



# San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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 – Citizen at Large
John Owens – San Luis Obispo County Fire	Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry
Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District	David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group
Dan Dulitz – Fifth Supervisorial District	Steve Negro – First Supervisorial District
Turko Semmes – Building Industry	Anais Turner – Air Pollution Control Dist
Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	Justin Kephart – PG&E
Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group	Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large
Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group	William Hollingsworth – County Fire Chiefs
Randy Harris – Fire Prevention Officers Assoc	Casey Bryson – Atascadero FD Focus Group
Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large	Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Jeanie Hanson – ECO SLO	Keith Aggson – City of San Luis Obispo
Richard Gonzales – Farm Bureau	Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen’s Association
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc	

### EX-OFICIO AND FOCUS GROUP REPRESENTATION:

Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek Focus Group	Chip Laugharn – Los Padres Forest
Mike Anderson – CCC	Tony Martinez – Los Padres Forest

### STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner, Business Manager	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE
Jon Gee – CAL FIRE	Dennis Javens – SLO FSC Project Manager
Dane Mumford – SLO FSC Project Manager	Jason Potts – CAL FIRE
Greg Alex – Web Designer	

### GUESTS:

Adan Orozco – CAL FIRE	Devin Best – Resource Conservation District
Matt Graybeal – SLO County Farm Bureau	Clint Weirick – Senator Laird’s Office
Peter Stephenson – Los Padres Forest	Anthony Stornetta – County of Santa Barbara
Dave Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group	Natalie Lee – SLO Mow
Andrew Johnson – Resource Conservation	David Perry – PG&E

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **MINUTES**

January 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented.

February 2021 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented.

**It was moved, seconded and approved to approve the January 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes and accept for review the February 2021 Executive Committee minutes as presented.**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Ranch ID System – Chief Anthony Stornetta with Santa Barbara County has been instrumental in developing a ranch identification system. The program was designed for properties larger than 40 acres that are commercial producers. During fires it allows ranchers access to their livestock when the property and route are deemed safe and accessible. Major factors contributing to the success of the program include trust and collaboration. Wildfire entrapment and safety guideline training (four hours) will be given before an identification card is issued. The SLO County Farm Bureau is a strong proponent of the program.

The Prescribed Fire Burn Boss course is in its final stages of approval. One San Luis Obispo County Battalion Chief is close to completing his training. The course requires 80 hours of prerequisites and is 40 hours in length. Chief Stornetta is hoping to have a class in San Luis Obispo County Fall 2021.

Clint Weirick from Senator Laird's office offered a summary of current legislation being reviewed:

- SB 456 sponsored by Laird: Fire prevention: long-term forest management 5-10 year plan
- SB 322 sponsored by Laird: Grazing Land: CA Conservation Ranching Incentive Program
- SB 332 sponsored by Dodd: Civil liability: prescribed burning operations
- SB 55 sponsored by Stern: Building in SRA or V High FHSZ building prohibition
- AB 981 sponsored by Frazier: California Fire Safe Council: State agency vs. Non-profit
- SB 506 sponsored by Jones: CEQA: GH Gas Reduction Fund: vegetation management projects

### **FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- Chief Eddy Moore is the new unit chief for the San Luis Obispo unit of CAL FIRE / San Luis Obispo County Fire. He will fill the board of director's seat vacated by Scott Jalbert. Division Chief John Owens will be Chief Moore's alternate.

**It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the appointment of Fire Chief Eddy Moore to the San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council Board of Directors representing the San Luis Obispo County Fire Department and Division Chief John Owens as his alternate.**

- Discussion was had regarding offering a Board of Director's seat to the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District. Items noted in the discussion included the group is a non-regulatory agency and they have working relationships with many farmers and ranchers in the County who may consider having hazardous fuel reduction done on their properties. Andrew Johnson would represent the group with Devin Best as his alternate.

**It was moved, seconded and approved to agendaize this subject on next month's Executive Committee meeting agenda and, if approved, bring to full board vote in May 2021 meeting.**

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- Abbreviated bank statement ending February 28, 2021 was reviewed.
- Contractual expenditure report ending February 28, 2021 was discussed.
- SLO FSC Operations account report was presented.

**It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the February 2021 Abbreviated Bank Statement and purchases along with the Operating Budget and contractual expenditures report for the same time period.**

### **NEW BUSINESS / ROUNDTABLE**

- Cabrillo Heights in Los Osos has been named a Firewise Community. Kudos to Ken Delfino for all his hard work.
- Martin Scott spoke of the ongoing work by the CCC in Ranchita Estates. A prescribed burn was held last week and chipping is scheduled for next week.
- Chief John Owens reported that CAL FIRE is short 150 hand crews statewide. Sixteen crews are being assembled with Fire Fighter I's to fill in at fire camps.
- Tony Martinez updated the group on US Forest Service activities. The ranger offices are still closed but are hoping things will be back to normal before long. Planning prescribed burns for the Pozo station, Hi Mountain campground and La Panza campground.
- Website update has been completed by Greg Alex. Please review and send any comments and/or corrections to Greg's email.

### **LOCAL GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

It was discussed and decided that a budget of \$55,000 would be made available to start the program. Ed Waage and Dan Dulitz will have a proposal prepared for the April Executive Committee meeting.

### **MID STATE FAIR**

The contract presented to CAL FIRE / San Luis Obispo County Fire is being reviewed by CAL FIRE. Signing of the contract is expected to be done by March 30. The Fair Board is anticipating the fair will be held this year with 25% occupancy which equates to 11,000 people. Turko Semmes is project manager and has enlisted the help of Adan Orozco (CAL FIRE), Jon Gee (CAL FIRE) and Stacy Korsgaden (Insurance Industry).

### **ACTIVE GRANT FISCAL SUMMARY**

The active grant summary was reviewed. Four grants are complete with just the paperwork remaining to close them out. Those grants are:

- Parkhill-Huer Huero
- 17-18 Countywide HFR
- Lake Nacimiento
- 18-19 Countywide HFR

**It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Active Grant Summary report for February 2021.**

### **NEW GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Grants submitted, awaiting determination by grantors:

- Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
  - Cal Poly-Miozzi WUI Project – denial probable, told no grants awarded in California

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- 2021 PG&E HFR
  - \$100,000 grant limit
  - Four projects submitted based on grant committee recommendations
    1. Avila Valley: San Luis Bay Estates / Pippin Lane \$100,000
    2. Toro Creek – El Monte Road access/egress \$ 75,000
    3. Pismo Heights \$ 94,000
    4. Montano De Oro / Pecho Valley Road access/egress \$ 96,000

### **FUTURE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

- California Wildfire and Forest resilience action plan
  - Potential for \$50 million in fire prevention grant funds immediately
  - Potential for additional \$80 million in fire prevention grant funds after July 2021
  - Application period open now through May 19, 2021
    - Grant application strategy
      - Planning grants \$1,035,000
      - Education grants \$ 213,500
      - Fuel treatment grants \$4,115,000
        - Priority 1 and 2 requests total \$1,875,000
        - Priority 3 requests total \$2,240,000
- Grant committee project list
  - Add Zonehaven evacuation management platform, Fire Chief's Association request
  - Increase funding to Hi Mountain Road project

**It was moved, seconded and approved to move forward with grant applications. Dan Turner, Business Manager, given approval to submit the appropriate number of applications for the Fuel Treatment grants based on his discretion and to make additions to grant committee project list with Zonehaven and Hi Mountain Road projects as noted. \*Note: President Debbie Arnold abstained from voting**

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

#### Executive Committee Meeting

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

#### Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, May 19, 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 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Loree McRoberts*

Recording Secretary