



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 10, 2015

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bob Neumann – District 2 Representative	Bill White – County Fire Chiefs’ Assn.
Dan Dulitz – District 5 Representative	Chris Slate – District 3 Representative
Frank Mecham – Co. Board of Supervisors	Jim Patterson – Eco-SLO
Dennis Javens – Oak Shores Focus Group	Martin Scott – Ranchita Focus Group
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Scott Hallett – Atascadero Focus Group
Steve Negro – District 1 Representative	Mark Elliott - APCD
Robert Lewin – CAL FIRE/County Fire	Skip Dyke – Range Improvement
Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Steve McMasters - Co. Planning & Building	Justin Kephart – Pacific Gas & Electric
Richard Gonzales – Farm Bureau	Johnathan Hurst – Fire Prevention Assn.
Gary Sage – Insurance Industry	Robin Foreman – SLO Assoc. of Realtors
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly	Jim McCallum – Los Osos Focus Group
Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	Jim Harrison – Citizen at Large
Tom Wright – Member at Large	Turko Semmes – Builders Community

Staff Present: Alan Peters, CAL FIRE Forester; Dan Turner, SLO FSC Business Manager

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approve September 2015 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

GOVERNOR BROWN DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency on the vast tree mortality in several regions of the state due to severe drought conditions and resulting bark beetle infestations. This proclamation will help the Fire Safe Council get work done faster by exempting some CEQA requirements, reducing some paperwork and processes.

NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT 2016 CHIPPING

A news release from Atascadero Department of Fire and Emergency Services “Grant funding for chipping program unavailable for City of Atascadero residents in 2016” and an article from The Tribune “Loss of grant ends SLO County’s chipping program” were discussed. After April 1, 2016 there will be no money for chipping from CA Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse grants. Other grants (Cambria GHGF, Parkhill SRA, WUI Atas-Tass and WUI Lake Nacimiento) will allow for chipping in the limited geographic area covered by those grants.

2015-16 GRANT PROJECT PROPOSALS

- A. 2015-16 CAL FIRE SRA Fee Grants 2nd year of grants – The purpose of the SRA Fee Grant Program is to undertake fire prevention projects and activities that address the risk of potential impacts of wildfire to habitable structures throughout the entire SRA. \$5M available statewide, application deadline is January 7, 2016, \$100,000 maximum per project application/multiple applications ok. Project suggestions: Lopez Canyon and Hi Mountain Road brushing; Montana de Oro and San Simeon State Parks; use grants to replace chipping; Atascadero chipping; eucalyptus grove in Nipomo; more preplans. Dan Turner requested direction on projects, he will get cost estimates, and electronically mail to the Board of Directors for an electronic vote if necessary. After discussion, **it was moved, seconded and approved to instruct Business Manager Dan Turner to submit a separate application for each of the following projects – chipping (\$30,000 x 2 = \$60,000 leaving \$40,000 for hazardous tree removal); Nipomo eucalyptus trees; Hi Mountain and Lopez Drive brushing; and evacuation preplans.**
- B. 2015-16 CA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL CLEARINGHOUSE GRANT APPLICATION – 2016-17 application period opens Spring 2016; \$200,000 maximum per application, no urgency on this grant application. A priority target will be to use this grant for funding countywide chipping irrespective of City and SRA boundaries.

PG&E 2015 GRANT – PROJECT COMPLETE/FINAL REPORTS FILED

On behalf of the FireSafe Council Dan Turner thanked PG&E for their 2015 Drought Augmentation of \$75,000 (Pismo Heights \$7,000 and Hazardous fuel and tree removal/chipping countywide \$68,000. All work has been completed.

CAMBRIA MONTEREY PINE FOREST GRANT STATUS

CAL FIRE/ARB (Cap and Trade) – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant – \$1,323,033 - *Still Pending decision*

2015 Western States Forest Leadership Coalition WUI Grant - \$299,906 – *AWARD Pending*

CAL FIRE/ARB (Cap and Trade) – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant - \$498,736 – Grant Awarded and contract signed, four year performance period.

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisor Bruce Gibson thanked the FireSafe Council for all the hard work and effort over the years and especially during this drought period resulting in mass tree mortality.

Biomass Electric Generation - Dan Turner discussed a proposed partnership with ALL POWER LABS on a BETA TEST SITE for a portable biomass generation plant in Cambria. This might be a very exciting opportunity to partner with the Cambria Community Services District to create power using wood chips from dead trees. Shirley Bianchi suggested the plant placement at 1) Cambria high school, 2) the water treatment plant, or 3) Hearst Castle. There are a lot of moving parts to coordinate a project like this; the FireSafe Council members approved the continuation of discussions with ALL POWER LABS.

Site Lease for Log Decking and Sawmill – Dan Turner presented a proposal to enter into a lease for a portable saw mill in Cambria. He stated that an attorney is working on a lease with Ralph Covell to place a portable sawmill on his property as a way to remove/process downed timber in the Cambria area and reduce the carbon footprint. Terms of the lease - lease 10+ acres of Covell Ranch at \$2,000 a month for two years, a saw mill operator would run the mill and Ralph Covell would own the milled lumber. Many scenarios were discussed at length. The FireSafe mission is public benefit – a fire in the dead and diseased trees on the Covell Ranch could turn into a fire like the one in the Oakland hills. **It was moved, seconded and approved to –**

- 1) **Authorize the FireSafe Council Business Manager to secure Ralph Covell's property for a portable saw mill with a non-refundable deposit of \$2,000 a month for ninety days (until timber operator executes a lease with Ralph Covell and begins operation),**
- 2) **Prepare a timber/harvest plan and an RFP to timber harvesters,**
- 3) **Help facilitate a lease agreement between a timber operator and Ralph Covell.**
(Dan Dulitz, opposed)

Cambria Focus Group Update – Shirley Bianchi shared that meetings and education continues with a great group of people. The Focus Group needs to meet at least once a month to help educate people on not being able to evacuate when trees fall. Fire Chief Rob Lewin shared that State Senator Monning will be at the Cambria Fire Station on December 16th at 9:30 AM for a briefing and tour similar to the Lois Capps visit. All FireSafe Council members are invited to attend.

SLO FIRESAFE COUNCIL GRANT AND OPERATIONS BUDGET REPORT

- A. 2014-15 Countywide FSC Grant - \$199,985 (14-014) – Ends March 31, 2016
- 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

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the budget reports through December 8, 2015 for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS/OFFICERS

Board of Director elections for 2016 will be held at the Annual Meeting in January 2016. There are 10 members with expiring terms and three stakeholder groups with no current representative. This is an information item only, no action necessary.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nathan Rezeau – National Fish and Wildlife has \$11M funding available to use mainly for fire restoration and fire scar repairs in Santa Barbara County. West Cuesta Ridge Road repair plan is finished. 7.1 miles of roadwork – first phase is done – issue PG&E a permit to do the work at the end of this month.

Ed Waage – Announced Rob Lewin is retiring and thanked him for all his hard work and dedication during his successful career.

Rob Lewin – Stated that it was an honor and a privilege to help organize the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council under the direction of Fire Chief Dan Turner; he encouraged the FireSafe Council not to waiver on its mission and goals; thanked the Council for the new dip tank which has been placed on a hill top in West Atascadero; and stated that prescribed burning needs to be reinvigorated – more burning needs to happen in this county.

Dennis Javens – Thanked the FireSafe Council and Dan Turner for the money to drop 100 trees at Oakshores.

Steve Negro – Dan Turner is owed a great deal of thanks for all his time and effort on behalf of the FireSafe Council.

NEXT MEETINGS

Board of Directors – Wednesday, January 20, 2016 – (BBQ Lunch) Preceding 1:00 PM Meeting – SLO Vets Hall

Executive Committee – Wednesday, February 14, 2016 – 9:00 AM - Templeton

Adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerilyn W. Moore

Recording Secretary