo run about \$50.00. The chipper has been recently maintained and is ready to go for Spring.

Mark Sutter brought two Safety Helmets, 2 pairs of gloves, and several Emergency Flashers to use for the Community Mitigations. The next EMC meeting will be on April 4, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Bloomfield home. The Working Groups will set meeting dates and times for March. Marian motioned to adjourn meeting, and Susanne seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.