



San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2020
0900-1100 hours**

**Meeting held via Zoom
due to no large gatherings order in place
by San Luis Obispo County**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Arnold – Co. Board of Supervisors	Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Tom Wright – Los Osos Focus Group
Bill Cochran – Cattlemen’s Association	Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry
Jeanie Hanson – ECO SLO	David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University	Steve Negro – First Supervisorial District
Turko Semmes – Building Industry	Tim Fuhs – Air Pollution Control Dist
Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	Justin Kephart – PG&E
Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Dan Dulitz – Fifth Supervisorial District	William Hollingsworth – County Fire Chiefs
Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group	Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large
Scott Jalbert – San Luis Obispo County Fire	Keith Aggson – City of San Luis Obispo
Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large	Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group
Richard Gonzales – Farm Bureau	Bill White – Fire Prevention Offcra Assoc
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc	

EX-OFICIO AND FOCUS GROUP REPRESENTATION:

Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek Focus Group

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner, Business Manager	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE
Jon Gee – CAL FIRE	Dennis Javens – SLO FSC Project Manager
Jim Neumann – SLO FSC Project Manager	Alan Peters – CAL FIRE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Arnold at 9:00 a.m. followed by introduction of directors, staff and guests.

MINUTES

July 2020 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented.
August 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented.

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It was moved, seconded and approved to approve the July 2020 Board of Directors meeting minutes and accept for review the August 2020 Executive Committee minutes as presented.

FIRE SITUATION 2020

Recent lightning storms have besieged the State with wildfires. At last count 4,200 structures have been lost. The fires have greatly impacted air quality, making California the worst air quality in the world several times in the last week.

Locally, SLO County has good coverage. The National Guard crew will complete training and be available for fuel reduction work through December 31, 2020. SLO FSC projects have proven to be invaluable during recent area fires. The fuel break and roadside clearance work we have done was instrumental in making the Pond Fire and the 3-2 Fire lay down.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Abbreviated bank statement ending August 30, 2020 was reviewed.
- 2020 SLO FSC Internal Operating budget was discussed.
- Year to date contractual expenditures chart was reviewed.

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the August 2020 Abbreviated Bank Statement and purchases along with the Operating Budget and contractual expenditures report for the same time period.

- Chief Casey Bryson will serve as the representative for the Atascadero Fire Safe Focus Group. This position was vacated by Tom Peterson accepting a position with Templeton Fire. Brandon Roberts will be Chief Bryson's alternate.

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the appointment of Fire Chief Casey Bryson to the San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council Board of Directors representing the Atascadero Fire Safe Focus Group.

- Direction was given to schedule a meeting with CAL FIRE, the Fair Board and SLO FSC to discuss their vision involving the Fire Safe House. If the Fair Board agrees to granting a new lease with CAL FIRE for the area where the Fire Safe House is currently located, it may be something a new manager could not change. President Debbie Arnold will facilitate the meeting and keep the board apprised.
- The SIM tables have arrived. One will be housed at the Training Center, one at Cal Poly and the portable unit will be used for public outreach. Train the Trainer will be held to ensure there are an adequate number of operators properly trained. An information flier along with sign up information for the training will be coming soon.

NEW BUSINESS / ROUNDTABLE

- Biogel roadside treatment progression has stalled between Cal Trans and the Water Quality board. President Arnold recommended Jordan Cunningham's office reach out and question the current hurdle.
- Royce Larsen informed the group of a Zoom webinar being held September 29 at 1600 hours. The subject of the discussion will be on grazing and reducing fire risk. Contact Royce for more information.

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- Paso Robles Fire Department has been awarded a FEMA grant to purchase a fire safety trailer. The cost of the trailer is \$102,000 with 5% matching by SLO FSC (\$5,102).
- Turko Semmes has been approached by local landscapers inquiring about what type of mulch is fire resistant. Chief Peters responded with, "there is none". He also informed the group that Public Resource Code 4291 is being reviewed for possible revision to mandate no combustible materials being used within 5 feet of a structure.

GRANT TIMELINE AND REPORTS

Current grant total being administered by SLO County Fire Safe Council \$ 7,101,667

CCI FIRE PREVENTION FEE GRANTS

Countywide Tree Mortality	\$833,868 award, \$648,262 expended
Parkhill-Huer Huero WUI Project	\$505,848 award, \$346,674 expended
Nacimiento-Adelaide WUI Project	\$775,620 award, \$775,944 expended
Monterey Pine Mortality	\$1,816,304 award, \$850,497 expended
Countywide Fuel Reduction	\$972,606 award, \$640,054 expended
Countywide Haz Fuel Reduction	\$1,888,395 award, \$506,154 expended
Fire Prevention Planning – CWPP*	\$ 221,026 award, \$0 expended
PG&E – Cambria-Village Lane/Tin City**	

* The Fire Prevention Planning – CWPP grant has encountered a hurdle with CEQA issues.

** The PG&E grant is under review with County Planning Department. President Debbie Arnold will research the matter.

Action Taken: Reviewed grant awards and projects associated with each.

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- FEMA – Assistance to Firefighters Fire Prevention Grant
 - Partner with Cal Poly's WUI Fire Institute/Fire Protection Engineer program
 - Augment the CWPP projects with in-depth parcel level analysis
 - Application submitted May 29, 2020 – awaiting response
- CCI Summer-Fall 2020 (tentative)
 - It was announced that there will be no Covid19 impact on existing grants but possibly on new grants
 - Atascadero and Paso Robles will compile a list of projects
 - Russ Johnson and Dennis Javens request to be included in next Grant Committee meeting
 - Potential projects identified to date:
 - Camatta Ranch VMP
 - Toro Crk to Santa Rita Crk Rd to Santa Lucia Rd access and fuel break
 - Cal Poly/Mioosi Ranch Hazard Fuel Reduction
 - Pecho Valley Road/Montana de Oro State Park-roadside clearance
 - Pismo Beach-Price Cyn/Rancho Pismo
 - Irish Hills Open Space fuel reduction
 - Cypress Mountain Road
 - Camp Natoma fuel reduction

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- Webster VMP Phase 2
- Parkhill-Huer Huero Phase 2
- Salinas River bed – west side (Scott Hallett recommended on 7/15/20)
- Hi Mountain Road/Ranchita Estates fuel reduction
- Rocky Butte to Cypress Mountain Ridge
- Mt. Lowe-East Cuesta Ridge
- Davis Peak-Coon Creek fuel break

Action Taken: Reviewed grant proposals and recommended grant committee convene and prioritize projects and identify scope. Recommended to convene before November 1, 2020.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, October 21, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Location: Probability of Zoom Meeting unless group gathering restrictions relaxed

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, November 18, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Location: Probability of Zoom Meeting unless group gathering restrictions relaxed

ADJOURNMENT

President Debbie Arnold adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary