

DAVID M. WILSON  
510 652 0619  
415 663 8212  
dmwilson7815@sbcglobal.net

Below is the agenda for the IRA board meeting to be held Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 9:30 am, at the home of Sydne and Alan Bortel at 1 Lower Dover. *Please let me know if you have any suggested changes/additions, or cannot be present.*

**AGENDA**

9:30 Socializing  
9:45 Previous Minutes (December 6, 2008, previously circulated, and January 24, 2009 (Mary Anne Warren)(to come)  
9:50 Treasurer's Report (Russ Ridge)

10:00 Old Business:

The IRA Database (Ivan Stern)

Legal status of IRA (David Starkweather; Russ Ridge)

PRE-RAB matters, including vegetation management (Harvey Fried, Tamia Anderson)

Fire Department/Defensible Space Issues

IRA Website (Katherine Williams)

10:30 : New Business

Local coastal Plan Review (see website at  
<http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/comdev/advance/coastal.cfm>)

Trails

Officers, Directors 2009-2010

11:30 Adjourn

11:15 Adjourn

**Attachment A: July 12, 2008 Minutes**

Minutes of Inverness Ridge Association Board Meeting 9:30 AM, Saturday July 12, 2008, at Sydney & Allan Bortel's, 1 Lower Dover

Present: Sydne Bortel, Alan Bortel, Sally Bolger, Sue Brown, Bill Carlin, Libby Coleman, Harvey Freed, Alicia Jackson, Michael Ongerth, Eric Rekdahl, Michael Resher, Marge Ridge, Russell Ridge, David Starkweather, Eleanor Stern, Ed Stetson, Maria Straatmann, Victor Strangenberg, Mary Anne Warren, David Wilson.

1. David Wilson opened the meeting at 9:45 AM.

Minutes: The Minutes of May 31 were accepted with one correction: On page 2, David Starkweather, not Russell Ridge volunteered.

3. Treasurer's Report: Russell Ridge

Regular Checking Account.....	\$4,346.67
Dues and Fire Fund.....	+510.00
	\$4,856.67
Payments: Post Office.....	-48.00
Dues reminder cards.....	-21.60
Checking Forward.....	\$4,784.07
C.D. at Burbank Savings.....	\$2,210.22
Total.....	
	\$6,997.29

Russell reported that total membership is 72.

4. Work on Giacomini Land: Sally Bolger from PRNS Board

The Point Reyes National Seashore Board is a nonprofit group; Bill Carlin is also a member. They raise funds for Park projects and sponsor events. They are contracting for work on the Giacomini wetlands, including removing levees.

More information on this work is available at [NPS.gov/PORE](http://NPS.gov/PORE).

The Army Corps of Engineers has signed a contract for the work, which will begin in late July. Trucks will exit and enter at a point close to Balboa, between 8 AM and 5 PM. They will be limited to 40 trips per day, and are using biodiesel trucks to reduce emissions. The work will be finished by late October.

Up to 60% of what is now pasture will be flooded at the highest tides and during winter rains. This should be good for the survival of migrating salmon.

Eleanor asked about the effect on the Levee Road. Sally said it should relieve pressure on the road by directing water to a larger area.

Marge asked whether there will be more habitat for the red-legged frog. Sally said that they have built more frog ponds, just off Francis Drake Blvd.

Harvey asked whether they will remove the North levee which goes out from just across from DVD. Sally said that this will be removed because it is a primary barrier to water entering the Giacomini wetland, but that there will be an overlook.

Victor asked about whether the bridge will be built. Sally said that this is not part of the present project.

#### 5. Neighborhood Liaison System: Maria Straatmann

Our liaison system is part of the West Marin Disaster Council. The drill on April 27 revealed some communication problems. Maria showed us her radio, which worked to reach the WMDC. It operates on a repeater on the top of Mount Vision. The cost of this Icon radio is about \$400. Maria said that it would be good if all the liaisons had either this radio or the FRS (Family Radio System) radio at about \$40. Maria will decide who else needs to have the Icon by testing who can reach her on Dover with the FRS.

Maria introduced Libby Coleman, the Disaster Coordinator for West Marin.

Libby talked about disaster preparation for Inverness Park, focusing on communication and radios. She noted that neighborhood liaisons have no responsibility to help others before securing their own households.

Inverness Park is between two fire districts (Point Reyes Station and Inverness). We could be cut off from either end and need to depend on our own resources. The Disaster Council consists of the Fire Chiefs of Inverness, PRS, Marshall, Bolinas, Muir Beach, and Olema, plus the Disaster Coordinator. The organizational chart is very complex, Libby said. She will have copies soon. In brief, she calls the Communication Team Leader, who calls the various Team Leaders who are responsible for animal rescue, damage assessment, shelter and supplies, medical assistance, and communications.

On October 23, there will be a statewide drill, simulating a 7.5 earthquake in Hayward. We will participate, and will have the opportunity to test our new radios.

