

BVCSD Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC)

Agenda for Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Location:

CSD Board Room

Meeting Start Time:

5:00 PM

Agenda Items:

- 1) Welcome/Announcements
 - a) Kristy McEwen contacted Chair Matheson regarding composition of the 2023 DPAC membership. BoD requests new volunteers for appointment in October. Existing members polled regarding their intent to continue.
 - i) Matheson, Earley, Brown and Krawitz all requested reappointment.
 - ii) One additional member and alternates to be selected
- 2) Review/Approval of July 2022 Meeting Minutes
- 3) Discuss idea of signage at refuge points. Pros and cons



- a)
- 4) Updates on Action Items from the July 2022 Meeting
 - a) Recommendation #1 – Fire harden data and phone systems
 - i) **Malinen** follow up with CSD staff to determine how this can be done
 - b) Recommendation #2 – Notification sirens
 - i) **Earley/Suttles** – Contact siren advisors/companies to evaluate system needs, locations, pricing etc.
 - ii) **Earley/Suttles** – Confirm date of next BVS Safety Committee meeting and secure presentation spot for Siren Emplacement Assessment firm
 - iii) **Earley** – Prepare a report of specific recommendations and options for implementation at future DPAC meeting. Include locations of all sites with back-up power
 - c) Recommendation #3 – Redundant notification system utilizing ham radios
 - i) **Brown** – to identify a specific model for purchase by residents and the process to get them set on a specific frequency.
 - ii) **Brown and Suttles** – Develop a plan for how the Radio Club will be utilized to provide resident notification via ham radios.
 - d) Recommendation #4 – Improved signage for evacuation and dead-end streets
 - i) **Suttles and Matheson** - Consider evacuation routes that would be appropriate for signage identifying it as such rather than places not to go.

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- e) Recommendation #5 – Increasing the number of potential refuge points
 - i) **Matheson (?)** - Need to determine what is private vs. public lands on the list of potential additional refuge points.
 - f) Recommendation #6 – Create an alternate evacuation route out of the west end of the Valley
 - i) **Suttles** – Determine existence of use permits/agreements for evacuation through private land.
 - ii) **Suttles/Earley** - Work with CSD Roads to ID manpower, equipment and materials to grade 100-yds of BVS access way from Skyline SW end to Community Gate at Hidden Oaks Ranch.
 - iii) **Malinen** – Deertrail rehab estimate
 - g) Misc.
 - i) **Matheson and Suttles** – Prepare a specific plan for residents regarding most likely refuge points and evacuation routes for residence locations.
 - (1) Utilize previously created zones
 - (2) Look into programs that provides people with window signs to show if they have evacuated or need help etc. (Map your Neighborhood?)
 - ii) **Suttles** - review grant items
 - iii) **DPAC** – Determine ideas of how Nixle can be utilized
 - iv) **DPAC** - assist CSD with getting the word out about shift to Nixle.
 - v) **Malinen** – contact traffic engineers for evacuation advice.
- 5) Comments/Open Forum
- 6) Next meeting – Tuesday, October 18, 2022
- 7) Close

BVCSD Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council (DPAC)

July 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes - Draft

Location:

CSD Board Room

Meeting Start Time:

5:00 PM

Attendance

DPAC Members present: Greg Matheson, Howard Krawitz, Mark Earley, Richard Brown

Others present: BVCSD Chief of Police Dan Suttles, BVCSD General Manager Bill Malinen

Number of public attendees – Five

Agenda Items:

- 1) Welcome/Announcements
 - a) Matheson presentation of the Wildfire Response Plan at Horseman's Association – June 20, 2022
 - i) Presentation with Q&A lasted ~one hour
 - ii) The Plan was well received
 - b) The BVCSD will be switching from CodeRed to Nixle for the primary emergency notification service
 - i) An overlap of five months will exist to allow transition to the new service by residents
 - ii) Malinen reported that the new service has additional and improved services, in addition to being cheaper. CodeRed ~\$5000/year. Nixle ~\$3600/year.
- 2) Review/Approval of [April 2022 Meeting Minutes](#) – Draft provided to DPAC Members on 4-30-22
 - a) Unanimously approved
- 3) Overview and outcome of DPAC documents forwarded to the BVCSD BoD
 - a) As previously reported, the Plan was approved by the BVCSD BoD.
 - b) The six recommendations were approved by the BVCSD BoD with direction to Malinen to initiate implementation.
- 4) DPAC direction and projects discussion – General discussion between DPAC members, Chief Suttles, GM Bill Malinen and public attendees regarding current and future implementation of the Plan recommendations
 - a) Recommendation #1 – Fire harden data and phone systems
 - i) Malinen has spoken to CSD staff to look into how this can be done
 - b) Recommendation #2 – Notification sirens
 - i) Malinen stated there could possibly be funds available
 - c) Recommendation #3 – Redundant notification system utilizing ham radios
 - i) Discussion about the process
 - (1) Have radio volunteer(s) respond to Command Post, and/or Emergency Operations Center, and/or CSD Offices, and/or mobile with the COP.

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- d) Recommendation #4 – Improved signage for evacuation and dead-end streets
 - i) Malinen reported the cost could be ~\$27,000. This item is currently not a line item in the budget.
 - ii) The idea was raised that an alternative would be signs identifying an evacuation route as opposed to signs that say where not to go.
 - (1) Would this create a liability if the planned evacuation route was non-viable due to wildfire issues.
- e) Recommendation #5 – Increasing the number of potential refuge points
 - i) Pending
- f) Recommendation #6 – Create an alternate evacuation route out of the west end of the Valley
 - i) Malinen reminded DPAC of the entrance gate reconfiguring which could possibly include widening Bear Valley Road to four lanes from the intersection with Cumberland Road to Cummings Valley Road. This would allow for a greater number of people to evacuate via this route
 - ii) It was stated that the Fire Department doesn't like many of the "egress routes" due to the high likelihood of people getting lost.
 - iii) Another issue is if police escort is needed, will there be resources to handle the task?
 - iv) Who determines if a route is viable?
 - v) What is required for a route to be viable?
 - vi) Matheson suggested initial focus should be on Deertrail as it could potentially use the least amount of physical improvement.
 - vii) Concerns were raised about who would unlock the gates. Suggestions included providing keys to Arvin PD, KCSD, and or Tejon Ranch.
- g) Misc. Items
 - i) Malinen reminded the group about the Emergency Operations Center exercise performed last year. Recommendations were made at that time including the purchase of satellite phones to ensure communication in areas of poor or no cell reception. These have been included in the approved budget.
 - ii) Suttles discussed items that could be requested to be considered for purchase by under county wide grants. This list is being reviewed to determine items of interest.
 - iii) Suttles stated in the future it is necessary to provide near continuous information to residents, even if there is nothing new to report
 - iv) Public recommendation to review the Wildlife Protection Plan as it has information regarding potential fire movements.
 - v) Public recommendation to consider the open area past the gate at the end of Medicine Bow as an additional Refuge Point.
 - vi) Public comment – reminder that in emergencies and high use, mobile services can overload.
- h) Public suggestion for future DPAC activities
 - i) DPAC Organize a campaign to encourage neighbors to help each other do clearances on their properties. Or form a sort of core of volunteers who would do this for those who are unable to do it themselves.
 - (1) It was stated that the Veteran's organization currently offers this
 - ii) Public – recommendation for a searchable interactive system for tracking residents at the refuge points and who have evacuated. Could be used to determine who still needs to be evacuated.
 - (1) Suttles indicated that this may be done by the Unified Command group headed by the Fire Chief who will be identifying individuals in charge of resources.

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- 5) Comments/Open Forum
 - a) See above.
- 6) Action Items
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 - ii) **Earley/Suttles** – Confirm date of next BVS Safety Committee meeting and secure presentation spot for Siren Emplacement Assessment firm
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 - iv) **Earley** – Prepare a report of specific recommendations and options for implementation at future DPAC meeting. Include locations of all sites with back-up power
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 - iv) **DPAC** - assist CSD with getting the word out about shift to Nixle.
 - v) **Malinen** – contact traffic engineers for evacuation advice.
- 7) Next meeting – Tuesday, September 20, 2022
- 8) Meeting adjourned 6:25 PM