



# 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, May 15, 2024 0900-1200 hours

Meeting held at CAL FIRE South Bay Training Center

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	David Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group
Freddy Otte – City of SLO Focus Group	Paul Patti – Paso Robles Focus Group
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University	Brendan Cosgrove – Building Industry
Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large	Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large
Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District	Jose Torres – Los Osos Focus Group
Todd Tuggle – City of SLO Focus Group	David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group
Chad Pankey – Fifth Supervisorial District	James Sasules – First Supervisorial District
Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group	Spencer Gordon – RCD
Ruben Brand – PG&E	Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen’s Association
Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group	Garrett Veyna - San Luis Obispo County Fire
Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry	Karl Tupper - Air Pollution Control District
Matt Mohle – SLO County Parks	

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Debbie Arnold – County BOS	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Dan Ponti – Farm Bureau	Tom Peterson – County Fire Chiefs
Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	Dena Paschke – Fire Prev Officers Assoc
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc	

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

Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek
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### STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner – Executive Director	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE
Mauricia Anderson – FSC Project Coordinator	Greg Alex – SLO FSC Webmaster

### GUESTS:

Mike Bonnheim - Adelaide	Dan Dulitz – Retired FSC Board Member
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### CALL TO ORDER

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

### CONSENT AGENDA

- March 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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- April 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented for review.
- SLO FSC Operations Account Summary
- 2024 Contract Services Summary
- Abbreviated Bank Statement ending April 30, 2024
- Active Grant Fiscal Summary 2024

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the March 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes and accept for review the April 2024 Executive Committee minutes, financial summaries, and grant summaries reports as presented: Pierson Second: Korsgaden**

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Cambria Focus Group held their townhall meeting on May 10 focusing on Wildfire Preparedness. The event in part, was supported by a grant from the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors. Informational sessions from United Policyholders, home hardening and evacuation strategies were held along with SIM Table demonstrations. There were 41 poster contest entries that were voted on and 8 winners were chosen to have their posters made into signs to display throughout the community.

Wildfire Awareness Week press conference was held on May 7 at the Paso Robles Airport. Highlighted during the event was the crucial role partnerships play in reducing and managing wildfire risk. Debbie Arnold and Ed Waage spoke on the collaboration of groups throughout the County that have teamed up with the SLO FSC in identifying and completing projects that have proven to be beneficial in both stopping and preventing wildfire. Residents are encouraged to establish defensible space around their properties, develop action and evacuation plans and actively engage with their local Fire Safe Councils and Firewise Communities.

Mid-State Fair opens July 17 and runs to July 28. Brenden Cosgrove will be organizing work parties to do some general housekeeping and install new signage.

The Chaparral Symposium held at Cal Poly drew over 200 attendees. Good conversations were held on the resilience of chaparral ecosystems and the societies and assets that exist within and adjacent to them.

The website is experiencing more traffic. A lot of hits from the Sacramento area.

The following focus group reports were given:

- APCD
  - Regulations have been rescinded regarding curtain burners. They are now a viable resource that can be used without a lot of hurdles to clear.
- Insurance
  - State Farm has 21% of all policies in California. They will not be renewing 70,000 policies this year. If current regulations change, Allstate has stated they will come back to California.
  - YouTube has an excellent presentation from Rex Frasier, California Insider.
- CAL FIRE
  - There will be a townhall meeting Friday, May 17 at the Creston Community Center to plan the vegetation management plan for Coyote Creek and Sunstorm.

