



To: Board of Directors
From: Ed Miller, President of the Board
Date: June 17, 2019
Subject: Examination of Alternative Governance Models Between Meeks Bay Fire and North Tahoe Fire

Colleagues, over the past month I have been conducting an “informal, non-scientific” survey of residents (property owners and renters), voters, and others in our community regarding the relationship between Meeks Bay Fire and North Tahoe Fire. The overwhelming results show that most people responding have not only not seen, received, or heard of the survey sent out by ESCI, most that I have spoken to or heard from have absolutely no knowledge about any changes being discussed by Directors and staff of either District. (See Facebook responses attached).

As Skip Thomas points out in his letter of June 4th (attached) this process appears to be far more “staff driven”, than “Board driven”.

I see this as being a reversal of the governance procedure whereas the legislative body makes policy, and staff carries it out.

In addition, having what amounts to a somewhat “fragmented” Board with two more Directors about to resign/retire, and replacements having no experience or adequate time to educate themselves on the issue, it’s history, and its ramifications, let alone public sentiment, any decision regarding the destiny of Meeks Bay Fire in the upcoming months would be irresponsible.

The responsibility of Meeks Bay Fire Directors is to do the business of representing our constituents. The “end product” we supply is Fire Prevention & Suppression, and Emergency Medical Services. The ESCI study shows that we are providing those services, and I see no reason to rush into a decision that is the most impactful of any decision made in the history of our District, without full disclosure to the people who originally formed the District, and have been so supportive over the decades. The level of service we are currently providing will not change by accelerating any action.

Despite any public process prescribed by law, we owe far more to our constituents.

In addition, it should be pointed out, especially to new Directors, that the clause in the contract between MBF and NTF that says (paraphrasing) that “after two years alternative governance models will be explored”, was not interpreted by Meeks Bay Directors to be a mandate or pathway to consolidation. Rather it was seen as, “let’s see how this works, and if we don’t like it, we can revert to hiring a Chief, rather than continuing the contract”.



After countless hours of consideration , I am calling for a “motion from the floor”, or lacking that, making a motion that:

All actions with LAFCO and/or other external government agencies be immediately ceased until after the following:

- Presentations be made at all upcoming homeowners/property owners meetings regarding any changes in Meeks Bay Fire Protection District as their Emergency Service Provider.
- A series of public meetings be highly publicized and held over upcoming months.
- A specific survey be developed by Meeks Bay Fire Board regarding any changes to be made in the governance of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District.
- The aforementioned survey be sent out to everyone residing in, voting in, or owning property in the District, rather than a “sample percentage”.

End of Motion

04 June 2019

Ed Miller, President
Meeks Bay Fire Protection District Board of Directors

Dear Ed,

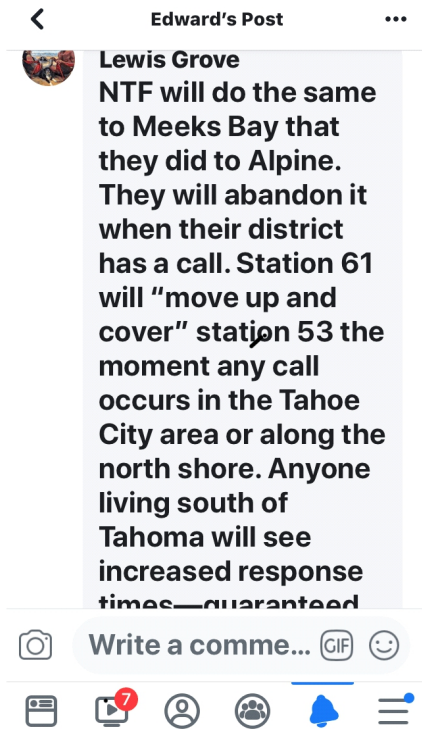
I have attended the past three meetings of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (MBFPD) Board of Directors. The first of those meetings was at the joint meeting with North Tahoe Fire, where a presentation was given by ESCI (consultants) regarding, among other things, a survey querying the constituents, voters, residents and tax payers of MBFPD as to their opinion regarding the consolidation, merging, and/or combining of those two fire districts.

During the weeks from then to now I have observed that the push for consolidation, merging, and/or combining of the two fire districts appears to be more staff driven, rather than board or constituent driven. Further, I have chatted with several of my neighbors in the Rubicon area on this topic, and none of them are even vaguely aware of the proposed change of status as regards MBFPD. Therefore it is my opinion that the survey is invalid as it did not appear to have reached a wide and wholly representative number of the constituents, voters, residents and tax payers of MBFPD.

Although my chatting up the neighbors could not be described as a proper survey, it seems likely that the overwhelming majority of the constituents, voters, residents and tax payers of the MBFPD haven't a clue of the proposed changes to the status of the district.

As a former volunteer firefighter, president of the firefighters association, member of the MBFPD Board of Directors, and current taxpayer, voter and constituent of MBFPD it seems only appropriate that there should be a full disclosure and dissemination of information of this proposed change, followed by a survey of all, repeat ALL constituents, voters, residents and tax payers of MBFPD regarding any proposed changes to the status of their fire protection district.

Skip Thomas
aka Dwight Thomas



Edward Miller, President
Meeks Bay
Fire Protection District
Lake Tahoe, California
530-412-1066

Begin forwarded message:

From: gay@thomas.net
Date: June 10, 2019 at 7:11:29 PM PDT
To: emiller@meeksbayfire.com
Subject: Survey

Hi Ed,

I did not get a survey nor did any of my neighbors. It seems that something as important as consolidation should be communicated to all of the El Dorado County residents involved.

Thanks!

Gay Thomas

Begin forwarded message:

From: E Hawkins <chaw00@gmail.com>
Date: June 10, 2019 at 9:41:58 PM PDT
To: emiller@meeksbayfire.com
Subject: no survey

Ed, I didn't receive a survey, though would have welcomed it.
Liz (NTFire)