



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Arnold – Co. Board of Supervisors	Jim Harrison – District 4 Representative
Turko Semmes – Builders Community	Jeanie Hanson – Environmental Representative
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large
Chris Slate – District 3 Representative	Justin Kephart – Pacific Gas & Electric
Steve Negro – District 1 Representative	Steve Gasperson – Oak Shores Focus Group
Greg Saenz – Pacific Gas & Electric	Bob Neumann – District 2 Representative
Bruce Fosdike – Cambria Focus Group	Martin Scott – Ranchita Focus Group

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Scotty Jalbert – CAL FIRE / SLO County Fire	Dan Dulitz – District 5 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
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Association	Chris Dicus – Cal Poly
Mark Elliott – Air Pollution Control District	Scott Hallett – Atascadero FD Focus Group
Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large	Bill White – County Fire Chief’s Association
Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	Tom Wright – Citizen at Large

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner – Business Manager	Loree McRoberts – Recording Secretary
Alan Peters – Division Chief / Forester	Tim Mathison – Project Manager
Jim Neumann – Project Manager	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Arnold 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 items:

- Draft January 2017 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Draft February 2017 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

YTD FINANCIAL STATUS

Business Manager Dan Turner presented and reviewed the FireSafe Council 2017 Operations Budget as of February 13, 2017. It was noted that three (3) grants have recently closed and are awaiting reimbursement. ***It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the 2017 Operations Budget through February 13, 2017 for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.***

CALENDAR ADJUSTMENTS

President Debbie Arnold requested consideration in changing meeting dates in May and November due to scheduling conflicts. The Board agreed to reschedule the May meeting to Friday, May 19, 2017 and the November meeting to Wednesday, November 8, 2017.

GRANTS REPORT

2015 SRA Grant Awards

High Mountain - Upper Lopez (Roadside Clearance)

Grant allocation \$89,170. Encroachment permits were received March 14. Roadside clearance work projected to start in May.

Countywide Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Grant allocation \$98,758. Upcoming project, Knollwood, in Nipomo will remove and haul away hazardous eucalyptus trees. The trees must be replaced by natural plants.

SRA Fee - Parkhill

Due to the recent rains in the area, getting equipment into this area was not feasible. Direction was given by the Executive Board to hire a contractor with hand crews to perform the work. This enabled a maximum amount of hazardous fuel reduction in the area with the minimum amount of time left on the performance period without having to return any grant funds. The crews worked at the rate of one acre per 80 man hours. The contractor has completed the work and the grant has \$313,692 expended to date.

FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2017

Page 3

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

Grant is now closed. The grant expenditures equaled the grant allocation of \$260,820. We were able to perform some hazardous tree removal before the end of the performance period.

2015 WFLC - Atascadero-Tassajera (15-WUI-093)

Grant is now closed. The grant match requirement of \$286,500 was surpassed by \$36,570. Grant allocation of \$243,516 was utilized on Atascadero Land Preservation, Vierra Ranch and Toleman Road projects.

Cambria Grants

Greenhouse Gas Forest Health Grant

Grant allocation is \$498,736. The goals of this grant are removing hazard trees and timber harvesting. Ventana Forestry will be able to begin work soon on the Hearst Ranch. Once that work is complete we are hoping to have the contract in place for the work on the Covell Ranch. A new contractor has expressed interest on that project but does not have his timber operator license to date. The Board is good with contract negotiations being managed by Dan Turner, Business Manager if the timber license is obtained and two vendors are interested in the contract. Timber harvesting is planned for May or June.

Direction was given by the Executive Board to waive the formal bid process and contract the French Broom pulling project as soon as possible. This enabled the crew to take advantage of the damp earth and early plant growth to remove the plants by the root.

Grant performance period currently ends December 30, 2019.

Cambria WUI Grant

Grant allocation is \$260,788. Bruce Fosdike, Cambria Focus Group, is waiting direction from CAL FIRE and Cambria Fire for purchasing signage. Plans for grant include extending and improving Bridge Street fuel break and hazard tree reduction harvest. Grant performance period currently ends June 30, 2018.

Cambria East Village Tree Mortality

Grant allocation is \$199,976. Scope of the work is 45 acres to harvest and create fuel break. No contract is signed to date. Grant performance period currently ends March 10, 2019.

2016 SRA Grant Awards

Countywide Hazard Fuel Reduction / Tree Removal

Grant allocation is \$152,152. This grant was recently awarded. Work is in the planning stages. Grant performance period currently ends March 30, 2019.

Countywide WUI & CWPP

Grant allocation is \$116,424. Presentations were made to City Mayors and County Fire Chiefs promoting County Wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Long Range Strategies and interface with General Plan-Safety Element and Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP). The Pre-Attack maps have been proven to be significantly helpful in recent fires. Grant performance period currently ends March 30, 2019.

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the grant status reports for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.

NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

2017 Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) – WUI Grant

Submitted and decision pending per CAL FIRE 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

FireSafe Council was not invited to submit a grant proposal. Much of the grant was directed toward disadvantaged communities, Cambria does not fit into that guideline.

2017 PG&E Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Project proposals are due March 17, 2017. Multiple projects can be submitted; each project has a \$75,000 limit. Numerous projects have been identified for these guidelines. The Board recommends that Dan Turner, Business Manager, and Alan Peters, CAL FIRE, prioritize these projects and submit proposals. The Board agreed that our first priority for submission should be the High Mountain access road.

2017 CAL FIRE Greenhouse Gas Grant – Forest Health

Grant proposals are due April 7, 2017. This grant supports fuel reduction and biomass opportunities with no disadvantaged community requirements. The Board has recommended we

FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2017

Page 5

submit two applications. One for the co-generation plant to create bio-char in Cambria and another for CAL FIRE to purchase a biomass machine that could be transported throughout California to assist local fire agencies.

2017/2018 California Fire Safe Clearinghouse

Grant proposals are due May 12, 2017. The Board would like to utilize this grant to fund projects identified in the PG&E Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant that are not awarded.

COMMENT AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bill Cochran will be attending meetings representing the Cattleman's Association. He will be a great liaison for the local landowners and FireSafe Council.

No volunteers were available to staff a booth at this year's Earth Day celebration being held on April 22, 2017 at El Chorro Regional Park. It was agreed that we would not reserve booth space in hopes of finding volunteers. Jeanie Hanson offered space at the ECOSLO booth for FireSafe literature.

Wildfire Awareness Week is May 1 through 7, 2017. Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is Saturday, May 6, 2017.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Board of Directors Meeting – Friday, May 19, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary