

# Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District

(970) 881-3521

## Board of Directors

Minutes for October 19, 2023

6:00 PM

Crystal Lakes Fire Station

### MINUTES

**Call To Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by President Haas

**In Attendance:** Don Hass, Jody Randol, Jim Kubichek, Anne Dirmeyer, Robin Lauric (Zoom)

**Absent:** None

**District Members in attendance:** Evan Rau, CLVFD Representative, Melanie Nelson, Recording Secretary, Susan Rau, Harold Alexander, Marian Kelly, Bobby Hill, Patrice Diem, Karen Smith, Jay Smith, Steve Dirmeyer, Mark Julian, Stella Anderson, Donny Anderson, Cheryl Poage, Craig Mawle, Carmel Mawle and Doug Race

**District Members in attendance via Zoom:** Rachel Ownbey, Mark Weeks and Jody Sandquist

**Approval of Agenda:** A request was made to add the barn door installation to the agenda. Jody made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes of the Board meeting of September 21, 2023:** A motion was made by Jim to approve the minutes as amended. Anne seconded the motion. Jody abstained from voting as he was not present at the September 21, 2023, board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**President's Report:** No report.

**Secretary's Report:** No report.

**Request for use of District Sam account (AIMS grant):** Patrice Diem presented a draft concept paper for possible submission for the Action, Implementation, Mitigation AIM Grant and requested permission to use the Fire Department's SAM number if this grant is submitted. This grant would be used to enhance the HIZ Assessment Ambassador Program and a Neighborhood Filing Captain Program, which would include property owners within the CLRRRA, Pearl Creek Estates, Elkridge Ranch and Beaver Meadows Resort. Discussion was held regarding the feasibility of using the Fire Department's SAM number and the quick turnaround time for submitting the grant as the deadline is December 3, 2023; however, this grant request could also be submitted in the spring. The board felt that more time is needed to review and discuss this grant submission.

**Chief's Forum:** Chief Evan Rau addressed the Board regarding concerns about his department presence and accessibility over the past year and spoke about his future plans within the department.

Comments were taken from the community. Copies of the letter submitted are included at the end of the regular minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Dirmeyer presented the monthly Treasurer's report.

Anne reported that a deposit was received from FEMA in the amount of \$8,129.38 with no explanation as to what it was for. Jim stated that it possibly could be a refund from an AFG grant. Anne will continue to find out what these funds are for, and they will not be spent until we are sure it does not need to be returned.

Anne also noted that due to Proposition HH we do not have a final budget amount. Depending on how the vote goes for Proposition HH we will either receive additional funds, or they could be reduced. If HH does not pass, we will have our actual budget amount on December 10. If it does pass, we will have our actual budget amount on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

Jim made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report for October 2023. Jody seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Fire Department Report:** Chief Evan Rau presented the monthly report. The full report is found at the end of the regular minutes.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**CWPP:** Anne reported that a group meeting of the CWPP will take place in November, although no date has been set yet.

Robin spoke on behalf of the Evacuation Committee. She has been working with the CLRRA to update their webpage so that the evacuation information from both the fire department and the community is the same. This will be completed within the next couple of weeks. All information has gone through Assistant Chief Marian Kelly. Please direct any feedback to Robin.

**Recruiting:** Anne recommended that recruitment be scratched from the agenda until next year. The officers are suspending their discussions until February.

**Mill Retention:** There was discussion about the Mill Levy. The bond will be paid off at the end of 2024. Proposition HH will have an impact. Anne stated that the SDA has an excellent presentation available online regarding mill levy retention and recommended that the board watch it.

**Asset Management:** Robin spoke about the asset management spreadsheet she is working on and requested assistance with it, noting that with this spreadsheet we will have data driven information for short- and long-range budget planning. Harold Alexander and Doug Race volunteered to help her gather the information needed to complete it.

**CLFPD Bylaws:** Jim stated that the CLFPD bylaws should be reviewed. A work session will be scheduled, and this will be put back on the agenda as Bylaws Work Session under unfinished business.

**Holiday Recognition Dinner:** Steve Dirmeyer related that details for the holiday recognition dinner are being worked out. A caterer has been selected and a potential date of December 12<sup>th</sup> has been selected. The cost is estimated to be around \$25 per person.

**Website status:** Evan stated that we need to move our timetable due to death of Sharon Fessler. We have 30 days to move our webpage from where it is currently housed as the server will be shut down. Evan has a meeting on Tuesday with Streamline regarding onboarding. Mike Clark will attend this meeting as well. Evan does not foresee an issue with meeting the 30-day deadline.

**Fire Station Mitigation Report:** Steve Dirmeyer reported that the fire station mitigation was a success and thanked Robin for doing a great job in organizing the event. Altogether nine trailer loads were taken to the slash depot. The plan for next spring is to tackle the juniper and the grasses.

Robin stated that the event was successful with over 11 people participating and 100 volunteer hours donated. Robin expressed special thanks to Steven and Alex for the extra hours they put in and appreciation to everybody who pitched in.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **As the Board Desires:**

**Resignation** – Jim Kubichek submitted his letter of resignation to be effective at the end of board meeting in November 2023. Don Haas commended Jim for his work as secretary on the board and especially with his work on grants. Robin stated that Jim is an inspiration and voice of reason and she appreciates his wisdom and patience.

**Plowing of Roads for First Responders:** Robin asked the board to consider writing a formal letter to the CLRRRA to make our first responders a priority on the snowplow list in winter. EMS, EMR, and EMTs, in addition to firefighters, need to be able to get out safely from their homes in order to get help community members that need it. This will be put on the November agenda.

**Barn Door:** Harold Alexander gave pricing for the barn door at \$400.00. The door will open to the south and there will be no problem with accessibility. Jody made a motion to approve funds for Alex to install the barn door. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Comments by Attending Public:**

The complexity of Proposition HH was discussed. The SDA recommends voting “No” for special districts.

A card for Sharon Fessler’s husband Brian is being circulated and fire department members have been encouraged to attend her memorial service on October 27<sup>th</sup> in department dress shirts. Evan will reach out to CLFIRES to inquire about a donation in her name.

**Set or confirm next Board meeting date and location:** November 16, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

**Adjournment:** Jody made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Pension Board meeting following adjournment.

***The Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District Board meeting is held the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM at the fire station.***

***Submitted by: Melanie Nelson***

# Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

237 Blackfoot Rd, Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545  
(970) 881-3521



October 19, 2023

## Fire Department Report

### 1. Department Activity since the last board meeting

- Business meetings: one regularly scheduled
- Officer meetings: one regularly scheduled
- NW Larimer County Fire Chiefs ZOOM call: First Wednesday of the month via zoom. Quarterly in-person. Assistant Chief Marian Kelly was in attendance this month
- Monthly meeting with NLCERA medical directors (UCHealth): No one represented CLVFD at this meeting this month. - Emergency Responders Roundtable: I represented CLVFD at this meeting via zoom this month.
- Greenbelt Management Committee meetings: Monthly on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 19:00. I was unable to attend this meeting this month.

Incidents – 7 since last CLFPD meeting.

- 050: 09/24/23: Medical on Ottawa Way and Navajo Rd
- 051: 09/25/23: Medical of Biloxi Ct
- 052: 09/27/23: Structure Fire Mutual Aid on Piney Knolls in Red Feather Lakes
- 053: 09/30/23: Medical on Nowata Dr
- 054: 09/30/23: Medical on Ute Ct (our annual fish hook call)
- 055: 10/07/23: Smoke report in area of Mosquito Dr (campfire in approved pit)
- 056: 10/11/23: Medical on Micmac Dr

### 2. PERSONNEL:

- SDR orientation written materials and SDR language in department member orientation guide reviewed, edited, and approved.

- No personnel changes since last meeting.
- Nominations for Officer positions will take place at this month's Business meeting on 10/26/23.

### **3. TRAINING:**

#### Department trainings:

- October's training was Extrication. During this training, firefighters practiced the strategic dismantling of an automobile for patient extrication. Foci were effective tool use, firefighter safety during extrication, and patient protection during the extrication process.
- November training is SCBA.

#### Outside trainings:

- Auto X Extrication Training: Poudre Canyon Fire has invited the mountain departments to send 4-5 members to their own extrication training at PCFPD Station 4 on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### 2023 Training schedule in place with RFLVFD:

JANUARY	Scene Size-Up, ICS
FEBRUARY	Apparatus Rodeo (separate)
MARCH	Ice Rescue
APRIL	Wildland 1
MAY	Structure 1
JUNE	Wildland 2
JULY	Structure 2
AUGUST	Low-Angle Rescue
SEPTEMBER	Cumulative scenario
OCTOBER	Extrication
NOVEMBER	SCBA
DECEMBER	Radios (Combined Training = Mock Incidents)

### **4. GRANTS:**

- We have been awarded approximately \$20,000 worth of structure and wildland PPE by the group purchase grant through DFPC. Delivery dates for the gear are unknown, but I signed and returned the award letter 10/09/23.

