



San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

www.fscslo.org



Board of Directors and State Coastal Conservancy Regional Forest and Wildfire Capacity Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 15, 2026 0900-1130 hours Templeton Community Center

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Heather Moreno – President / BOS	Debbie Arnold – Citizen at Large
Dan Ponti – Farm Bureau	Josh Daniel – City of SLO Focus Group
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Dustin Heck – CAL FIRE / SLO County Fire
Matt Mohle – SLO County Parks	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Bob Neumann – 2nd Supervisorial District	Scotty Jalbert – SLO County OES
Brendan Cosgrove – Building Industry	David Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group
Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group	Paul Patti – Paso Robles Focus Group
Tony Freeman – Cambria Focus Group	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group	Lilian Thaoxaachay – UC Cooperative
Jim Sasules – First Supervisorial District	Ruben Brand – PG&E

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry	Ashley Grupenhoff – Cal Poly
Keith Aggson – County Fire Chief's Assoc	Scott Hallett – Fourth Supervisorial District
Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large	Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen's Association
Cody Gibbons – Air Pollution Control District	Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc
Chad Pankey – Fifth Supervisorial District	Spencer Gordon – US LT RCD
Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large	

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner – Executive Director	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE/Recording Secretary
Greg Alex – SLO FSC Webmaster	Baxter Boyington – Focus Group Coordinator
Paul Lee – SLO FSC Coordinator	Alan Peters – SLO FSC Coordinator

GUESTS:

Sarah Kramer – Farm Bureau	Mike Burkey – Cambria Fire
Ray Ramos Jr. – Knollwood HOA	Lorrie Curb – Varian Ranch
Ross Porter – City of Paso Robles	Sophia Marquez – Prescribed Burn Assoc
Wendy Lockwood – Varian Ranch	Jon Gee – CAL FIRE / SLO County Fire
Steve Calvert – Knollwood HOA	Toni Davis – CAL FIRE / SLO County Fire
Brandon Wall – Templeton Fire	Tom Peterson – Templeton Fire
Renee Palermo – Villa al Mare HOA	Jim Hartig – Villa al Mare HOA
Deborah Boynton – Cambria Focus Group	

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2026

Page 2

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Prior Meeting Minutes

- May 2026 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented for approval
- June 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented for review

It was moved, seconded and approved to approve Consent Agenda Prior Meeting Minutes as presented:

Waage Second: Scott

ROUNDTABLE

- County Parks – fire bans at Lopez Lake and Santa Margarita campgrounds
- Ranchita Estates – shout out to Morgan Partridge from CAL FIRE for the rehab project work
- CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire – UV resistant signs at fairgrounds not holding up as good as we thought, they need to come down after fair is over. DSI inspections are ongoing, lots of LRA abatement inspections too. Fireworks task force was successful. Prescribed burning planned: Rinconada, Gilardi gun range, 15 MC Ranch, YTT Tribe, Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve.
- First Supervisorial District – Lake Nacimiento Focus Group meeting held
- Cambria Focus Group – booth at open house and 501c meeting, educational material distributed
- PG&E – emergency command set up for response to power shut off possibilities due to high heat and fire danger
- SLO City – town hall meeting last night
- Cambria Fire – weed abatement final inspections being done, station kitchen remodel starts in August
- County Fire Chiefs – strategic planning event
- Paso Robles – second Firewise community established, chipping events scheduled, 91 acres of herbivory complete, AB 1099 legislation passed increasing the wages of goat and sheep herders which some fear will lessen the use of grazing as fire prevention
- Templeton – dramatic reduction in illegal fireworks due to enforcement and education, working on first Firewise community
- Atascadero – El Monte residents are holding first meeting to become a Firewise community
- Third Supervisorial District – met with Freddy Otte on a fuel reduction project behind Johnson Avenue in SLO
- Toro Creek Focus Group – meeting tonight
- Building Industry – waiting on Zone 0 guidelines to be finalized
- Cattlemen's Association – Cattlemen's Day at the Fair July 16 with tractor restoration exhibit
- UC Cooperative – Beneficial Fire Summit will be held in San Diego this December, Royce is officially retired
- Lake Nacimiento – lake is in full summer mode, population has increased from 28 people to several thousand, four people in Oak Shores were cited for fireworks, road maintenance starts July 27

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS

Financial Audit

- Request for proposal to conduct audit of SLO FSC financials has been distributed for proposal solicitations. Several firms have requested more information.

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2026

Page 3

Fiscal Summary for Month Ending June 30, 2026

- SLO FSC Operations Account Summary
- 2026 Contract Summary
- Abbreviated Monthly Bank Statement
- Active Grants Financial Summary

2026 Active Grants

2024 State Coastal Conservancy	Expires:	12/30/2026	\$ 270,250
2023 CCI Wildfire Prevention 5GA22227		3/20/2029	\$ 2,857,954
2024 Wildfire Prevention 5TR23211		3/15/2030	\$ 3,112,344
2024 Monterey Pine Forest Health 8GG23617		3/15/2030	\$ 6,678,635
2025 Critical Infrastructure 5GG25236		2/15/2029	\$ 936,286
2026 PG&E Las Pilitas Road Project		11/1/2026	\$ 96,300
Upper Salinas Las Tablas RCD – Schwartz		12/30/2026	\$ 120,000
TOTAL			\$14,071,769

