



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Frank Mecham – Co. Board of Supervisors	Debbie Arnold – Co. Board of Supervisors
Jim Harrison – District 4 Representative	Jeanie Hanson – Environmental Representative
Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	Dan Dulitz – District 5 Representative
Michael Wright – Insurance Industry	Chris Slate – District 3 Representative
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly	Scotty Jalbert – CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Jim Patterson – Environmental Representative
Mark Elliott - APCD	Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large
Steve Negro – District 1 Representative	Steve Gasperson – Oak Shores Focus Group
Bruce Fosdike – Cambria Focus Group	Bob Neumann – District 2 Representative
Justin Kephart – Pacific Gas & Electric	Martin Scott – Ranchita Focus Group
Scott Hallett – Atascadero Focus Group	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assn.	Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large
Turko Semmes – Builders Community	Johnathan Hurst – Fire Prevention Assn.
John McKenzie - Co. Planning & Building	Vacant – SLO Assoc. of Realtors
Richard Gonzales – Farm Bureau	Jim McCallum – Los Osos Focus Group
Bill White – County Fire Chiefs’ Assn.	Tom Wright – Citizen at Large
Vacant – Cattlemen’s Assn.	

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner – Business Manager	Loree McRoberts – Recording Secretary
Hannah Panno – Fire Rsrch Analyst / CAL FIRE	Dave Fowler – Pre-Fire Captain / CAL FIRE

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 following consent items:

- Draft November 2016 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- FireSafe Council meeting calendar for 2017

RECOGNITION

Frank Mecham is recognized for his service on the FireSafe Council and given well wishes for his retirement.

2016 FIRE SAFE COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Grants awarded and being managed by the SLO FireSafe Council have totaled \$2.4 million for 2016 and 2017.

Hannah Panno, CAL FIRE/Fire Research Analyst, produced a presentation on twelve different projects funded by the FireSafe Council in San Luis Obispo County. These projects include chipping, mastication, hazardous tree removal, forest health inventory and pre-attack maps.

An independent contractor presented photos depicting before and after situations of fuel reduction on the Toleman Road project using a drone. This type of technology is reported to be safer, more cost effective and repeatable for tracking large projects.

Business Manager Turner congratulated U.S. Forest Service staff including Forest Supervisor Baird and District Ranger Rezeau on the repairs and grading of West Cuesta/TV Tower Road. The road and communication site projects are excellent examples of how the multi-agency collaboration brought about through the FSC can achieve results that help everyone.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL WEBSITE REPORT

Greg Alex, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief, presented an overview of the website with a report of how many visitors we have received since 2009. Our website appears to be a popular source of information for people seeking knowledge of our organization and the information we share. In 2016, the website had 125,918 visitors from all over the world. We also have social media applications with Twitter and Google+, making FireSafe Council activities more transparent and information more available.

SLO FIRE SAFE COUNCIL OPERATIONS BUDGET

Business Manager Dan Turner presented and reviewed the FireSafe Council 2016 Grant and Internal Operations Budget as of December 31, 2016. ***It was moved, seconded and approved to***

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accept the 2016 Grant and Internal Operations Budget through December 31, 2016 for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.

The 2017 Internal Operations Proposed Budget was presented. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the 2017 Internal Operations Budget for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.**

The Board recommends that Mr. Turner explore hiring an outside agency to review our accounting procedures and practices to ensure our continued compliance in our reporting procedures. **It was moved, seconded and approved for Mr. Turner to seek action on this recommendation.**

GRANTS REPORT

Current Grant Financial Reports

Financial reports for the grants that are being managed by the SLO FireSafe Council were presented to the Board. A complete description of the work done and for the planned activities with remaining funds was discussed. Below is a summary of those reports. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the grant financial reports for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.**