#### Action Items:

Maria will set up a testing of radios of both sorts using radios borrowed from Libby, and then apply for a grant from one of several organizations so we can purchase the radios before October 23.

We need more liaisons; for instance, Russell Ridge and Joe Burgess have no backups for their large areas.

Maria is away July 14-24, and Katherine Williams is also out of town then.

Michael Ongerth will keep the radio during that time.

David W. will send a list of liaisons in PRE to all those on the e-mail list, plus a call for volunteers.

Maria cannot continue much longer as Area Coordinator. She asked us to help look for a replacement.

#### 6. PRERAB: Harvey Freed and Michael Ongerth

Vegetation control work will begin this week. SOD trees close to the road will be removed. Trees to be removed have been marked with orange paint.

We are probably going to need to repave in about two years. This year we will aggressively repair potholes and deteriorated pavement. Bob Lewis has completed work on dirt roads. The new water bars will probably be marked, as they also serve as speed bumps.

There are many dead trees farther than 15 feet from the road, which are not in our jurisdiction. Property owners may have these removed by Ismael's crew at \$130 per tree. Chipping raises the cost, but can be done. Sydne noted that trees close to structures are removed at the \$140 hourly rate, because of the extra work involved.

Eleanor asked about chipping the small stuff from the SOD trees. Russell will check with the Fire Department to see whether they will be chipping stuff that people bring to designated sites. David will ask Ismael if he can chip piles left by homeowners, and we will pay for the extra work.

Marge mentioned the reluctance of the Fire Chief to enforce the law regarding defensible space. David suggested a letter from the IRA Board to the Fire Marshall, Board of Supervisors, and the appropriate County representatives, asking for more enforcement. In time, we may want to meet with the Fire Chief, Don Neubacher, and our Supervisor, Steve Kinsey about this.

#### Other Business

Mike Resher called our attention to emergency fire gel, which can be used in some situations to save structures. The web site is [Firegel.com](http://Firegel.com).

11. Next Meeting: 9:30 AM, Saturday September 6, at Eleanor Stern's, 369 DVD.

12. The meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Submitted by Mary Anne Warren, Secretary, October 11, 2008.

Attachment B: September 6, 2008 Minutes

Minutes of Inverness Ridge Association Board Meeting 9:30 AM, Saturday September 6, 2008, at Eleanor and Ivan Stern's, 369 DVD

Present: Tamia Anderson, Gerald Block, Sydne Bortel, Sue Brown, Bill Carlin, Harvey Freed, Alicia Jackson, Michael Ongerth, Marian Ongerth, Jordan Reeser, Eric Rekdahl, Russell Ridge, David Starkweather, Eleanor Stern, Ivan Stern, Ed Stetson, Maria Straatmann, Mary Anne Warren, Kathleen Williams, David Wilson.

1. David opened the meeting at 9:45 AM.

2. Treasurer's Report: Russell Ridge

Regular Checking Account.....	\$4,787.07
Dues and Fire Fund.....	+550.00
	\$5,337.07
Postage.....	-
26.46	
C.D. at Burbank Savings.....	\$2,210.22
Total.....	
	\$7,520.83

3. Jordan Reeser, NPS: Fuel Management on Interface Between PRE and PRNS

The NPS plans to thin pines along Limantour Road. They will also do some controlled fires along Limantour, and on Highway 1 near Olema.

Sydne asked how to get NPS to remove dead trees on their property that may fall and block the road. Jordan suggested writing to Don Neubacher, asking him or others to assess the situation. If there is agreed to be a hazard, the park will probably remove them.

David Wilson asked whether NPS is planning to do anything on the West or North boundary. Jordan suggested that if we are concerned about the North side, we call Kent Julin, County Forester. He and Jennifer Chapman will know of any plans for vegetation control on the PRE/Tomales Bay State Park boundary.

Michael Ongerth asked about clearing on our easement on Park properties along our roads. Might NPS help in funding this? Jordan said that some NPS money might be available through Fire Safe Marin or the Marin Conservation Corps.

Applications for funding should be arranged through one of these, with ongoing consultation with NPS.

David Starkweather asked whether we can get help chipping SOD trees. Michael Ongerth suggested having a day for people to leave brush on their roadside and have it chipped by Ismael. David Wilson said that we will look into this further. He will call Ismael and find out what a chipper would cost per day.

Michael Ongerth suggested that we could pay some of the cost, and property owners the rest. We would circulate a letter for people to opt in.

Harvey asked about what can be done about SOD trees on properties where the owners are absent and do nothing. David Wilson said that Victor Strangenberg has talked to the Fire Marshall, who said he will walk Sunnyside next week to identify areas of SOD trees, and make a list of these areas. David Wilson will try to get a copy of the list, which we can add to, and then request that the Fire Department take enforcement action.

Michael Ongerth suggested early spring for the chipping program, with arrangements completed by February.

