



# BLACK BUTTE RANCH R.F.P.D.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 22, 2019

*Rodger Gabrielson called the meeting to order at 09:02 a.m.*

### **Board of Directors:**

- ✓ Don Bowler
- ✓ Rodger Gabrielson
- ✓ Dave Gibson
- ✓ Tom Sawyer
- ✓ Larry Stuker

### **Administration:**

- ✓ Chief Dan Tucker
- ✓ Deputy Chief Dave Phillips
- ✓ Jamie Vohs

### **Guest:**

- ✓ Larae Guillory USFS
- ✓ James Osborne - USFS
- ✓ Jim Brock – RH1

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Tom Sawyer moved to accept the July 25, 2019 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Don Bowler, unanimously passed.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Treasurer Report**

**Motion:** Tom Sawyer moved to accept the July 2019 financial reports as presented, seconded by Don Bowler, unanimously passed.

Larry commented on the Annual Financial Report provided by Accuity and noted the following from the letter given by them:

There were no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit. We are pleased to report that no such disagreement arose during the course of our audit.

#### **Chief's Report**

##### **Paradise Tour – D/C Phillips**

D/C Phillips, along with the Brits and D/C Craig (Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire), had the opportunity to tour Paradise, CA by car. The tour was given by the Fire Chief of Paradise, David Hawks.

Some key points and analysis from D/C Phillips tour:

- Paradise had plans to counter flow major highways, list of prioritized sections to be evacuated and preparation on how to staff intersections with law enforcement. None of this really happened because the fire happened so fast.
- Studies have shown that normal traffic flow is about 1800 cars per hour. In the Paradise fire only about 500 cars were able to be evacuated per hour. Given this information it could take 10 hours to evacuate the Ranch during prime time with 5000 people on it.
- Response initially focused on life safety and rescuing people.
- Infrastructure protection of grocery stores, hospitals, etc was key because without them there would be nothing to come home to.
- Wind carrying embers, that eventually dropped, caused the fire to not stop until it hit Chico.
- Rodger asked D/C Phillips for a summary of the Paradise tour to be able to provide to the constituents and Board of Directors of Black Butte Ranch.
- Rodger inquired on how the community of Paradise was alerted. They used a community cell phone system kind of like Reverse 911.
- What did D/C Phillips take away from the tour as it pertains to Black Butte Ranch:
  - The BBR evacuation plan should be revisited.
  - October, there will be some meetings on navigating an evacuation plan that doesn't just look at Black Butte Ranch but evacuation through Sisters to Bend and Redmond. Nathan Gariby will be an integral part of these meetings.
  - Powerline Road (as a partnership) needs to be looked at being paved so it is more usable.
  - BBR properties are not resistant to fire and that message needs to be communicated to homeowners.
  - Landscapers and the ARC need to be educated to assure they can be more in line with fire wise regulations.
  - The Ranch needs to continue addressing the small number of shake roofs that currently exist on the Ranch.
  - Support the new building regulations that are coming through. The new regulations are designed to make structures more resistant.
  - Black Butte Ranch is unique in that most people on the Ranch are transients/vacation rentals. This creates a hurdle in educating people.
  - There is an understanding that older adults are slower and less prepared to evacuate. May look at having residents evacuate on a Level 2 notice rather than just being prepared.
  - Deschutes 911 has the ability to give a map of the Ranch that displays the blue dot of your location on your phone.
  - There are some communication tools available to the people of Black Butte Ranch that will help in emergent situations: Reverse 911, registering your phone with Deschutes 911 (get notifications when in this area) and Everbridge.
- Moving forward, the big question is, how do we get this information out to the homeowners? Chief Tucker would first like to document the priorities. Some of these priorities will be developed in the October meetings. This is a good time of year to start the planning process as the weather is changing soon.

## **Fire and Ambulance Report – Deputy Chief Phillips**

July 2019 the department responded to the following:

- 48 total calls
- 8 fire
- 28 medical
- 14 transport
- 6 move-ups
- 6 public assist
- 14 mutual aids
- Year to date calls 187

### **Chief Tucker discussed:**

One employee is out on leave without pay and has applied for medical disability with PERS. The District brought on a temporary employee to help get the department through the transition period of having an employee on leave. The temporary employee brings a lot of EMS experience and can help mentor one of our seasonal employees especially since the seasonal employee just recently became a paramedic. A Civil Service meeting has taken place to make the commission aware of current staffing. It is likely the department will need to hire an entry level firefighter in the near future. With that said, one of the main points of discussion at the Civil Service Meeting was how to address the current firefighter list that was created July 26, 2018.

Captain Ward will be retiring from PERS and will work back on the 1040 exception. A MOU has also been signed and put into place for him to do so.

### **President's Report**

Rodger reported that the BBR RFPD BOD's have been calling registered voters for the September 17, 2019 election in which BBR RFPD has a local option measure on the ballot.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Annexation/Contract Request T14 R9 Sec 5 TL 200 & 201 – Draft Contract – Update**  
D/C Phillips reported that Deborah McMahan is still working on the draft contract with the property owner's attorney. The property owners are still in the permitting/planning phase which could be part of the delay. It has been made clear to the property owner that a pool is not a big enough water resource for the two homes and that a cistern will be needed.