It was moved, seconded and approved to approve the Fiscal Summary items as slated and presented: Slate Second: Waage

SLO Operations Account Summary

Mid-Year Adjustment Recommendations:

- CA FSC County Coordinator grant results in reduction of Administration line-item costs
- Fiscal audit will result in additional spending on Consultant/Professional Services line-item
- Excess spending in IT and Other supplies
- Scholarship/Local Grants has spent \$63,500 of \$75,000 budgeted
 - SLO FSC Board approved \$40,000 for Cal Poly Professor Andrew Johnson support

Executive Committee Actions:

At the June 2026 Executive Committee meeting the following items were approved:

- Reduce Administration from \$30,000 to \$5,000
- Increase Consultant/Professional Services from \$4,000 to \$18,000
- Increase Webpage Services from \$4,500 to \$9,500
- Increase Supplies from \$6,000 to \$21,000
- Increase Allan Hancock Fire Academy Scholarships from \$75,000 to \$120,000
- Add allocation of \$40,000 to Local Grants for Cal Poly Professor Andrew Johnson support

It was moved, seconded and approved to affirm the June 2026 Executive Committee actions amending the 2026 Operations budget with corrections made as presented: Waage, Neumann

Banking Transition

Three checking accounts and two credit card accounts have been established with Sesloc Credit Union as follows:

- Checking account - Grants (WUI)
- Checking account (money market) and credit card – Operations
- Checking account and credit card – Foundation

Bulk of funds in Columbia Bank will be transferred to Sesloc Credit Union with today's accounts payable items. Columbia Bank accounts will be kept open for at least one more quarter.

It was moved, seconded and approved to transfer funds to Sesloc Credit Union from Columbia Bank and maintain Columbia Bank accounts at least one more quarter as presented: Slate Second: Van Son

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2026

Page 4

Board Member Alternate

SLO County Farm Bureau is nominating Sarah Kramer as their alternate representative for the Board of Directors.

It was moved, seconded and approved to approve Sarah Kramer as the alternate Board member for the SLO County Farm Bureau as presented: Waage Second: Scott

SLO Fire Safe Organizational Chart

An organizational chart was presented depicting the structure, roles, and relationships within SLO FSC. It was recommended it be posted on the website.

Website and IT Report

- We are averaging 45 visits a day
- Chipper Day has served 800 residents. Fall scheduling is coming up soon.
- Firewise Community information is currently our biggest draw
- Quarterly newsletter to be produced and put out via social media
- SIM Table available for training and demonstrations

Focus Group and Firewise Community Update

- Firewise Community formation is growing. It is advised to “go big” adding properties to the initial application because a new application process could be involved in growing your community once Firewise status has been granted.

SLO Blues Baseball Sponsorship

- Sparky and Captain Cal both threw out the first pitch at the July 1 game versus the San Francisco Seagulls. Thanks to Paso Robles Fire and CAL FIRE for bringing the mascots out.

NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- 2025-26 Wildfire Prevention Grant
 - Three (3) project proposals submitted with a \$950,000 cap per proposal
 - Heritage Ranch Community Risk Reduction
 - Fuel break
 - Lake Nacimiento fireshed analysis
 - Firewise community support
 - Pismo – Avila Beach – South County Community Risk Reduction
 - 18 projects in 10 neighborhoods
 - Creston-Parkhill Community Risk Reduction
 - Rocky Terrace Strategic Fuel Break
 - Coyote-Sunstorm II Strategic Fuel Break
 - Parkhill fireshed analysis
- 2026 CAL FIRE Regional Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Block Grant Program
 - SLO FSC applied for “Central Coast Regional Wildfire Coalition”
 - Landscape scale projects such as:
 - Heritage Ranch – Las Tablas Ranch fuel break
 - Pismo Beach eastside fuel treatment - Oak Park Road north to Squire Canyon
 - San Luis Obispo – Cal Poly, Miossi, Reservoir Canyon, Cuesta Grade
 - Atascadero – westside, Santa Rita Road to Tassajera Road
- State Coastal Conservancy/Department of Conservation Regional Forest Fire Grant

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2026

Page 5

- Public comments/review of the draft guidelines were due July 13, 2026
- Grantor wants 3-5 counties to combine into a Regional Block Grant
- Currently there are no plans for SLO FSC to apply to be Regional Block Grant

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Mid-State Fair starts today
- Scholarship Committee made recommendations to award \$2,500 to Cal Poly student Jessica Lee and Allan Hancock student Claire Tuggle.
- If you haven't done so yet, please take a few minutes to complete the San Luis Obispo Prescribed Burn Association survey for Sophia Marquez/Spencer Gordon <https://calpba.org/slo-pba>

It was moved, seconded and approved to approve scholarship awards in the amount of \$2,500 to Jessica Lee and Claire Tuggle as presented: Slate Second: Scott

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, August 19, 2026
- Location: Atascadero City Hall

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, September 16, 2026
- Location: To be determined

November Board of Directors Meeting will be changed to a 2:00 p.m. start time.

ADJOURNMENT

Please join us for a BBQ luncheon provided by SLO FSC Burners.

President Heather Moreno adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary