



CASCADEL FIRE WISE BRIGADE

Cascadel Mutual Water Company Committee
Cascadelmutual.com/water

Minutes for May 16, 2026
Clubhouse 2:00 pm

Community members present –

- Matt Kubiak
- Sandy and Ken Trapp
- Lorraine Vance
- Kristen Fry
- Suzanne Foster
- Simon Elman
- Jim, Kitty, and Martin Williams
- Sandy Chaille
- Carol Eggink

A plot map and a list were handed out to discuss the major areas of concern for fuel breaks in Cascadel Woods, Heights and Road 233. Main points of the discussion:

- ✓ Get three bids for mitigation on the large areas of concern, and then volunteers can maintain the areas much easier. If the Heights and Woods residents (about 150) were to donate \$67 each we could afford to pay up to \$10,000 for the mitigation by an outside company. Sandy Chaille, Martin Williams, and Matt Kubiak have offered to get one bid each for our approval. We will include Road 233 in these bids as well.
- ✓ It was suggested that we might enlist some students from the Mountain Oaks School to help with our easements, like Road 233. We need to seek advice from legal to see what is required to make this happen.
Concerning Road 233, the large flat open area, referred to as Sheep's Flat, we may place our own signage to deter overnight camping. Keep that area cleared of dead brown grass. Talk to the drivers about parking their hot trucks in dry brown grass, if we see them when they are parking.
- ✓ On the easement clearing, we can go in up to five feet, (not on private property), clear young trees, shrubs, and low hanging branches from this area and take to the dump (if money is in the pot). The Water Company will be purchasing a lighter pole saw for this job. The dump will sometimes allow for weighing multiple loads in one day to save us money.
- ✓ Clear areas blocking the view of drivers on a curve and around bridges, where possible.
- ✓ When time allows, try to weedeat along the creeks to keep the growth from taking over the open areas. Pathways can be made to the creek to allow residents to enjoy the water.
- ✓ Simon Elman volunteered to keep up the growth around the hydrants and firebox on Vista.
Matt Kubiak gathered volunteers, (Avo Atoian, Nathan Brown, and Rob Shevlowitz), to keep Cascadel South easements and other areas cleared.
A suggestion was made to enlist volunteers to adopt an apple tree or two, in the orchard, in order to keep up with that area and help the trees produce a better crop for our residents.

- ✓ Create a list of jobs to be posted and sent email, text, and handed out. If we can find the key to the glass bulletin board on the clubhouse, we can post there to see where you can work when you have time.
- ✓ Sign up for notification of wildfires and other emergencies, with MC ALERT at <http://mcalert.org> Load the Watch Duty and Everbridge mobile apps as well. These apps keep one updated on wildfires in your area.
- ✓ Since Madera County requires all STVRs to pass a strict fire safety inspection to obtain or renew a permit, as well as passing local fire agency requirements outlined by the state law, we will make every effort to contact our local Airbnb owners, to remind them of Madera County Public Resources Code 4291 for keeping defensible space around their property.
- ✓ According to Loraine Vance, the US Forest Service offers a Mineral Permit. This permit allows a person to collect granite rocks at a specified location at no cost. The granite can be used in your Zero to Five Foot Defensible Zone. Stan will pick up more information from the USFS and it will be made public.
- ✓ Create a small flyer for handouts to our neighbors, to inform them of important issues to address on their property, in order to create a good hard defensible home and yard against wildfire.
- ✓ When weeding your yard, if your neighbor is a part timer and has very tall dead grass on an empty lot, you can do the good neighbor thing and maybe clear their yard. It's always best to obtain permission. If a contact number is needed, call Carol for assistance.

A flyer on the three areas of defensible space requirements were handed out as information.

A flyer on our Fire Zone Number was handed out. Sandy Chaille mentioned it would be good to know all close zone numbers as well. If it is two zones away, we need to pack the car. Check this link for Zone Numbers:

<https://protect.genasys.com/location?search=true&z=11.87817841774593&latlon=37.23970108312905%2C-119.47379924078854>

We are in MAD-E0775

The last flyer handout was on the **Grab and Go Bag**.

This listed a bag you should keep in the car at all times because it might be a case where you cannot get back into your area, so you would need certain personal items. One major item was mentioned to keep in that bag was a utility bill with your name and address on it. This is necessary in order to get back into your home.

We should take photos of all items in a room and prepare an itemized list and the replacement costs as of the date you took the photos. Update every few years. Be sure to include a copy of your insurance policy and other copies of important documents. These items can be easily put on an external hard or flash drive that can be easily stored in your car go bag.

There are two things we all should do before the start of wildfire season.

The first is: rehearse, rehearse, and rehearse. Matt Kubiak checks his list and then prepares to evacuate. He has done this over and over. If the process has been practiced, it becomes second nature to perform under extreme circumstances.

The second is: Know the place you plan to go in the event of an evacuation. Do you need to house farm and/or house animals? Will this location destination accept these animals?

Last important piece of information is, "LISTEN TO THE SHERIFF!" They know what is happening now.

Meeting concluded about 4 pm.