Grant Number	Location	Grant Allocation	Grant Expended	Comments
14-WUI-004	Lake Nacimiento	\$260,820	\$260,821	Completed
15-WUI-USFS-093	Atascadero / Tassajera	\$243,516	\$243,514	Closes 3/1/17
PGE SLO- 01/02	Ranchita Est/Comm Sites	\$35,000	\$35,000	Completed
14-SRA-HF-01-0131-SLU	Parkhill	\$323,986	\$19,595	Fuel Breaks/schld for March
14-GHG-FMP-01-0200-FPC-SLU	Cambria	\$498,736	\$69,820	Salvage timber harvest/French broom rmvl
17-WUI-57089	Cambria	\$260,788	\$9,956	Bridge Street Fuel Break
16-SLU-2030	Cambria Village	\$199,976	\$0	Salvage/Sanitation harvest East Main St
15-SRA-SLU-2024	Hi Mtn / Upper Lopez	\$89,170	\$0	Hazard Fuel Reduction/In planning process
15-SRA-SLU-2024	Countywide	\$98,758	\$1,520	Chipping
16-SLU-2031	Countywide	\$152,152	\$0	Hazard Fuel Reduction/Tree Rmvl
16-SLU-2029	Countywide	\$116,424	\$0	Pre-Attack Maps/Comm Wldfr Prot Plan

Grant Applications Submitted / Pending Decisions

2016 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) – WUI Grant

Submitted and decision pending per CA ranking and WFLC decision. Grant (\$300,000) would fund contractor provided “AIR CURTAIN BURNER” to dispose of dead and dying eucalyptus, pine and other hazardous trees that cannot be used in other use means (saw lumber, bio-mass, etc.) by burning in a significantly more “air quality friendly” means than pile burning.

2016 CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Greenhouse Gas Grants

Grant awards will total \$15 million, with \$12.25 million going to disadvantaged communities and \$3.75 million to non-disadvantaged communities. Cambria Community Services District will apply for a co-generation plant; FSC will assist them with the grant request if needed. The estimated cost of this plant is \$300,000.

ELECTION OF 2017 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Board of Directors

Frank Mecham is retiring from SLO FireSafe Council. He recommends Debbie Arnold fill this vacancy. **It was moved, seconded and approved to appoint Ms. Arnold the new FireSafe Council representative from the County Board of Supervisors.**

Jim Patterson, ECO SLO Environmental Representative, is retiring from SLO FireSafe Council. He and the Executive Director of ECO SLO (via letter) recommends Jeanie Hanson fill this vacancy. **It was moved, seconded and approved to appoint Ms. Hanson the new Environmental Representative of the FireSafe Council.**

The Board discussed the Fire Prevention Officer Association's representative position. Chief Scott Jalbert, CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire, will seek clarification from the County Fire Chief's Association as to their representative for this position for consideration at a future Board meeting. The current incumbent will remain on the roster unless the Chiefs select another representative.

The balance of the incumbent directors were affirmed for 2017.

It was moved, seconded and approved to elect the following slate of officers for 2017:

Debbie Arnold, President
Jim Harrison, 1st Vice President
Dan Dulitz, 2nd Vice President
Steve Negro, Secretary
Bob Neumann, Treasurer
Ed Wagge, Director at Large

2017 GRANT STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2017 CA FireSafe Council Grants opening in late spring
- CAL FIRE SRA Fee – Hazardous Fuel Reduction/Chipping Countywide in SRA
- CAL FIRE Greenhouse Gas / Forest Health – funding available mid-2017, can be used inside City limits

CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2017 GRANT PROJECTS

- FireSafe Landscaping brochure/website for San Luis Obispo County Landscapes
- Chipping countywide including cities
- Oak Shores fuel break between Oak Shores I and II
- French Broom eradication – Base of Cuesta Grade/Reservoir Canyon

COMMENT AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dan Dulitz, Vice President, shared that the wood turnings in the rafters of our meeting room at the SLO Vets Hall were made by former SLO FSC Director Roy Parsons (deceased) when he was in high school. President Mecham read a letter to Roberta Parsons, Roy's widow, thanking her for a recent donation to the SLO FSC in Roy's name.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting – February 15, 2017 at the SLO County Government Center
Board of Directors Meeting – March 15, 2017 at the Santa Margarita Community Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary