



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, August 4, 2016**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Turko Semmes – Builders Community	Jim Harrison – Citizen at Large
Frank Mecham – Co. Board of Supervisors	Bill White – County Fire Chiefs’ Assn.
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Holly Sletteland (Alt) – Environmental Rep.
Susan McDonald (Alt) – Cambria Focus Group	Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large
Steve Negro – District 1 Representative	Mark Elliott - APCD
Greg Saenz (Alt) – Pacific Gas & Electric	Skip Dyke – Range Improvement
Tom Wright – Citizen at Large	Chris Dicus – Cal Poly
Scott Hallett – Atascadero Focus Group	Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large	Chris Slate – District 3 Representative
Michael Wright – Insurance Industry	Johnathan Hurst – Fire Prevention Assn.
John McKenzie - Co. Planning & Building	Robin Foreman – SLO Assoc. of Realtors
Richard Gonzales – Farm Bureau	Jim McCallum – Los Osos Focus Group
Martin Scott – Ranchita Focus Group	Dan Dulitz – District 5 Representative
Bob Neumann – District 2 Representative	

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by 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:***

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### YTD SLO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL OPERATIONS BUDGET

Business Manager Dan Turner presented and reviewed the FireSafe Council 2016 Operations Budget as of August 2, 2016. *It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the 2016 Operations Budget through August 2, 2016 for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.*

### REQUEST FOR SUPPORT LETTER – TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE DESIGNATION

Ron Alsop, SLO County Office of Emergency Services, made a brief presentation on the tree mortality and significant fire threat in Cambria and surrounding areas. While there is widespread and vast tree mortality in areas such as the Sierras, there is a unique and serious threat in the Monterey pine forest located in the northwestern coastal area of San Luis Obispo County (a portion of the forest is located in the community of Cambria). The threat of fire in and around the Cambria area is particularly concerning as the residents live within a dying Monterey pine forest. Evacuating 6,000+ people, with about one-third of the residents 65 or older, and roads with limited access into and out of the community would pose a threat to public health and safety. Local agencies have been working diligently, however the situation is now beyond local resource capacity and has reached a point where State assistance is needed. *It was moved, seconded and approved that the SLO County Community FireSafe Council write a letter of support of San Luis Obispo County's request to the Tree Mortality Task Force asking to be a designated county receiving state assistance.*

### GRANTS REPORT

#### Greenhouse Gas Reduction (GHGR) Grant Program

Grant Total \$498,736 – no money received to date, CAL POLY students are working on test sites, the Cambria Focus Group is working on community preparedness education and defensible space.

- A. Ventana Forestry: Scope of Work and \$50,000 Budget – The Hearst Corporation has granted permission for the FireSafe Council to test different logging techniques and determine costs per acre on the Pico Creek Stand. Ventana Forestry was contacted for a proposal and bid for logging work on the Pico Creek Stand. Ventana submitted two proposals – option one for tree removal at Pico Grove and option two for tree removal/chipping of tree tops/logs & forest sanitation. The Executive Committee reviewed the proposal and options and recommended a \$50,000 cap on the budget. Harvesting and chipping is the best approach to forest health and the work under the grant must show carbon sequestering. *It was moved, seconded and approved to accept Ventana Forestry's project proposal bid for tree removal, chipping of tree tops, logs and forest sanitation on 22 acres in the Pico Creek Stand not to exceed \$50,000.*

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- B. Portable Biomass Project – The goal of the FireSafe Council is to facilitate All Power Labs and Cambria Community Services District (CCSD) coming together to work on carbon sequestering under the grant. The CCSD is supportive of placing the BETA test portable power plant at the Cambria sewer plant. Talks continue.

### **2014-15 State FireSafe Council Grant (14-SFA-014)**

This grant is closed as of June 30, 2016, all funds expended, match exceeded, all projects worked well. Turko Semmes coordinated repairs on the Fire Demonstration Building at the fairgrounds. With the help of Bob Neumann and Chris Slate they placed a permanent sign, repaired building signs and doors, and a permanent dedication plaque was made honoring Es Berliner (to be presented at a future date). It was suggested that possibly a partnership with the Master Gardeners could be arranged to establish and maintain demonstration firesafe landscaping around the building.

### **2014 WFLC-Lake Nacimiento (14-WUI-004)**

Grant total \$260,820 – grant performance period ends December 30, 2016 – Dennis Javens has been working on getting Heritage Ranch designed as a Firewise Community. Work at Chimney Rock will probably not get done by the end of the grant period and it is suggested that funds be moved to another project. **It was moved, seconded and approved to reallocate \$25,000 from the Chimney Rock fuel break to Oakshores for hazardous tree work.**

### **2015 WFLC – Atascadero-Tassajera (15-WUI-093)**

Grant total \$243,516 – grant performance will end December 30, 2016 – Vierra Ranch chipping going on – Eagle Ranch control burn delayed, moving funding from that project - \$167,590 match balance remaining, more match needed.

### **Parkhill SRA Fee**

Grant total \$323,986 – grant performance ends March 30, 2017 – work is moving along with crews doing work with little expenditure – mastication work will begin in the fall.

### **Western WUI-Cambria WUI Fuel Break**

Grant Budget Status \$260,788 – grant performance period ends June 30, 2018 – no greenhouse gas requirements - extend and improve Bridge Street fuel break in Cambria – environmental improvement letter being issued by CA FireSafe Council.

### **2015-16 SRA Fee Grant Requests**

- 1) Countywide Hazardous Fuel and Tree Mortality
  - A. Grant Budget Status - \$99,758 – grant performance period ends March 1, 2018 -
    - 1) Morro Bay WUI fuel break above Nutmeg Street - complete
    - 2) Pismo Heights project continuation proposal- on Land Conservancy land
    - 3) Nipomo Project proposal – about 500 dead eucalyptus trees

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- B. Hi Mountain and Upper Lopez Canyon Road Right of Way – Grant budget \$89,170 – work has not started yet.

### **2016 PG&E Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant**

- A. \$35,000 funding for 2 projects
  - 1) \$15,000 Ranchita Estates fuel break – completed by Sabovich Construction – his work was very good
  - 2) \$20,000 Communication sites defensible space – Davis Peak, Ontario Ridge, Lopez Hill or Rocky Butte – work has to be done by October 30, 2016

**It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the budget reports through August 2, 2016 for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.**

### **OTHER GRANT OPPORTUNITIES - PENDING DECISION/APPLICATION**

- A. 2016 CA-FireSafe Council-Grants Clearinghouse - \$144,265 Application submitted – decision expected August 9<sup>th</sup> – money can be used in cities that don't qualify for other grants, hazardous tree removal
- B. 2016 CAL FIRE – Greenhouse Gas Grants – Open August 22, 2016 - \$10M
- C. 2016 CAL FIRE – State Responsibility Fee Grants – Open August 22, 2016 - \$11M
- D. 2016 CAL FIRE – Tree Mortality Grants – Open August 22, 2016 - \$138M available

The Board of Directors needs to consider projects and costs if additional grant money is awarded.

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

Executive Committee Meeting – August 17, 2016

Board of Directors Meeting – September 21, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 A.M. and reconvened at 10:56 A.M. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept Steve Jasperson as a Board of Director representing the Oak Shores Focus Group.**

The harvest tour was cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jerilyn W. Moore*

Recording Secretary