Rodger inquired with D/C Phillips on, after his Paradise tour experience, should the District be concerned with the nasty growth on George McAllister Rd. D/C Phillips thought once the private property (T14 R9 Sec 5 TL 200 & 201) is done it should be good. There is a small area from the bicycle trail (to Suttle Lake) to the highway that most likely won't be addressed due to the nature of a trail being there. It is also Forest Service land.

### **Budget Committee Position Open – Update**

<p><b>Motion:</b> Larry Stuker moved to appoint Rikki Goede to the Black Butte Ranch RFPD Budget Committee – Position 5, seconded by Don Bowler, unanimously passed.</p>
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## **PERS – Senate Bill 1049 – Update**

Chief Tucker reported that part of SB 1049 has been sent to the Supreme Court where it is being challenged.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Forest Fuels Treatment – Larae Guillory USFS**

In developing an evacuation plan and mitigating a situation like Paradise the BBR RFPD BOD's would like priorities to focus on saving lives and being able to evacuate to areas less prone to being blocked by fire. In developing such plans the BBR RFPD BOD's have asked Chief Tucker to reach out to the governmental services outside of the Ranch to see what they are doing. Chief Tucker invited guest speakers Larae Guillory and James Osborne to the board meeting to provide some insight on what the US Forest Service is doing.

Larae started her portion of the meeting going over two maps. The first map was titled "Sisters RD/Cascade Division Large Fires 2002-2018." This map listed all of the fires that have happened in the area since 2002. The second map was titled "Future Planned Fuels Treatments – Sisters RD". This map showed what areas would be treated by burning or mowing around the Ranch within the next 3-5 years. It also showed areas of the Garrison Project.

Some key points of Larae and James discussion with the BBR RFPD BOD's:

- The USFS as a whole (Sisters Country) is primarily looking at the west and east areas of the Ranch and Maintenance CE's (Categorical Exclusion).
- Anytime anyone from the Federal Government is going to do any ground disturbing activity, they have to do what is called NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act).
- A lot of NEPA that has been written in the past did not include maintenance regimes.
- Over the last 100 years fire has not been allowed to play a role in the ecosystem therefore making the system out of whack.
- What the USFS is doing with the Maintenance CE is trying to put fire back on the landscape on a more frequent regime knowing that areas have been manipulated through vegetation management. By doing this, they are making areas fire resilient which would then allow first responders to get in there and fight fire and actually keep it contained with a low amount of spread.
- Trying to get on a seven year maintenance regime in areas that may need thinning.
- Fires are now happening in areas that have already burned ex: Milli Fire.
- One of the focal points for Larae and James is looking for opportunities to maintain what they call strategic roads ex: Highway 20 and Highway 242.
  - By doing this it allows USFS access into strategic parts of the landscape to compartmentalize fire.
- Through planning of "strategic roads" and Larae and James working with the District Ranger, they are constantly looking at how to get people in fires safely, how to make an investment that is actually going to make a difference in the face of future fires and how to plan landscape treatments across the land to be able to get into some areas that haven't burned yet (or maybe burned light to moderate), while still paying attention to what happened with past fire scars.

- Fuels treatment is currently fighting fire around the community. The USFS would like to get to the point where they are treating fire back out to the woods (versus the door steps of homes) and closer to the wilderness boundary line.
- They have to be conscious of the Mule Deer Winter Range, which is seen in the Cloverdale area and the Spotted Owl here.
- USFS is currently working in the Green Ridge area.
- Rodger feels the greatest threat to the Ranch is the area of Section 16.
- Larae expressed looking at the bigger picture. They are trying to prioritize areas to holistically treat the whole landscape of Sisters Country not just Black Butte Ranch.
- They deal with many layers when considering treatment plans like smoke windows (smoke mitigation plans).
- When the Forest Service does a prescribed burn there are roughly 25-30 people involved with some of it being contract work.
- There are 29 employees at the Sisters Ranger District.
- They will have two people working along Highway 20 mowing and masticating shrubs this winter. It should take about two months to complete the work.
- One of Larae's responsibilities is hazard mapping. This allows them to focus on the data and see what past trends are.
- Larae and James are always open to hearing what the Ranch has to say.
- James pointed out that Grass Butte (SW of the Ranch) is a new planning area which is good for the Ranch.
- Sentiment of the board is to encourage Larae and James to keep an eye on Black Butte Ranch and continue to prioritize the USFS efforts on the western perimeter of Black Butte Ranch. James stated they would prioritize the whole Ranch, not just the western side.

**Evacuation Procedure(s) – Chief Tucker**

Agenda item was lightly discussed in the Paradise section and Forest Fuels Treatment section and continues to be a work in progress.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Nothing to report.

**NEXT MEETING DATES**

Board Meeting September 26th, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Board meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.*

<b>OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES</b>	
Approved by <u>Don Bowler</u>  <u>Tom Sawyer</u>	Date: <u>September 26, 2019</u>