### **5. COMMUNITY**

- The FD has been working with Raina Eschelmann from Larimer County Emergency Services to standardize an HIZ assessment tool for use by both the County and the Department. This is going well, and other county departments are using the same tool to conduct similar assessments in their communities.

### **6. EQUIPMENT**

- Brush 1 recall has been resolved.
- Tender 1 scheduled to go down to Trans West for routine maintenance.

- Squad 1 and Brush 1 have been experiencing intermittent electrical/inverter problems. Battery on Squad 1 has been unreliable, and a replacement has been installed. While the inverter problem has not been fully resolved, the new battery is starting the truck reliably and holding a charge much better than the original.
- Squad 2 is currently at Beck's automotive being repaired. The repairs are for common wear and tear and damage related to its use as a plow vehicle.

## **7. EVENTS**

- 09/30 Chili Cook-off
- 10 chili contestants, 5 bread contestants, and 85-100 attendees
- Net revenue for the department: \$597.45

## **8. OTHER:**

### CLRRA Greenbelt Management Committee

- 09/28: Representatives from CLRRA, Larimer County OEM, Larimer Conservation Corp, and Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed chose a forester bid for prescribed burn and overseeing mitigation work as part of the FEMA grant that is two years in the works with CLRRA as applicant. This bid award is contingent on award of the FEMA grant.

### CL Open Space Conservancy (OSC)

- I surveyed Tract J in Filing 12 this month as a potential mitigation project that could be performed entirely by volunteers. This tract has good road access from the downhill side and has primarily gentle slopes and light, but dense fuels, including aspen. It would be a strategically valuable project with good value per effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Evan Rau  
Fire Chief  
Crystal Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

From: Carmel Mawle <[mawlecarmel@gmail.com](mailto:mawlecarmel@gmail.com)>

To: [president@clvfd.org](mailto:president@clvfd.org), [vicepresident@clvfd.org](mailto:vicepresident@clvfd.org), Anne Dirmeyer <[treasurer1@clvfd.org](mailto:treasurer1@clvfd.org)>, [secretary@clvfd.org](mailto:secretary@clvfd.org), [atlarge@clvfd.org](mailto:atlarge@clvfd.org), Evan Rau <[eraufire@gmail.com](mailto:eraufire@gmail.com)>

Cc: Rachel Ownbey <[rownbey@comcast.net](mailto:rownbey@comcast.net)>, Michael Ownbey <[Mownbey1@icloud.com](mailto:Mownbey1@icloud.com)>, Craig Mawle <[craigmawle@comcast.net](mailto:craigmawle@comcast.net)>

Date: 10/19/2023 4:07 PM MDT

Subject: In support of Chief Evan Rau

We, in the Greenbelt Management Committee, have worked with Chief Evan Rau since May of 2021, when he stepped into the role of GMC Mitigation Team Leader that had previously been occupied by Chief Mark Rode. At that time, we were beginning the process of evaluating priorities for the million dollar FEMA mitigation grant. Chief Rau jumped in with both feet, bringing his experience, knowledge, and widespread network of experts to the assistance of our community. With his guidance, we were able to work with the CLRRA board of directors to write and win that grant.

When the GMC began researching Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Chief Rau was a tremendous resource, helping to weigh the pros and cons of each plan. When the CLRRA made the decision to support the cutting-edge Ember Alliance CWPP, Chief Rau joined the development core team, working closely with Ember Alliance on behalf of Crystal Lakes' property owners.

As we begin the process of educating community members and implementing the new CWPP, Chief Rau has been a leader and guiding presence. Despite his scheduling difficulties during his recent continuing education, he always made time when we had questions, or for events like our WUI Movie Night. Often, that meant his boots were on the ground early morning or late at night after a long day. When we were preparing the Larimer County Office of Emergency Management grant for the Hidden Park Staging and Mitigation area, Chief Rau showed up at the site, researched our needs, outlined concerns, and wrote the requirements for the staging area RFQ. He is already reviewing potential sites for next year's OEM grant request.

