



# San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023  
0900-1130 hours**

**Meeting held at San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall with Zoom**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Debbie Arnold – County BOS                | Matt Mohle – SLO County Parks                 |
| Ed Waage – Citizen at Large               | Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group          |
| James Blattler – City of SLO Focus Group  | Tom Wright – Citizen at Large                 |
| Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension   | Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District   |
| David Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group | David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group           |
| Dan Dulitz – Fifth Supervisorial District | Steve Negro – First Supervisorial District    |
| Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc       | Turko Semmes – Building Industry              |
| Greg Saenz – PG&E                         | Carissa Zaragoza – Air Pollution Control Dist |
| Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large          | Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University       |
| Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large             | John Owens - San Luis Obispo County Fire      |
| Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry      | Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen’s Association       |
| Spencer Gordon – RCD                      | Emily Miggins – Los Osos Focus Group          |
| Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large            | Dan Ponti – Farm Bureau                       |
| Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group   |   |

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Tom Peterson – County Fire Chiefs       | Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group |
| Dena Paschke – Fire Prev Officers Assoc | Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District  |

## **FOCUS GROUP and EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek Focus Group | Brandon Roberts–Atascadero FD Focus Group |
|---|---|

## **STAFF PRESENT:**

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Dan Turner – Executive Director        | Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE    |
| Dane Mumford – FSC Project Coordinator | Jon Gee – CAL FIRE            |
| Jim Neumann – FSC Project Coordinator  | Greg Alex – SLO FSC Webmaster |
| Nate Herring – FSC Project Coordinator |                               |

## **GUESTS:**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Morgan Partridge – CAL FIRE        | Clint Weirick – Senator Laird’s Office |
| Ken Delfino – Los Osos             | Eric Cleveland – VMP Inc.              |
| Toni Davis – CAL FIRE              | Hayley Barnes – Coastal RCD            |
| Robert Lewin – Resolute Associates | Hallie Richard – RCD                   |
| Natalie Lee – SLO Mow              | Susie Johnson – Lake Nacimiento        |
| Louis Ermigarat – CAL FIRE         | Oscar Villanueva – CAL FIRE            |
| Dell Wells – CAL FIRE              | Manny Higuera – CAL FIRE               |
| Kevin McLean – CAL FIRE            | Dennis Byrnes – CAL FIRE               |

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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 and guests.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- November 2022 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented for approval.
- December 2022 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented for review.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the November 2022 Board of Directors meeting minutes and accept for review the December 2022 Executive Committee minutes as presented: Waage Second: Neumann**

### FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS

#### 2022 Year End Summary

- SLO FSC Operations Account Summary was presented.
- 2022 Contract Summary was presented.
- Abbreviated Bank Statement ending December 31, 2022 was presented.
- 2022 Active Grant Financial Summary was presented.
- 2022 Active Grant/Contract Project Status was presented.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the 2022 Year End Summary Financial reports as presented: Waage Second: Semmes**

#### 2023 Elections for Board of Directors

- Changes made to existing Board of Directors list:
  - Jeannie Hansen resigned her Board position, no replacement named by ECO SLO.
  - Emily Miggins resigned her Board position, Tom Wright assumed position which vacated his Citizen at Large seat.
  - David Van Son replaced Casey Bryson as representative for Atascadero Fire Department Focus Group.
  - Dan Ponti replaced Brent Burchett as representative for Farm Bureau.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to affirm the listing of Board of Directors with the adjustments noted: Dicus Second: Waage**

- A motion was made to elect Matt Mohle, San Luis Obispo County Parks, to occupy a new Board seat.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the appointment of Matt Mohle, representing San Luis Obispo County Parks, to the SLO FSC Board of Directors as a new position: Waage Second: Semmes**

- A motion was made to elect Hayley Barnes, Coastal SLO RCD, to fill the Board seat vacated by Tom Wright (Citizen at Large).

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the appointment of Hayley Barnes, representing Coastal SLO RCD, to the SLO FSC Board of Directors vacant seat of Citizen at Large: Pierson Second: Negro**

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### 2023 Elections for Officers and Executive Committee Members

- Steve Negro resigned his position of Secretary; Stacy Korsgaden accepted the position.
- Remaining members all requested to stay in position with no opposition.
  - Debbie Arnold, President
  - Dan Dulitz, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
  - Ed Waage, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
  - Bob Neumann, Treasurer
  - Royce Larsen Director at Large
- A motion was made to accept the slate of nominees and incumbents as presented.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to affirm the listing of Officers and Executive Committee Members as presented: Dicus Second: Semmes**

### Ex-Officio Members and SLO FSC Staff

- Tony Martinez, representing Los Padres National Forest, was removed from the list due to an employment transfer. No replacement has been assigned yet.
- Hayley Barnes, representing Coastal SLO RCD, was removed from the list due to being elected as a Citizen at Large on the Board of Directors.
- Matt Mohle, representing SLO County Parks, was removed from the list due to being elected as a member of the Board of Directors.
- A motion was made to accept the slate of ex-officio members and SLO FSC Staff with the noted corrections as presented.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to affirm the listing of Ex-Officio Members and SLO FSC Staff, with noted changes, as presented: Waage Second: Zaragoza**

### Meeting Calendar

- The third Wednesday of each month is designated as a meeting day. Odd months are for the Board of Director's meetings and even months are for the Executive Committee. Exceptions to this are made on occasion when conflicts arise, or a quorum cannot be reached.
- A motion was made to accept the third Wednesday of each month as meeting dates.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the meeting dates as the third Wednesday of the month: Semmes Second: R. Johnson**

### Operations and Scholarship Budget

- It is recommended that our working capital retention be increased to \$800,000 to stay current with vendor payments while awaiting late grant payments.
- The 2023 Operations budget is proposed at \$114,820.
- Our scholarship and local grants fund is proposed to be \$60,000 for 2023.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the proposed changes to the Operations and Scholarship budgets as presented: Waage Second: Dicus**

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Battalion Chief David Van Son and Captain Brandon Roberts from Atascadero Fire presented the findings and results of their structural protection consulting project. They were awarded a local grant by SLO FSC to launch the program in 2022. Residents quickly filled the available appointments and responded well to the recommendations they were given. There is a plan to follow up to those individuals who were

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met with last year. Atascadero Fire would like to expand the project in 2023 and collaborate with Cal Poly WUI Fire institute on land use planning in WUI areas and parcel level risk assessment. A request for additional funding was made.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to continue funding of the structural protection consulting project offered by the City of Atascadero's Fire Department up to \$20,000: Jones Second: R. Johnson**

Turko Semmes presented a Mid-State Fair project update. Currently looking at finding a company that could perform regular maintenance to the landscaping that was installed last year. Looking at the possibility of adding a few more tables with umbrellas to offer shade to those visiting the display.

### **ROUNDTABLE**

The following focus group reports were given:

- Cambria
  - Still working with Cambria schools to promote fire prevention with a poster contest. Winners would have their posters displayed in the Fire Safe message boards.
  - Outreach to Hispanic Community meeting soon.
    - FiSci, The Fire Safety Fox and Friends has been translated into Spanish.
- Los Osos
  - Hoping more people will become involved with group.
- Toro Creek
  - Evacuation route is making progress.
  - Handbook for focus groups in progress.
- Lake Nacimiento
  - Requested FireSafe signs for Running Deer Road
    - Approval given to purchase from local vendor, Sign Here.
- City of San Luis Obispo
  - 140 cubic yards of fuel was removed from the East fork of South Higuera.

### **NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

#### CAL FIRE CCI Grants – Wildfire Prevention Grants

- Education, Planning and Fuel Treatment project funding
- Grant period opened December 22, closes March 2023
  - Large grants preferred
- Funding available Fall 2023 with work performed through March 2029
- Grants Committee needs to convene soon; applications due March 15. The following people volunteered to be on the grant committee:

- Russ Johnson
- James Blattler
- Bob Neumann
- Dan Dulitz
- Martin Scott

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### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Covell project tour in May

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

#### Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, February 15, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: TBD

#### Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, March 15, 2023
- Location: TBD

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Debbie Arnold adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. and invited everyone to join in a bbq lunch provided by SLO FSC and prepared by the SLO Fire Safe Burners.

Respectfully submitted,

*Loree McRoberts*

Recording Secretary