#### 4. Disaster Plans: Maria Straatmann

Maria demonstrated the radio that connects us with the Disaster Council. The next Disaster Coordinator will use it to call the Fire Department in the next disaster.

Maria passed out a map of the liaison areas. She reported that the latest test revealed that the liaisons in each area will be able to communicate once they have a radio. The map was done two weeks ago by Maria and Kathleen, and shows who could speak to whom. In most areas we have two liaisons; Maria suggests that each have the \$40.00 FRS radio, at a total cost of \$400.

David Wilson suggested that we purchase these extra nine radios or more if necessary. It was MSP that we allocate \$400 to do this.

David asked for a volunteer to replace Maria as Disaster Coordinator. Kathleen volunteered to help, provided that someone else helped. Ed Stetson agreed to do this. Kathleen will keep the radio for the time being.

David will send an e-mail on Monday about the Fire Department walking the roads to locate SOD trees, and about the extreme fire danger now and the prohibition of any fire, inside or outside.

15. Next Meeting: 9:30 AM, Saturday October 18, at Mary Anne Warren's, 415 DVD.

12. The meeting adjourned at 11:35.

Attachment C: E mail exchanges with Marin Co Fire Dept

Dave,  
I hope this will help you out. If you have any questions, please give me a call.  
Thanks,  
Joe Morena  
415-663-1018

-----Original Message-----

From: Lando, Todd  
Sent: Wed 10/8/2008 10:10 AM  
To: defensiblespace@marincountyfire.org  
Cc: Morena, Joe  
Subject: FW: Paradis Ranch Estates Fire Issues

Joe -

I'll follow up on this. The reality is that the the issue of vacant lots (in all SRA areas) may not be addressed completely until next year. The green cards advised neighbors to work with each other when adjacent properties created a hazard, but if this fails, I'll contact the vacant lot owners directly.

Todd

-----Original Message-----

From: Morena, Joe  
Sent: Tue 10/7/2008 10:24 AM  
To: Lando, Todd  
Subject: FW: Paradis Ranch Estates Fire Issues

Todd,  
I talked to Scott Alber about this and he said you were now involved with this part of the program. I know the green cards have been sent so I was wondering about how to respond to the "lot owners". Should we give them some more time to respond to the green cards or send the lot owners a letter? As you can see the residents are concerned about the maintenance of the vacant lots near their homes.

Thanks,  
Joseph G. Morena  
Senior Fire Captain

Marin County Fire Department  
Point Reyes Station, CA, 94956  
(415) 473-7699

---

From: David Wilson [<mailto:dmwilson7815@sbcglobal.net>]  
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2008 2:11 PM  
To: Morena, Joe  
Subject: Paradis Ranch Estates Fire Issues  
Importance: High

Joe Morena  
Senior Captain  
Marin County Fire Department  
4th and B Streets  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956

Dear Joe:

This is a belated thank you for walking our neighborhood a couple weeks ago with Victor Stangenberg and myself. While we didn't get through everything, we bit off a big piece of it.

Victor and I have compared notes with an eye to focusing on the most critical cases. They include the following (which you saw):

1. 65 Sunnyside. The owners per our records are Stuart and Alicia Klapp, 120 Taurus Ave. Oakland CA 94611. 510 547 1309.  
stuart,klapp@csueastbay.edu
2. 100 Sunnyside (NW corner, at Behr Lane), owner is Jerry Ackeret, 890 Lamont Ave. Ste 202, Novato CA 94945, 415 669 0000
3. 349 Drakes View Drive, owner is Betsy Gardiner, 25 Westminster Ave, Kensington CA 94708 510 527 5156
4. Corner of Dover and Sunnyside, Andrew Marshall, PO Box 424, San Geronimo, CA 94963

In addition to the above, which you personally saw, Victor and I spotted the following which you also might want to look at:

1. Corner Sunshine Court, Drakes View Drive: we think this is 2 Sunshine Court and are trying to get owner information.
2. 10 Upper Robert Drive (west), owned by Katherine Lee and Douglas Wanken, PO Box 703 Pt Reyes Station, 94956. 415 663 1956

We appreciated the green "defensible space" cards that were sent to many of us. They are quite useful. The one gap in communication relates to unimproved properties which really don't fall into your definitions. While there's no building to measure "defensible space" from, it is still true that where overgrown, unbuilt parcels are sprinkled among developed ones, there can be real danger. Are there any standards for this situation?

I would like to thank you in advance for communicating our concerns to these owners and reminding them of their obligations. Please don't hesitate to call or e mail with questions, suggestions, etc.

DAVID

Cc: Inverness Ridge Assn Board of Directors; Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board.

David M. Wilson

230 The Uplands  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
Tel: (510) 652 0619  
Cell: 510 289 4760

21 Upper Robert Drive  
Inverness CA  
415 663 8212

email: dmwilson7815@sbcglobal.net