

## **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**

- September 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented for approval.
- October 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented for review.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the September 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes and accept for review the October 2024 Executive Committee minutes as presented: Torres Second: Neumann**

## **MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

- SLO FSC Operations Account Summary
- 2024 Contract Services Summary
- Abbreviated Bank Statement ending October 31, 2024
- Active Grant Fiscal Summary 2024

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the financial summaries and grant summaries reports as presented: Pierson Second: Korsgaden**

## **ROUNDTABLE**

### **Focus Group and Organization Reports:**

- Insurance Industry – Goal set to have sustainable insurance in place by December 31, 2024
- CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire – Peak staffing still in effect, Whitney and Yaro burns are scheduled for this week
- Avila Valley Focus Group – October 15 Townhall meeting was standing room only
- Los Osos Focus Group – Chipping event held October 28 assisted 43 addresses, investigating work in or near Monarch Grove and Cabrillo Estates
- Resource Conservation District – There are 450 burn piles ready in Cambria
- Cambria Focus Group – Red Cross is moving forward with Home Hardening program, they have completed 2 homes and looking to expand it to 20
- Air pollution Control District – Backyard burning coming soon, APCD has worked with the State Fire Marshal's office and will be issuing LE62A (CAL FIRE burn permits) so it will be an easier process
- SLO County Parks – Seasonal burn ban still in place, release conditional on rainfall
- SLO County Fire Chiefs – New officers, Chief Dan McCrain, President, Chief Scott Hallett, Vice President
- Cal Poly – Lots of research going on, creating a prescribed fire class, expanding program
- Toro Creek Focus Group – Power restored at Station 14, project proposals submitted for next grant application period
- Lake Nacimiento Focus Group – Access road construction completed, \$1 million spent this year at South Side of Lake Nacimiento, event being scheduled for April 19

- Website and social media update – 283 website visits for October, videos have good viewership, a new mapping program with sharing capabilities (Scout) is being tested, County OES excited with what Scout has shown so far, some security issues to work on

## **FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- **Expiring Board Members**
  - Any member who has not indicated their desire to continue on the Board, please do so. Submit your letters/emails to Loree at [firesafe2@gmail.com](mailto:firesafe2@gmail.com)
  - Elections will be held at the January 2025 Board of Directors meeting.
- **New Focus Group**
  - Steve Viera has formed the Pismo Beach Focus Group
- **2024 Operations Budget Adjustment**
  - Requesting to move unused funds from Operations Admin Services to Scholarship fund. If approved, it will decrease Admin Services line item to \$40,000 and increase Scholarship line item to \$100,000.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to make a \$40,000 adjustment to the 2024 Operations budget, moving existing unused funds from Admin Services to Scholarships, making new line item totals of Admin Services \$40,000 and Scholarships \$100,000: Korsgaden Second:**

**Neumann**

- **Scholarships / Local Grants**
  - Five \$2,500 scholarships were approved by the Executive Committee at the October meeting due to time sensitivity.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to authorize the scholarship awards granted by the Executive Committee at the October 2024 meeting: Korsgaden Second: Dyke**

- Twelve scholarship applications have been received and reviewed. The scholarship committee recommends \$2,500 awards for all applicants.
  - Adam, Zachary – Allan Hancock
  - Barnes, Dawson – Cal Poly
  - Beck, Jamison – Allan Hancock
  - Calderon, Faustino – Allan Hancock
  - Courson, Caleb – Allan Hancock
  - Fernstrom, Tim – Allan Hancock
  - Fox, Landon – Allan Hancock
  - Harlow, Henry – Cal Poly
  - Morales, Eduardo – Allan Hancock
  - Robles, Gilbert – Allan Hancock
  - Sanchez, Christian – Allan Hancock
  - Tall, Nate – Cal Poly
- One local grant submission was received. The local grant committee recommends a \$10,000 award.
  - ytt Northern Chumash Tribe – to be used for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) for tribal members conducting cultural burns.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to award the scholarship applicants with \$2,500 each and the local grant applicants with \$10,000 as presented by the Scholarship/Local Grant Committee members: Torres Second: Johnson**

- Review of revisions to SLO FSC Policy 014 – Excess Working Capital Revolving Fund is requested. The scholarship/local grant committee revised the existing policy to clarify the rules for scholarship awards, adding a section for Allan Hancock College Fire Academy attendees.

**Direction was given to Board members to review the revised Policy 014 and be prepared for discussion/adoption at the January 2025 meeting**

## **GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES**

### **Current Grant Activity**

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

- Fully expended, closeout pending
- Possibility of grant funds being made available in 2025

#### **Monterey Pine Forest Health Grant 8GG23617**

- Contract executed
- Onsite Registered Professional Forester project management contract pending with Auten Resource Consulting

#### **2024 CCI-CAL FIRE Wildlife Prevention Grant 5TR23211**

- Award - \$3,112,344
- Original grant request was for \$2,997,344. CAL FIRE awarded an extra \$115,000 and it was added to the Contractual category for outreach and education
- New contract approved with updated list of projects since modifications were made to overlap with Forest Health grant award funding for work on Covell Ranch (\$600,000)
- The new projects approved:
  - Cambria CSD lot clearing – 2-year clearance
  - Atascadero projects (Pine Mountain, San Diego Road, Ferrocarrill)
  - VMP support
  - County wildfire preplans and evacuation guide project
  - Strawberry Canyon – extra year of grazing
  - County owned parcels defensible space clearance

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

- Toro Creek Fuel Reduction – awarded \$75,000, work complete/funding received
- Pecho Valley Road – awarded \$75,000, work complete/funding received
- Lizzie Fire project – awarded \$100,000, work complete/funding received

#### **SLO County Hazard Fuel Reduction Grant Amendment**

- Rescoping of work / amendment approved and new contract signed

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Jose Torres, Los Osos Focus Group, shared the NextDoor app is working well with getting the word out for different events in the area. He also mentioned that being a Fire Wise Community has benefitted a local resident that was faced with losing homeowners insurance.
- Ashley Grupenhoff, Cal Poly, noted that the Watch Duty app is very useful and has found it easy to work with.
- Annual meeting with Board member elections will be held January 15, 2025. Dan Ponti and Chad Pankey volunteered to barbecue for the meeting.
- Supervisor Debbie Arnold is retiring, her successor has not been named yet.

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

- Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: County Government Center

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

- Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 9:00 to 12:00 a.m. / lunch following meeting
- Location: SLO Vet's Hall

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Ed Waage adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Loree McRoberts*

Recording Secretary