



San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 20, 2023 0900-1045 hours

Meeting held at South Bay Training Center with Zoom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Arnold – County BOS	Dan Dulitz – Fifth Supervisorial District
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University	Ruben Brand – PG&E
Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen’s Association	Jose Torres – Los Osos Focus Group
Spencer Gordon – USLTRCD	David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group
Dan Ponti – Farm Bureau	Dena Paschke – Fire Prev Officers Assoc
Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry	Jim Sasules – First Supervisorial District
Tom Peterson – County Fire Chiefs	Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group
Rodger Maggio – City of SLO Focus Group	Matt Mohle – SLO County Parks
David Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group	John Owens – San Luis Obispo County Fire
Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large	Karl Tupper – Air Pollution Control Dist

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large	Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc
Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large	Turko Semmes – Building Industry
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group
Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group	Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District
Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Hayley Barnes – Citizen at Large	

FOCUS GROUP and EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek Focus Group

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner – Executive Director	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE
Jon Gee – CAL FIRE	Greg Alex – SLO FSC Webmaster

GUESTS:

Zach Cipriano – CAL FIRE	Tom Swanson – CAL FIRE
Luke Bourgault – CAL FIRE	Brent Burchett – Farm Bureau
Scotty Jalbert – County of SLO OES	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dan Dulitz at 9:00 a.m. followed by introduction of directors, staff, focus groups and guests.

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CONSENT AGENDA

- July 2023 meeting minutes of the Board of Directors were presented for approval.
- August 2023 Executive Committee minutes were presented for review.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the minutes from the July 2023 Board of Directors meeting and accept the August 2023 Executive Committee meeting minutes for review: Scott Second: Korsgaden

PRESENTATIONS

Dan Ponti, Farm Bureau Representative, and Brent Burchett spoke on SB 505. This bill was to amend Section 10085 of the Insurance Code relating to property insurance for farmers. It allowed qualifying policies under the FAIR plan to move back into the private marketplace. The bill was signed into legislation by Governor Newsom.

Stacy Korsgaden reported that Farmers Insurance limited new residential policies to be issued in the state to 7,000. That quota was filled in 5 days. More companies have left the California market.

ROUNDTABLE

- Focus Groups and Organizations provided updates as follows:
 - Huasna Townhall
 - Meeting had 100 people in attendance at the Lewis barn
 - Jason Potts discussed defensible space
 - Jon Gee and Zach Cipriano talked about the upcoming prescribed burn
 - Nate Herring demonstrated the SIM Table
 - County Parks and Recreation
 - Lopez Lake and Santa Margarita Lake have hazardous fuel reduction coming up
 - Los Osos Focus Group
 - Met with Community Services District Director, Ron Munds, regarding weed ordinance
 - Working on getting citizens motivated
 - City of SLO
 - Cleaning up the creek bed near Los Osos Valley Road
 - Cambria Focus Group
 - Second evacuation route out of Lodge Hill being explored
 - Focus Group meetings have changed to the 4th Wednesday of the month
 - Atascadero Fire
 - Consultation program continuing, positive results being seen
 - Beginning phases of scorecard for CWPP and all other plans
 - Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
 - Working on Rancho Marino Reserve fuel break – 17 acres
 - Currently working on two programs:

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- Writing forest management plans for property owners of 20 acres and up who have forest lands on their parcels
 - No cost to property owner
- Sustainable land initiative
 - Open to small farmers, no minimum acreage
 - Soil conservation/sustainability
- Fire Prevention Officers Association
 - Revisiting weed abatement
 - Exploring riverbed issues in multi jurisdictions
 - Obtained new contact with Cal Trans for corridor work, good working relationship so far
- Toro Creek
 - Working on second evacuation route
 - 20" gas line thru area identified as hazard
- Ranchita Estates Focus Group
 - Two more days of chipping completed
 - \$4,300 spent on dozer work for fuel breaks and engine access
- PG&E
 - Identifying and mitigating potential problems in York Mountain and Shadow Canyon
- CAL FIRE / SLU
 - Fall burning starts September 25 at La Panza Ranch
 - Pismo Beach VMP coming up
 - Long Canyon burn in October
 - Parkhill will have 1,000 acres of crushing done
 - Dunn Canyon HFR

FOCUS GROUP GUIDEBOOK PROJECT UPDATE

- Baxter Boyington has finished work on the project. Hoping to have it ready to distribute at November Board meeting.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

- Review of liability insurance coverage – Dan Turner, Executive Director, will discuss with agent
- Researching retention of legal counsel for involved project contracts
- SLO FSC is waiting for \$1.2 million in grant funds

GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATE

- Grant 5GA19145 2018 Countywide Fuel Reduction Amendment
 - Approve amendment request to reallocate funds from Contractual to Equipment so there is \$30,000 available for the purchase of a Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) for assignment to SLO County Fire.
 - Approve purchase of UTV and assignment to SLO County Fire for duration of the grant.
 - Submit an Equipment Disposition Plan to CAL FIRE/SFMO Grants recommending that following the end of grant performance period (March 15, 2024) the UTV and Terra Torch continue to be in the custody of SLO County Fire through the end of its useful life for purposes that are in alignment with grant objections for support of fuel treatment and prescribed fire operations.

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It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the amendment to reallocate funds in grant 5GA19145 from contractual to equipment so there is \$30,000 in equipment, approve the purchase of the UTV for SLO County Fire and submit an Equipment Disposition Plan recommending the UTV remain the custody of SLO County Fire at end of grant performance period (March 15, 2024): Cochrane Second: Pierson Stacy Korsqaden abstained

Motion amended:

It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the amendment to reallocate funds in grant 5GA19145 from contractual to equipment so there is \$30,000 in equipment, approve the purchase of the UTV for SLO County Fire, register the UTV to CAL FIRE with SLO FSC named as an additional insured, submit an Equipment Disposition Plan recommending the UTV remain the custody of SLO County Fire at end of grant performance period (March 15, 2024): Korsqaden Second: Pierson

- 2022-23 CA Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grants
 - Awaiting contract from CAL FIRE grants
 - Funding available Fall 2023 through March 2029
 - Risk Assessment Planning project (tied to Firesheds)
 - Hazardous fuel treatment projects
- CA State Coastal Conservancy – Wildfire Resilience Grant
 - Grant request unanimously approved for regional collaboration; Fireshed and Wildfire Resilience planning and project prioritization process. Grant award 270,000.
- Covell Project
 - Unit 3 (Bridge Street) has one more week until completion
- Hearst Ranch
 - San Simeon – waiting on CAL FIRE approval. Work may be delayed due to Monarch butterfly wintering. Probable Spring 2024 work date.
- Adelaide Roads
 - Very close to completion for 2022 grant
- Miossi
 - Environmental and archaeology still in review stage; pending approval
 - Partnered with City of SLO and Cal Poly
- Parkhill
 - Several projects planned
 - 7 Oaks has been sent back from Sonoma State for edits and resubmit
- Evacuation Planning Grant – Zonehaven (GENASYS) and Ladris
 - Zonehaven is live
 - Ladris – training for Greg Alex and Heath Hooper in cooperation with County OES
 - Cambria working on secondary access/egress for Lodge Hill
- Long Canyon VMP Project – Huasna Valley
 - Great Tree Tenders and SLO Mow finished working
 - Prescribed fire planned for October
- Fireshed Assessment Project – Rincon Consulting
 - Kickoff meeting was held August 15
 - CAL FIRE will be testing Landtender; SLO FSC will assist

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- SLO FSC was asked to evaluate Planscape, it is a similar product and sponsored by the Governor's Task Force
- USDA – Community Wildfire Defense Grants
 - Applications due October 31, 2023
 - Researching and collaborating with SLO City since they qualify as a low-income community

GOOD OF THE ORDER / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- New CCI grant application cycle should be released soon. Need project proposals for fuel treatment, planning and education. Governor Newsom has emphasized he wants to see work on the ground.
- SIM Table will be demonstrated at the November Board of Director's meeting
- Maui Fires

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, October 18, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: County Government Center

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, November 15, 2023
- Location: TBD

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Dan Dulitz adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary