

**Berry Creek Community Association  
Town Meeting  
February 23, 2008**

**Berry Creek School**

**9:00am**

Welcome-Roger Cutler, Chair of the Executive Council

**\*History: from MAC to BCCA**, PowerPoint slide show narrated by Dori Hamill:

We began the process to start organizing on March 17, 2007, held Elections for 5 council members on 7/14/2007, met with county administrators on 10/30/2007, decided to form a community association, and were recognized formally by the county supervisors by resolution on 12/15/2007.

**\*Review of our structure, Roger Cutler:** This Community Association is a vehicle to join our neighbors in research of issues and discussion of them, and then come forward with recommendations.

**\*Review of Standing Committees (see handout) and Call for Volunteers for each committee.**

Each committee has an Executive Council member who will serve as liaison between committee and Executive Council. The committee members will research issues relating to their committee. The information will then be brought to the Executive Council and disseminated to the Association members (anyone who lives or has property in the 95916 zip code is automatically a BCCA member) for discussion. No council member may serve as Chair of any Standing Committee. Members of the committee will choose a Chairperson themselves at the first meeting of the committee, as well as deciding when the committee will meet.

**\*Funding**

This Association is run entirely on voluntary donations and run by volunteer staff (the community members).

This Association has no power to levy taxes of any kind.

**\*501c3 Not for Profit status**

One of our goals is to apply for Non-Profit status. This would allow us to apply for grants, both public and private, for projects in Berry Creek, such as parks and a community center.

We are asking members of the community with any experience applying for 501c3 status, to please contact Roger Cutler at [rogercutler@juno.com](mailto:rogercutler@juno.com)

### **\*May Elections**

Our next BCCA election is May 10, 2008, 9am, Berry Creek School. We have adopted in our By-Laws that our BCCA elections will happen every May. That brings us to May 10 for 2 of our Executive Council seats that were a 1 year term. Roger Cutler, Current Chair, and Janice Wilson's seat will be up for election at that time. Any community members who would like to run for one of those seats needs to contact any of the Council members soon to get on the ballot.

As with the first election, we will be having absentee voting at the Berry Creek Post Office (waiting for permission) prior to the election or you can vote at the meeting on May 10.

### **\*Additional Comments from Council Members**

**Janice Wilson:** Expressed that Parks and Recreation are her passion and if it is also yours, to please consider joining the Parks and Recreation Standing Committee. It is important to get the non-profit status because recreation has a lot of grant opportunities, and recreation helps both our emotional and physical well-being.

**Loren Gill:** An alternative to burning is the free Chipper Program. The Citizen's Association is selling license plate holders for \$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00 as a fundraiser. The Berry Festival is going into its 10<sup>th</sup> year and will be holding its first meeting on February 29 at the Grange.

### **\*Community Questions**

**Lannie Dragon:** Q: Do we need both the Citizens Association and the Community Association? A: Loren answered: The Citizen's Association has met its first two goals and now its final goal is to preserve the history of Berry Creek. After the Fire Station moves to its new home up the road, we hope to acquire the Harts Mill building and run it as a Berry Creek museum.

**Bobbie Brown:** Q: How often will committees meet? A: It depends on the pressing issues of each committee, but each committee will decide how often to meet. The BCCA meets monthly and each committee might meet monthly or as needed.

### **Presentations and Questions**

**\*Supervisor Bill Connelly**

He expressed that he is proud of us in our efforts to organize. Grassroots efforts make his life easier when a community has consensus. Berry Creek is seen as a power when it comes to certain issues. A unified voice gets heard.

**\*Code Enforcement- Nick Hoekstra and Wendy, PowerPoint presentation with accompanying handouts.**

A slide presentation with examples of various code violations, such as junk in public, abandoned vehicles, camping limits, substandard housing and zoning regulations.

Code Enforcement complaints are first handled by the Building Dept. then makes its way to Code Enforcement.

Complaint forms are available at [www.buttecounty.net](http://www.buttecounty.net)

There have been 2 properties in Berry Creek that have been cleaned up by Code Enforcement recently.

Question from community member regarding a property at 2250 Bald Rock. To discuss after meeting, individually.

Bill Connelly brought up the issue of the illegal moving of substandard mobile homes into the county to dump or use.

Noise violations don't fall under Code Enforcement.

Firearms noise is judged by "reasonable behavior" of whether it is in proximity to neighbors, time of day, etc.

Noisy generators, contact [nhoekstra@buttecounty.net](mailto:nhoekstra@buttecounty.net)

**\*Mike Shorrock, Battalion Chief, CalFIRE**

Butte County has 35 Fire Stations. 22 of those are paid, the remaining ones are volunteers. Berry Creek has a combination of paid and volunteers.

Station 62 is paid and staffed 24/7.

Station 61 which is Berry Creek and Brush Creek are volunteer firefighters. These stations are solely run by donations from the community.

**\*Reed Rankin, Berry Creek Fire Company, Chief**

When asked why we sometimes see our water tender going towards Oroville, he answered that we have a reciprocal agreement with other stations when there is a need.

Other statistics for Berry Creek firefighters include:

**Responded to in 2007**

**102 medical aids**

**23 traffic accidents**  
**24 vegetative fires**  
**11 structure fires**  
**1 vehicle fire**  
**6 assists**  
**2 hazardous materials**  
**2 Search and Rescue**

**\*SNAP- Carrie Cotter, Fire Safe Council**

SNAP is a program where you register with the Dept of Emergency Services if you will be in need of help during an evacuation of your area. This applies to the elderly or disabled who have nobody else to help with getting evacuated from your home. A bright colored SNAP card is put in the window to alert emergency personnel to your presence. SNAP information packets can be obtained from the Fire Safe Council. The Fire Safe Council offers the Defensible Space Program where a trained volunteer will come to your house to show you how you can make the space around your house more safe in case of a fire.

**\*Comments from the community members:**

**Regarding code enforcement and our neighbors:** We should open our hearts to our neighbors and realize that poverty is an issue in a lot of these code violations. We should try to resolve issues with each other first before filing formal complaints.

**Regarding Fire Department:** It really makes me feel good to hear all that the Berry Creek Fire Departments do for us, and makes me appreciate what they do. Can we also publish these statistics on the website, [www.berrycreekca.org](http://www.berrycreekca.org) ?

**\*Other information**

**We have started to look into Berry Creek Road as a trail.** There has been conflicting information gathered so far as to its status as a county road. The Roads and Trails Committee will further research the matter and report back when they have an update.

**Harts Mill Fire Station 62 Update:** Possible move in to new fire station in the spring 2008...hopefully.

**Firefighter Will Cotter says that everyone needs to have bright, reflective house number signs at their driveway so that the Fire Department can find your house easily in the dark, in an emergency.** The Fire Dept has signs they will make for you for a \$15.00 donation. Also, if your street sign is missing or non-existent, please let the Berry Creek Fire Dept. know.

**Eileen, Berry Creek Pre-School reminds parents and grandparents that Monday eves there are free parenting classes** with dinner and childcare included for 2-8 years olds. Great opportunity and is on-going, so come join us next Monday evening at 5pm.

**Berry Creek has a new radio station, KRVS community radio.** A transmitter was installed on Bloomer Mt. Check it out soon, 95.9fm

**We also have 1250am radio for Berry Creek announcements.**

**Berry Creek Fire Station 61 is having an Easter breakfast fundraiser, March 23. Hope to see you there!**

**10:30am Meeting Adjourned**