Beyond guiding our volunteers to use our time and resources to the greatest effect, Chief Rau's forwardthinking strategy and approach will put us in a position to make an even greater impact in the future. I and other GMC volunteers are currently working to build the GMC catalog of Crystal Lakes tracts that he developed to track mitigation and maintenance needs for years to come. In his words:

"I envision this feeding data into our own and other databases to eventually create standardized intrastate regional, state, and national data structures, some of which already exist, but are unconnected to my knowledge. I think the county and state would LOVE to have a database of mitigation work that local project managers like us can help populate, and our own catalog may help prototype that, if those other agencies are not already working on something similar in purpose."

In conclusion, we are all fortunate to have Fire Chief Rau advocating for our community. He is a professional who is taken seriously by Forestry and Fire Protection officials at the state and national level. We need qualified, younger, fresher perspectives.

Sincerely,  
Carmel Mawle, GMC Co-Chair  
Rachel Ownbey, GMC Co-Chair



Craig Mawle, CWPP Implementation Mitigation Team Co-Lead  
Michael Ownbey, CWPP Implementation Mitigation Team Co-Lead

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Carmel Mawle  
Managing Editor, [Panhandle Creek Publishing](#)

Co-Chair, [Greenbelt Management Committee](#)  
Member, [CWPP Implementation Team](#)

“Because you are alive, everything is possible.”  
— Thich Nhat Hanh

From: Kellie Sponberg <[kelliesponberg@gmail.com](mailto:kelliesponberg@gmail.com)>  
To: [president@clvfd.org](mailto:president@clvfd.org), [vicepresident@clvfd.org](mailto:vicepresident@clvfd.org), [treasurer1@clvfd.org](mailto:treasurer1@clvfd.org), [secretary@clvfd.org](mailto:secretary@clvfd.org), [atlarge@clvfd.org](mailto:atlarge@clvfd.org) Cc: Carmel Mawle <[mawlecarmel@gmail.com](mailto:mawlecarmel@gmail.com)> Date: 10/18/2023 8:41 PM MDT  
Subject: For 10/19/2023 CLVFD Board Meeting

Hello -

My name is Kellie Sponberg and my husband Steve and I own Lots 51, 52 and 53 in Filing 15. I am also the Lead for the Crystal Lakes CWPP Implementation Team. It has been brought to my attention that there is to be discussion at the October 19, 2023 CLVFD Board meeting concerning Evan Rau and his role as Chief. Unfortunately I will be out of the country and can't attend this meeting in person, but wish to have my thoughts around this issue expressed to the Board and the community. I've asked Carmel Mawle to read my statement into the record. Thank you.

"Evan Rau is a strong, steady and visionary leader. I've worked closely with him in all my roles as an advocate for community wildfire adaptation and I look to him for thoughtful analysis and long-term vision. I also appreciate his insight as to how Crystal Lakes fits into the policies and landscapes of the ever-changing Northern Colorado mountains.

I know I'm not alone in admiring Evan's strengths. Both of us were on the team that helped write our new CWPP and I've seen the respect shown to him by county, state and federal partners as well as the non-profits we work with. He does his homework and his opinions are welcomed, whether it's providing crucial input to the USFS or helping the Greenbelt Management Committee zero in on the grant-winning location for the Hidden Park staging area. His comments are always insightful and well thought out and move the conversation and the project forward.

Evan is prepared for our discussions and his intelligent observations show his knowledge of the current science around fire mitigation. His input is invaluable to us as we begin implementing the CWPP. He helped write the document and understands what needs to be accomplished to keep our goals on track and our community safe. Implementing the recommendations in the community-approved CWPP will be a challenging, long-term task. It will involve working closely with the CLFPD and having a stable, informed leader like Evan at the helm will make it so much easier.

I admire Evan for his ability to stay above the fray and focus on moving the work along. He doesn't get caught up in the politics, gossip and roadblocking that can occur in community groups and this ability to listen to everyone but not lose his balance makes him a consistent source of professionalism and stability in our community. Partners outside Crystal Lakes also appreciate him for these qualities as it makes him a reliable source to work with. He behaves to a higher standard and is trusted and respected for it. This behavior lends credibility to our community as we work with neighboring communities and agencies.

The role of a volunteer fire department located in the WUI has evolved rapidly over the last few years. The levels of training, competency and strategy necessary to serve a community constantly threatened by wildfire have risen dramatically and the CLVFD has managed to keep pace with these needs. As a community member and an engaged volunteer, I'm incredibly grateful for these dedicated volunteers and the example Evan Rau sets as their Chief".

Thank you.

Kellie

