



San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 15, 2021 0900-1100 hours

Meeting held via Zoom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Arnold – Co. Board of Supervisors	Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension
Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group	Emily Miggins – Los Osos Focus Group
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University	David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group
Dan Dulitz – Fifth Supervisorial District	Bill Cochran – Cattlemen’s Association
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc	Carissa Reynolds – Air Pollution Control Dist
Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large	Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large
Rodger Maggio – City of San Luis Obispo	Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large
Jeanie Hanson – ECO SLO	William Hollingsworth – County Fire Chiefs
Matthew Graybeal – Farm Bureau	Andrew Johnson – Resource Cnsrvtn Dist
Brandon Roberts–Atascadero FD Focus Group	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Turko Semmes – Building Industry	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Keith Aggson – City of San Luis Obispo	David Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group
Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry	Steve Negro – First Supervisorial District
Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group	Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District
Randy Harris – Fire Prevention Officers Assoc	Eddy Moore – San Luis Obispo County Fire
Greg Saenz – Pacific Gas and Electric	Tom Wright – Citizen at Large

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rob Thibault – USFS Los Padres

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner, Business Manager	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE
Jon Gee – CAL FIRE	Denny O’Neil – CAL FIRE
Greg Alex – SLO FSC Webmaster	Jason Potts – CAL FIRE

GUESTS:

Steve Auten – ARC	Riley McFarland - ARC
Sam Ericksen – Scholarship Recipient	Gabe Matsuura – Scholarship Recipient
Elizabeth Luck – Scholarship Recipient	Adriana Stagnaro – Scholarship Recipient
Grant Johnson – San Luis Coastal RCD	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Arnold at 9:05 a.m. followed by introduction of directors, staff, focus groups and guests.

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MINUTES

July 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented.

August 2021 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented.

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

NEW BUSINESS / ROUNDTABLE

- David Pierson, Cambria Focus Group, announced a Cambria Community Meeting on October 9 featuring the California Insurance Commissioner as keynote speaker.

PRESENTATIONS

- The Living with Fire brochure SLO FSC created needs updating to add the new structural hardening legislation and information that is being presented to the public. Loree McRoberts has volunteered to organize the material and meet with the designer and printer. Scott Hallett, Brandon Roberts, Greg Alex, and Carissa Reynolds will review the rough draft before it is released to the Board for review.
- The Upper Salinas Las Tablas RCD is moving the Covell Ranch project forward. They have a scheduled meeting September 16, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. (Zoom link available on their website). They welcome public comment both for and against the project. If approved the project moves to the Coastal Commission's October meeting. Work can start in November with proper approval unless we experience rain, then it would start in the Spring. Without the RCD's help this project could not continue.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Abbreviated bank statement ending August 30, 2021, was reviewed.
- Contractual expenditure report ending August 30, 2021, was discussed.
- SLO FSC Operations account report was presented.
- Grant financial summary was presented.
- Active grants project status was presented.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the August 2021 Abbreviated Bank Statement and purchases along with the Operating Budget, contractual expenditures, grant summary and active grants status report for the same period.

LOCAL GRANT / SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our scholarship program has received 5 applications. The committee made recommendations to grant 4 scholarships at \$2,000 each. The declined application was for a biology major whose course of study and career plans did not align with our mission. The scholarships were awarded to:

1. Adriana Stagnaro – Cal Poly Graduate
2. Elizabeth Luck – Cal Poly Graduate
3. Samuel Ericksen – Cal Poly Undergraduate
4. Gabriel Matsuura – Allan Hancock Fire Academy

All recipients were appreciative of their awards and expressed interest in working with SLO FSC in the future.

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Grant applications were received for:

1. City of Atascadero is requesting \$13,582.62 to fund a defensible space consultation program. This would entail fire personnel conducting residential inspections informing homeowners/residents on actions they can take to better prepare their homes and properties for wildfire.
2. Cambria is asking for \$25,000 to contract with Cal Poly professor Dr. Nuworsoo to model 5 evacuation scenarios.

Direction was given to convene the Grant Committee and investigate if these projects can be accommodated through an existing grant. Also please note the request from Cambria was made prior to Zone Haven being approved in a recent grant application.

MID STATE FAIR

An agenda item was made to provide a 2021 after action report on the Mid State Fair and plans for the 2022 Fair. Turko Semmes was unable to attend this meeting and has asked the agenda item be vacated until his return.

NEW GRANT APPLICATIONS

Approved grant applications:

- SLO County Evacuation Planning (SLU-055)
 - Award = \$385,179
 - Fiscal sponsor for SLO County Fire Chiefs
 - 3-year support
 - Grant expires 2024
- SLO County Hazard Fuel Reduction (SLU-056)
 - Award = \$2,325,251
 - Grant expires 2025
- SLO County Forest Health (SLU-057)
 - Award = \$2,412,713
 - Grant expires 2025

Declined grant applications:

- SLO County Community Outreach (SLU-054) for \$193,984

Grant applications awaiting determination:

California Fire Safe Council Grant applications:

- PG&E Wildfire Ready and Resilience grant
 - Award \$100,000 to 5 counties in the PG&E service area
 - Grant expires 12/31/22
 - Grant focuses on coordination of volunteer groups and local agencies
- 2021 CAL FIRE County Coordinators grant:
 - Award is \$175,000 for 18 months
 - 24 counties throughout State will be awarded
 - Grant focuses on assisting counties with wildfire mitigation outreach and coordination

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Upcoming grants:

- CA Climate Investment grants
 - New legislation 2021-22 budget adjustment
 - SB 170 Budget Trailer Bill changes allocations
 - Wildfire Prevention and Resilience Package
 - \$988 million (\$730 million General Fund and \$230 million GGRF)
 - \$541 million – resilient forests and landscapes
 - \$282 million – wildfire fuel breaks
 - \$20 million – community hardening
 - \$49 million – science-based management
 - \$51 million – forestry sector economic stimulus
 - \$20 million – prescribed fire liability insurance fund
 - \$10 million – interagency forest data hub
 - \$14 million – contract counties fuel crews

GOOD OF THE ORDER

President Debbie Arnold shared that a PG&E representative attended the most recent BOS meeting and talked about the increase in power outages. The sensitivity monitor on the power lines has been increased causing the lines to shut down when they sense a potential hazard. Once the line has shut down, it cannot be returned to service until a thorough exam of all lines coordinating with the shutdown line have been verified as good. Things like bird strikes and tree limbs can cause these outages. Much of the inspection is done by helicopter and factors like darkness and fog factor into restoration time.

ITEM FOR NEXT AGENDA

Skip Dyke, Range Improvement Association, would like to discuss hazardous fuel reduction in the Huasna Road area.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, October 20, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: Probable Zoom

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, November 17, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Location: Probable Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary