

ARROWOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 15th 2015

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- a. Mr. Richard Young called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Audio recording of the meeting was conducted. Mr. Young noted that all attendees are regular attendees and therefore are familiar with the Rules of Order so they were not read.
 - b. Board Members present:
 - i. Richard Young President
 - ii. Dana Merveldt Treasurer
 - iii. Andre' Mouton Secretary
 - iv. Lonnie Wheeler Member-At-Large
 - v. Steve Merveldt Member-At-Large
 - c. Board Members absent: Craig Rhodine - Member-At-Large, Jeanne Gardner - Member-At-Large
 - d. AIA Member Attendees: listed in the attendance roster at the end of this set of minutes.
- II. Guest Speaker – Scott MacDonald (Black Forest Together, Program Director for Forest Recovery and Restoration)
- a. Mr. MacDonald provided a background on Black Forest Together, a non-profit organization created to support all Black Forest areas, not just areas affected by the Black Forest Fire.
 - b. Mr. MacDonald spent the remainder of his time discussing information and answering questions on the Colorado Department of Natural Resources Wildland Mitigation Grant. Background information is contained within the handout which is attached at the end this set of meeting minutes. Major points from the discussion include:
 - i. The grant pays for 50% of a homeowner's mitigation costs.
 - ii. Black Forest Together already has a grant allocation of ~\$136,000 for 125 acres of mitigation but has a long list of submissions from Black Forest homeowners totally ~75 acres. If AIA homeowners desire to join this effort, Black Forest Together must complete processing on previously submitted submissions before AIA submissions would be processed.
 - iii. There are many details to the process for submission of a grant reimbursement (surveys, contracts, etc) and takes a significant amount of time to complete.
 - iv. Black Forest Together expects to submit follow-on grant submissions, but the timeframe for that submission has not been determined.
 - v. Future State grants may be less than last year's grant because the current State budget doesn't include Wildland Fire Risk Reduction funding.
 - vi. USAA Insurance Company is offering credits starting in May for homeowner clients who conduct mitigation efforts.
 - vii. Wildland Fire Protection Plan for El Paso County exists but is not specific enough for individual communities.
- III. Minutes from March Board Meeting
- a. The minutes from the March Board meeting were not read due to time given to the guest speaker.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Dana Merveldt provided data for the Treasurer's report but the information was not read due to time given to the guest speaker. The data below is data provided by Ms. Merveldt.

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- a. Cash on Hand: \$20,805.22
- b. Major Expenditures: \$22.17 (Envelopes, stamps), \$9.99 (Yahoo website); Total - \$32.16
- c. Receipts: \$1,348.00
- d. Interest Received: \$0.81
- e. Tasks Completed: 1) Completed 3 HOA Status requests, 2) Made dues deposits – 21 outstanding accounts, 14%, 3) Priced banners for fireworks ban - \$95 for 4 (bannersonthecheap.com)
- f. New Tasks: 1) Order banner additions for new chipping day.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Architectural Control Committee. This area was not covered due to time allotted for the guest speaker.
- b. By-Laws Committee. This area was not covered due to time allotted for the guest speaker.
- c. Neighborhood Watch Committee. This area was not covered due to time allotted for the guest speaker.

VI. Old Business

- a. Rules of the Association. This area was not covered due to time allotted for the guest speaker. This action remains OPEN.
- b. Evacuation drill – community response. This area was not covered due to time allotted for the guest speaker. This action remains OPEN.
- c. Cost Share program. This area was not covered due to time allotted for the guest speaker.. This action remains OPEN.
- d. Lights on Arrowwood signs. The Board decided in the February meeting to defer discussion on this issue until the May 2015 Board meeting. This action remains OPEN.
- e. Whip trees in easement at intersection of Maverick/Arrowwood. This area was not covered due to time allotted for the guest speaker. This action remains OPEN.

VII. New Business

- a. Chipping Day Selection. After discussion, the Board determined June 6th as the next AIA Chipping Day.
- b. Date for Arrival of bins for duff disposal. This area was not covered due to time allotted for the guest speaker.
- c. Election and ABM Date Selection. After discussion, the board determined August 29th as the next Board Election Date, and selected September 12th as the primary date and September 19th as the back-up date for the Annual Business Meeting.

VIII. Homeowner Member Attendee Concerns / Suggested Topics for Next Meeting.

- a. This area was not covered due to time allotted to the guest speaker and discussion of other issues.

IX. Closing. The Board meeting session concluded at 8:27pm.



Colorado Department of Natural Resources Wildfire Mitigation Grant: An important opportunity for Black Forest landowners

The “greater regional Black Forest” is a huge wooded area that stretches from Peyton to Larkspur and Franktown. Over a century of un-checked forest growth, and aggressive firefighting, this forest has become dangerously overgrown. These unhealthy forest conditions fueled the disaster of the 2013 Black Forest Fire, and could create another disaster in the future. The Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners report to the Governor, (download at www.PPWPP.org) showed that mitigation on a landscape scale is far more effective than scattered individual efforts. The Black Forest remains at a very high risk for future extreme wildfire behavior. Community-level mitigation is the best answer in reducing this threat

The problem: Overgrown forests

To avoid another catastrophic wildfire, the forest must be thinned to restore healthy conditions. That job falls to land owners. Property owners who live in wildland-urban interface environments have a responsibility to themselves, their community and future generations to be good stewards of the lands they own. Wildfires *will* happen again and insurance companies are increasing premium costs as a result of un-mitigated lands. But many landowners cannot afford the cost of hiring a contractor to mitigate five or more acres of overgrown forest.

The solution: Grant assisted mitigation

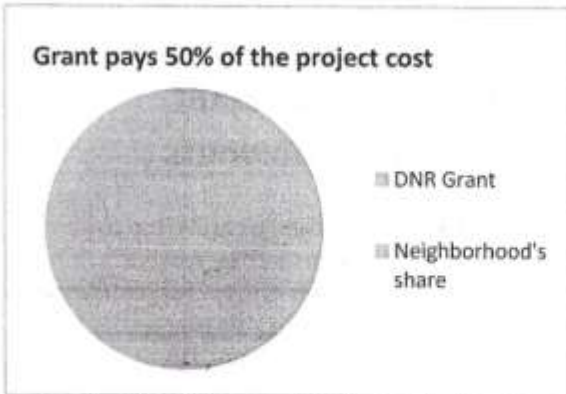
Black Forest Together Inc. has secured a grant from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. BFT will manage this program in strategic partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP).

This grant will provide \$136,480.00 in matching funds to help us accomplish two goals:

- Perform wildfire mitigation (green forest thinning) on parcels larger than the typical five-acre property. **Mitigation does not mean clear cutting your property.** The goal is to create defensible space around homes and buffer zones to protect communities. This grant will pay 50% of the cost of hiring contractors to do mitigation work.
- Initiate a “Tree Donor” program that removes small trees from areas that need to be thinned, and transplant those trees in burned areas that need to be restored.

Do property owners have a say in the work being done on their property?

ABSOLUTELY YES! You have full control over what work is done on your property. To qualify for the DNR funds, work must meet Colorado State Forestry Service (CSFS) standards. These standards will be fully explained at the time of planning the work and establishing a contract. If that work is not what you want to be done, you can simply choose to not participate in the program.



How the grant funding works

Grant funds will pay 50% of the cost of an eligible project. The other 50% of the cost must be paid by participating neighborhoods.

If a neighborhood has an extreme financial need, it can provide "in kind" contributions for up to half of its share (up to 25% of the total cost). Those in-kind contributions can help a neighborhood *qualify* for a grant-

assisted project. But an in-kind contribution does not pay bills owed to contractors or suppliers. If some residents of a neighborhood have financial challenges that prevent them from contributing the full 50% share of the cash cost of a project, Black Forest Together will need to find another cash donor to make up that difference.

In-kind contributions are a great tool to help our elderly and low-income neighbors participate in this important program. But if a neighborhood has the financial means to pay all of its 50% cash share, it should plan to do that. The grant program will still reduce the cost of a mitigation project by 50%.

Bottom line: The DNR grant will reduce the cost of fire mitigation work by 50%

To learn more about how your neighborhood can take advantage of this important opportunity, please contact Black Forest Together, blackforesttogether@gmail.com

Examples of cash match and in-kind contributions

"Cash match," or "hard match" includes:

- Cash payments
- Providing required supplies, such as equipment fuel.

"In-kind" contributions include:

- Volunteer time: One person working one hour on a project is credited as a contribution of \$22.43.
- Use of equipment: If a resident owns equipment, such as a chipper, he can be credited for the cash value of the use of that machine.