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- PG&E
  - There are now 2 tree trimming contractors being utilized in the area for wire clearance: Davey Tree and American Tree Medics.
- Cal Poly
  - Working on a project to improve firefighters PPE
- County Parks
  - Fire bans have been placed on Lopez Lake and Santa Margarita Lake Campgrounds
- Resource Conservation District
  - Randall Road shaded fuel break and forest management plans
- Los Osos Focus Group
  - Hazardous fuel reduction was done in Cabrillo Estates
  - April 26 chipping event
- Lake Nacimiento Focus Group
  - Great Tree Tenders work in Oak Shores is complete. The work in Running Deer is 80% complete, additional funding needed to complete work.
  - 30 miles of road was sprayed 15' on each side
- Paso Robles Focus Group
  - Goats are back in the Salinas Riverbed
  - 11,000 parcels inspected
- Atascadero Focus Group
  - 11,000 properties inspected; notices for work needing to be done issued to 6,500
  - 102 tons of chipping completed
- Toro Creek Focus Group
  - PG&E grant work being done on Toro Creek road between Highway 41 and end
- San Luis Obispo Focus Groups
  - Mastication being done on Lizzie Fire site

### **FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- Recommendations were received from the scholarship committee to award \$2,500 to Garrett Lee, attending Cal Poly, and Jessica Lee, a graduating high school senior headed to Cal Poly in the Fall.
- Cambria Townhall grant: Due to time constraints, Executive Committee (David Pierson recused himself) approved a local grant award not to exceed \$2,500 to the Cambria Focus Group. Some additional funding may come from a private citizen.
- CAL FIRE SLU student intern program is experiencing budget cuts. Morgan Partridge, CAL FIRE, presented the Executive Committee with a local grant request of \$20,000 to offset the budget cut and continue the program that has proven to benefit SLO FSC.
- Cal Poly Lead Program has requested a \$5,000 grant to continue the program. We have supported the program in the past and feel it is worthy to continue.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to grant the scholarships and local grants as presented:**  
**Scott Second: R. Johnson**

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### **GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES**

#### **PG&E 2024**

Seven (7) project proposals were submitted. Davis Canyon Road proposal was withdrawn. Notified to date of three decisions:

- Toro Creek Fuel Reduction – awarded \$75,000, work must be completed by 10/1/24
- Mountaintop communication sites – denied
- Halcyon Hazard Tree Removal – denied

More information was requested by PG&E for these proposals (decisions pending):

- Lizzie Fire Follow-up
- Old San Simeon Village
- Pecho Valley Road

#### **State FSC County Coordinator Grant**

- Grant performance period extended to December 31, 2024
- Awaiting confirmation of additional funding, could be up to \$90,000

#### **Monterey Pine Forest Health Grant**

- Awarded \$6.7 million, grant period ends 2030
- Partners with CAL FIRE (lead agency), Hearst Ranch, Covell Ranch, Cambria CSD, Fiscalini Ranch
- Contract pending, earliest work September 2024
  - Work will start at San Simeon Point earlier due to other funding sources

#### **State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)**

- City of San Luis Obispo requesting Wildfire Mitigation grant from SCC to prepare CEQA documents and implementation plan for City owned open space areas.

***SLO FSC recommends Executive Director, Dan Turner, write a letter of recommendation to award a grant to City of SLO for the preparation and implementation of a wildfire mitigation plan for City owned open space areas: Pierson Second: R. Johnson***

#### **2021 SLO County Hazard Fuel Reduction Grant (5GA20115)**

- Grant expires March 15, 2025. The Cal VTP environmental document is still under review. It will not be possible to complete the grant work before grant expiration due to CAL FIRE's workload. They have requested us to file for a no cost grant time extension. Executive Committee recommends SLO FSC request an extension enabling the Cal Poly-Miossi project to be completed.

***It was moved, seconded, and approved to file a grant time extension for grant 5GA20115 extending the grant period: Pierson Second: Neumann***

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- State Water Quality Control Board site visit to Covell VTP – May 30
- Meeting theme for July meeting: Structural Hardening

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

- Wednesday, June 19, 2024 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: County Government Center

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

- Wednesday, July 17, 2024 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: Templeton Community Center, Mid-State Fair Education Center visit after meeting

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ed Waage adjourned the meeting at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Loree McRoberts*

Recording Secretary