

Item 2 A



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 20, 2015**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Elliott - APCD	Jim Harrison – Citizen at Large
Dan Dulitz – District 5 Representative	Skip Dyke – Range Improvement
Justin Kephart – Pacific Gas & Electric	Jim Patterson – Eco-SLO
Turko Semmes – Builders Community	Tom Wright – Member at Large
Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large	Keith Aggson – County Fire Chief’s Assn.
Dennis Javens – Oak Shores Focus Group	Chris Slate – District 3 Representative
Scott Hallett – Atascadero Focus Group	Martin Scott – Ranchita Focus Group
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension
Robert Lewin – CAL FIRE/County Fire	Frank Mecham – Co. Board of Supervisors
Robin Foreman – SLO Assoc. of Realtors	

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Steve McMasters - Co. Planning & Building	Steve Negro – District 1 Representative
Richard Gonzales – Farm Bureau	Johnathan Hurst – Fire Prevention Assn.
Gary Sage – Insurance Industry	Bob Neumann – District 2 Representative
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly	Jim McCallum – Los Osos Focus Group

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Board President Frank Mecham at 9:00 A.M. followed by introductions of officers, directors, staff and guests.

There was a moment of silence for Director Roy Parsons.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the consent items:**

- Approve March 2015 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Approve April 2015 Executive Committee Meeting Notes (Move November Board of Directors meeting to Friday, November 20, 2015)

**PRESENTATION ON STATUS OF ATASCADERO-TASSAJERA WUI GRANT (15-WUI-903)**

This grant is moving along, waiting on some CEQA work, working on fuel breaks, chipping, road easement clearance, plans for a VMP on Eagle Peak.

Fire Captain Scott Hallett reviewed a powerpoint presentation – project objectives, budget of \$55,000, Highway 41 corridor fire concerns, high risk areas, providing map books for incoming and local resources, 2015 chipping program, sign installation with prevention messages, evacuation plan and routes, website upgrades. Captain Hallett thanked members of the FireSafe Council for their continued support and help in keeping the public and responders safe.

Mark Elliott – wanted to give a compliment on Atascadero’s chipping program which reduces burning – no burning complaints so far.

Ed Waage – congratulated them on their website.

CAL FIRE Division Chief Alan Peters’ presentation highlights:

- They would like a continuous fuel break from Tassajera and Highway 101 to Vineyard or Highway 46
- Tollman fuel break – still in the planning phase – 100 foot clearance, use mastication and handcrews
- Grant will pay for a VMP – Eagle Peak would be a good area
- West Cuesta – They met with the USFS District Ranger with a “wish list” of work to be done – repair roads, trail system, clearing around towers. USFS is working on trying to have the owners of the communication sites pay a “road use fee” which will be used to for road repair and maintenance.

**CAMBRIA MONTEREY PINE FOREST ISSUE**

CAL FIRE/ARB (Cap and Trade) – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant – Two grants in process – deadline pushed to June 10<sup>th</sup>, grants must have a positive reduction in greenhouse gases.

- Cambria Forest Health Project – forest lands with pest problems
- Hazardous Fuel Reduction – because of dead and dying – working closely with Cal Poly plot surveys and greenhouse gas determination

Groups in Cambria have disparate opinions on the Monterey pine forest issue. The FireSafe Council is trying to bring them together in an effort to work together and come to a common understanding and approach.

Fire Chief Robert Lewin shared that the short-term, aggressive approach has been coined “Knock and Talk” going to very home in Cambria and making contact regarding dead and dying trees as well as fire safety. There have been many community meetings, a press conference was held

May 6<sup>th</sup> in Cambria for Wildfire Awareness Week, Mark Miller spoke on NPR, more signs have been installed. Long term – remove fuel. Longest term – come up with a plan for overall forest health. Cost for tree removal is high – Supervisor Gibson is spearheading efforts to modify the tree removal permitting process. CCC crews and CAL FIRE crews are already working in the Cambria area.

