



San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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Board of Directors and State Coastal Conservancy Regional Forest and Wildfire Capacity Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 17, 2024 0900-1130 hours

Meeting held at San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall with Zoom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

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|---|--|
| Debbie Arnold – County BOS | Matt Mohle – SLO County Parks |
| Ed Waage – Citizen at Large | Dena Paschke – Fire Prev Officers Assoc |
| 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 | James Sasules – First Supervisorial District |
| Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc | Turko Semmes – Building Industry |
| Ruben Brand – PG&E | Karl Tupper – Air Pollution Control Dist |
| Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large | Tom Peterson – County Fire Chiefs |
| Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large | Tom Swanson - San Luis Obispo County Fire |
| Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry | Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen’s Association |
| Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group | Jose Torres – Los Osos Focus Group |
| Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large | Dan Ponti – Farm Bureau |
| Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group | |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

| | |
|---|--|
| Spencer Gordon – RCD | Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group |
| Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University | Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District |
| Hayley Barnes – Citizen at Large | |

FOCUS GROUP and EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Keith Aggson – SLO County OES | Peter Stephenson – USFS |
| Rudy Uribe – USFS | |

STAFF PRESENT:

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

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GUESTS:

| | |
|--|--|
| Paul Patti – Paso Robles Focus Group | Clint Weirick – Senator Laird’s Office |
| Brendan Cosgrove – Building Industry | Eric Cleveland – VMP Inc. |
| Josh Taylor – CAL FIRE | Todd Tuggle – City of SLO Focus Group |
| Steve Negro – Retired FSC Board Member | Freddy Otte – City of SLO Focus Group |
| Clayton Hodges – Golden State Goats | Michael Klain – Golden State Goats |
| Joe Blakewell – County of SLO | Manny Higuera – CAL FIRE |
| Kevin McLean – CAL FIRE | Nick Terrones – CAL FIRE |
| Hector Garcia – All Risk Shield | |

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Arnold at 9:13 a.m. followed by introduction of directors, staff, focus groups and guests.

CONSENT AGENDA

- November 2023 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented for approval.
- December 2023 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented for review.

***It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the November 2023 Board of Directors meeting minutes and accept for review the December 2023 Executive Committee minutes as presented:
Waage Second: Neumann***

PRESENTATIONS

Two evacuation systems that are used in disaster preparedness for modeling evacuations, Ladris and Genasys, were presented by Greg Alex. The programs have great features: Forecasting impact zones, visualization of evacuation plans, identifying problems with evacuation areas/routes, and determining one way egress communities. SLO FSC has one more year of funding slated for the programs to assist SLO County OES.

Dan Turner, Executive Director, presented two projects that SLO FSC is funding – Fireshed and PIRS. SLO FSC has contracted with Rincon Consulting for Fireshed planning units and dashboard for SLO County. Fireshed is a large area where social and ecological concerns about wildfire combine and intertwine. Fire indiscriminately crosses property boundaries, requiring collaboration by landowners and managers to address challenges. The Fireshed planning units and dashboard will reduce the risk of wildfire to people, communities, recreation areas, and natural resources through coordinated land management. Projected completion date is March 31, 2024.

City of Atascadero is working with Cal Poly on the Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard (PIRS). This method guides communities through the process of assessing and aligning their plans to maximize investments and reduce potential disaster impacts. It helps create proactive mitigation policies that work to reduce risk and create safer, more disaster-resilient communities.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS

State Coastal Conservancy(SCC) – SLO County Representative

- SCC is a natural resource organization, not coastal commission
- SLO FSC will act as their representative in regional forest and wildfire projects

Website traffic and report

- Mission of SLO FSC website is to share community information, educate, engage, recruit, raise awareness, provide resources and maintain a community hub for visitors.
- 2026 visits since upgrade
- Updates:
 - Mobile and tablet friendly
 - Blog site
 - Focus Group webpages

2023 Year End Summary

- SLO FSC Operations Account Summary was presented.
- SLO FSC WUI Account Summary was presented.
- 2023 Contract Summary was presented.
- Abbreviated Bank Statement ending December 31, 2023 was presented.
- Scholarship/Local Grant Report was presented.
- 2023 Active Grant Financial Summary was presented.
- 2023 Active Grant/Contract Project Status was presented.

***It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the 2023 Year End Summary reports as presented:
Waage Second: Larsen***

Executive Committee Interim Actions – Electronic Vote

- Due to time constraints an electronic vote was held by the Executive Committee authorizing the execution of the following items:
 - Resolutions for submitting Wildfire Prevention and Forest Health grant applications
 - Authorizing execution of Auten Resource Consulting Mater Service Agreement extension and renewal.

***It was moved, seconded, and approved to affirm the Executive Committee vote held electronically:
Jones Second: Semmes***

2024 Elections for Board of Directors

- Changes made to existing Board of Directors list:
 - Dan Dulitz retired his Board seat.
 - Chad Pankey selected by Debbie Arnold to represent the 5th District
 - Turko Semmes retired his Board seat.
 - Brendan Cosgrove selected to represent the Building Industry
 - Ruben Brand replaced David Perry as representative for PG&E
 - Paul Patti replaced Scott Hallett as representative for Paso Robles Focus Group
 - Todd Tuggle replaced James Blattler as representative for City of SLO Focus Group
- Members at Large nominations:

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- Ed Waage
- Jeff Jones
- Ex Officio members

It was moved, seconded, and approved to affirm the listing of Board of Directors with the adjustments noted, approve member at large nominations and approve listing of Ex Officio members: Pierson Second: Slate

2024 Elections for Officers and Executive Committee Members

- Member at Large Royce Larsen resigned his position on committee.
- Nominations for slate of Executive Committee members presented by retiring 1st Vice President, Dan Dulitz:
 - Debbie Arnold, President
 - Ed Waage, 1st Vice President
 - Dave Pierson, 2nd Vice President
 - Stacy Korsgaden, Secretary
 - Bob Neumann, Treasurer
 - Dan Ponti, Member 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: Jones Second: Slate

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: Waage Second: Larsen

Operations and Scholarship Budget

- It is recommended that our working capital retention be increased to \$1,000,000 to stay current with vendor payments while awaiting late grant payments.
- The 2024 Operations budget is proposed at \$99,820
- Our 2024 scholarship and local grants fund is proposed to be \$60,000

It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the proposed changes to the Operations and Scholarship budgets as presented: Slate Second: Cosgrove

ROUNDTABLE

President Arnold left at 11:15 a.m. for another meeting. Ed Waage assumed meeting leadership.

The following focus group reports were given:

- Cambria
 - Poster contest has become a school assignment for art students at Coast Union High School
 - Wildfire Preparedness Day has been scheduled for May 11, 2024
 - Firewise Community status has been renewed

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- Working on second evacuation route
 - Hoping to organize a Hispanic Community meeting
- Los Osos
 - Chipping in mobile home parks
 - Assessing Montano De Oro for fuel mitigation
 - Cabrillo Estates has renewed their Firewise Community status
- Atascadero Fire Department
 - Burn season opened January 16
- City of San Luis Obispo Fire
 - Fuel reduction work on San Luis Drive where it backs up to mountain range
 - Filed grant with CAL FIRE for equipment
 - \$30,000 for tree removal in Lizzie Fire area
- Ranchita Focus Group
 - Chipping to start in April
 - Backyard burning occurring now
 - Firewise Community status renewed
- CAL FIRE / SLU Unit
 - Station 23 has been relocated to the drill grounds for new headquarters build
 - 10 prescribed burns scheduled for this year
 - Seven (7) C130s have been added to State aviation fleet, expect to have one in SLU in 2-3 years
- PG&E
 - Grant opportunity opening soon
- Insurance Industry
 - California residents need changes made to the marketplace to keep plans affordable
 - Insurance Commissioner's office needs to focus more on the insurance problems
- Building Industry
 - Working with Cal Poly WUI Institute
- Cattlemen's Association
 - Grazing operations are in full swing
- SLO County OES
 - Early warning siren system maintenance will start next week running through July

NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- 2024 Wildfire Prevention grant was submitted for \$2.9 million
- 2024 Forest Health grant was submitted for \$6.9 million
 - Collaborative effort with State Fish and Wildlife, Covell Ranch and Cambria CSD
- 2024 State Coastal Conservancy

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Two visiting businesses introduced their services:
 - Golden State Goats
 - Offer brush control, fuel reduction, land management and weed abatement with goats and hand crews.

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- All Risk Shield
 - Provides several wildfire protection services to protect structures and increase fire resistance including phos-chek application and private fire crews.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: County Government Center

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, March 20, 2024
- Location: TBD

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Waage adjourned the meeting at 11:55 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