Dan Turner shared that the Cambria FireSafe Council Focus Group would like to be reactivated with Shirley Bianchi as chair. **It was moved, seconded and approved to reactivate the Cambria FireSafe Council Focus Group with Shirley Bianchi serving as chair.**

Ken Topping, Cambria resident and Planning Commissioner, has contacted the FireSafe Council with a request for a letter of support for a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LMP) for Cambria so they can qualify for FEMA mitigation grants. **It was moved, seconded and approved the FireSafe Council write a letter of support for a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LMP) for Cambria.**

### **SLO FIRESAFE COUNCIL GRANT AND OPERATIONS BUDGET REPORT**

- A. 2014-15 Countywide FSC Grant - \$199,985 (14-014)
- B. 2014 Western WUI-Lake Nacimiento Grant - \$260,820 (14 WUI-004)
- C. 2015 Western WUI-Atascadero-Tassajera - \$243,516 (15 WUI-093)
- D. 2014-15 Parkhill CAL FIRE SRA Fee Grant - \$323,986 (5GS14125)
- E. 2015 SLO FireSafe Internal Operations Budget – Money is accumulating
- F. 2015 Master Grant Allocation
- G. SLO FireSafe Council Grants Timeline – New Table

**It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the budget reports through May 17, 2015 for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.**

### **2015-16 GRANT PROJECT PROPOSALS**

- A. 2015-16 State FireSafe Council – \$199,000 – Grant application submitted, awards should be made by July 1
- B. PG&E Drought Augmentation - \$75,000 + offer work complete by October 30, 2015 – USFS cannot complete environmental review in time for use on Los Padres lands – Need a list of projects. Focus on:
  - i. Country tree removal, i.e. Fiscalini Ranch or Bridge Street
  - ii. Pismo Heights – Need more money to complete
  - iii. Fifty percent needs to be spent by August
  - iv. Hi Mountain Road needs work
  - v. Santa Margarita truck trail needs work

- vi. Two helicopter dip tanks (Justin Kephart will check if money can be spent on equipment) – cost approximately \$4,450 each or use \$10,000 from FSC discretionary funds

**It was moved, seconded and approved to allocate \$7,000 to the Pismo Heights project, purchase two firefighting dip tanks (if permissible within PG&E grant guidelines) and allocate the remainder of the PG&E Drought Augmentation Grant to hazardous tree removal countywide.**

- C. 2015-16 CAL FIRE SRA FEE Grants – application period should open when state budget is approved, possibly July 1<sup>st</sup>
- D. 2015-16 CAL FIRE/ARB GREEN HOUSE GAS (Cap & Trade) Grants – application period should open when state budget is approved, possibly July 1<sup>st</sup>; Governor’s proposed budget increase allocation for these grants \$42,000,000 this year and \$92,000,000 available next year.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Jim Patterson thanked Dan Turner and Chris Slate for helping with the FireSafe booth at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Earth Day event held El Chorro Regional Park on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ed Waage initiated discussion on ways of honoring founding board member Roy Parsons. **It was moved, seconded and approved to dedicate a plaque at the Parkhill fire station and rename the Bellman fuel break to Las Pilitas fuel break in honor of FireSafe Council founding member Roy Parsons.**

Turko Semmes shared that CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire personnel attended a block party held May 16<sup>th</sup> in the Toro Creek community where they presented fire prevention and safety information.

It was announced that Keith Aggson has accepted a position with Paso City Fire so is stepping down as the County Fire Chief’s Association representative on the FireSafe Council. Bill White has been appointed as the Interim Fire Chief of Templeton Community Services District. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept Bill White as a member on the FireSafe Council representing the County Fire Chief’s Association.**

Dan Turner introduced Maria Goldman who is interested in starting a focus group in the Moro Toro/Highway 41 area. Their group will meet with Dan Turner and Turko Semmes and bring a proposal back to the FireSafe Council at a future meeting.

Fire Captain Greg Alex shared that the FireSafe Council website on Google+ has received 10,000 viewers since its inception.

Martin Scott – Ranchita Focus Group – thanked the Council for their support of another successful chipping event. Another chipping event is planned for November.

Mark Elliott – APCD – Informed the group that Camp Roberts has a 9,000 acre prescribed burn planned for the afternoon if the fog lifts.

Next Meetings:

Executive Committee – Friday, June 19, 2015 – 9:00 AM – Templeton

Board of Directors – Wednesday, July 15, 2015 – 9:00 AM – County EOC

Adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jerilyn W. Moore*

Recording Secretary