



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Arnold – Co. Board of Supervisors	Scott Jalbert – CAL FIRE / SLO County Fire
Turko Semmes – Builders Community	Jeanie Hanson – Environmental Representative
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Bob Neumann – District 2
Chris Slate – District 3 Representative	Nathan Rezeau – US Forest Service
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly	Steve Gasperson – Oak Shores Focus Group
Dan Dulitz – District 5 Representative	Mark Elliott – Air Pollution Control District
Bruce Fosdike – Cambria Focus Group	Martin Scott – Ranchita Focus Group
Steve Negro – District 1 Representative	Tom Wright – Citizen at Large
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Association	Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large
Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	Jim Harrison – District 4 Representative
Scott Hallett – Atascadero FD Focus Group	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large	Justin Kephart – Pacific Gas & Electric
Bill White – County Fire Chief’s Association	Ricki Heath – Fire Prevention Assn.
Richard Gonzales – Farm Bureau	Jim McCallum – Los Osos Focus Group
Bill Cochran – Cattlemen’s Association	

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner – Business Manager	Loree McRoberts – Recording Secretary
Alan Peters – Division Chief / Forester	Dave Fowler – Captain / Pre-Fire Engineering
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:

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- Draft May 2017 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes with correction made to Parkhill Roadside Clearance item (remove Ranchita Estates and replace with Parkhill).
- Draft July 2017 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

YTD FINANCIAL STATUS

Business Manager Dan Turner presented and reviewed the FireSafe Council 2017 Operations Budget as of July 17, 2017.

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the 2017 Operations Budget through July 17, 2017 for the San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council as presented.

CAL FIRE had proposed to transfer funds from an account established for the Fire Safety Trailer to SLO FSC for management. The Executive Board voted to accept CAL FIRE's proposal. The trailer was purchased with donations and is utilized at Safety Fairs, school presentations and public events. The account balance consists of monies that were left over from the purchase and have been lying dormant for several years. SLO FSC will oversee the disbursement of those funds and streamline the process of getting repairs made to the interior of the trailer. Once the amount in the account is expended, SLO FSC will no longer manage the account. Chris Slate has volunteered to work with Zach Nichols, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief to identify needed repairs. **It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the to transfer funds from an account established for the Fire Safety Trailer to SLO FSC for management as presented.**

Lake Nacimiento Focus Group

The intent with forming the Lake Nacimiento Focus Group is to have one group represent the wants and needs of the entire lake community. Cal Shasta, Oak Shores and Heritage Ranch agreed to the idea while other groups did not. The group meets the first Thursday of the month. A meeting with Monterey County is scheduled in an attempt to alleviate weeds and hazardous trees/fuels on the County owned properties located in the area.

2017 FIRE SEASON UPDATE

San Luis Obispo County Unit Chief Scott Jalbert reported on the most recent fires that have plagued the County. The three most common fire starts have been vehicles, dragging chains and equipment use. Chief Jalbert feels that the areas of weed and brush mitigation performed by the FireSafe Council directly related to the control and containment of the Hill fire.

Nathan Rezeau reported on the Whittier fire and it was noted that the fire is threatening key electrical transmission lines and communication towers. The cooperation between agencies battling this fire has been overwhelmingly positive.

GRANTS REPORT

2017 PG&E Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant Awards

Davis-Cherry Canyon Fuel Break

Grant allocation is \$75,000. The work has been completed clearing the final segment of a fuel break from Davis Peak to Wild Cherry Canyon. The grant award has been expended in full and will be submitted for reimbursement.

Parkhill Roadside Clearance

Grant allocation is \$75,000. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the grant has been expended to clear the roadside for the Parkhill Road area. Due to fire activity in the area, work was suspended until September. We have two more days of clearing budgeted to this grant.

2015 SRA Grant Awards

Hi Mountain - Upper Lopez (Roadside Clearance)

Grant allocation \$89,170. This grant has been expended and all planned work has been completed.

Countywide Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Grant allocation \$98,758. This grant will be expended by July 21, 2017 with the current work being done at Knollwood in Nipomo. A motion was made by Jim Harrison to award an additional \$15,000 to this project from the SLO FSC 2016 SRA Grant budget to finish some dead tree removal on Dawn Road and leave the entire area in a presentable state.

It was moved, seconded and approved to grant an additional \$15,000 from the 16 SRA-Countywide Hazardous Fuel reduction grant to finish the work started at Knollwood in Nipomo

2016 SRA Grant Awards

Countywide WUI & CWPP

Grant allocation is \$116,424. Work has started with a Cal Poly intern updating Pre-Attack maps. This project will fill in the gaps between the existing WUI Preplans in target areas and update the Countywide CWPP. Grant performance period currently ends March 30, 2019.

Countywide Hazard Fuel Reduction / Tree Removal

Grant allocation is \$152,152. These funds can be used for chipping, tree removal or fuel breaks. Grant performance period currently ends March 30, 2019.

With adequate funding looking positive for next calendar year, it was agreed on to use some of these funds on projects needing attention now. It was approved to use \$15,000 from this grant to complete the work at Knollwood in Nipomo now while the crews are still on site.

A request was made by Steve Negro for \$17,626 to mitigate weeds in the Lakeside Village and Riverview Estates areas of Heritage Ranch. The homeowner's association spent \$17,307 on hazardous fuel reduction in the area but have no funds to complete the work. Steve Gasperson made a motion to award \$17,626 to this project from the SLO FSC 2016 SRA Countywide Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant.

It was moved, seconded and approved to grant the Heritage Ranch Homeowner's Association \$17,626 from the 16-SRA Countywide Hazardous Fuel Reduction grant to complete weed abatement in their area.

Cambria Grants

Cambria WUI Grant

Grant allocation is \$260,788. Grant performance period currently ends May 31, 2018. Work funded from this grant is to maintain, extend and expand the existing fuel break on the west side of Bridge Street. This grant is projected to be fully expended Fall 2017.

Cambria East Village Tree Mortality

Grant allocation is \$199,976. Scope of the work is 45 acres to harvest and create fuel break on the east side of Bridge Street. Work has started on this project and projected to be halfway complete before the wet weather sets in this fall. Grant performance period currently ends March 10, 2019.

Greenhouse Gas Forest Health Grant

Grant allocation is \$498,736. The goals of this grant are removing hazard trees and timber harvesting. The scope of work for some of this project (dead and dying trees) is exempt from CEQA because of the Governor's State of Emergency declaration. Grant performance period currently ends December 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 CAL FIRE Greenhouse Gas Grant – Urban Forestry

Grant review complete and Cambria Community Services District was not invited to second round of grant process.

2017 CAL FIRE Greenhouse Gas Grant – Forest Health

Grant review complete and Cambria Community Services District was not invited to second round of grant process.

2017/2018 California Fire Safe Clearinghouse

Two grant proposals were submitted for three projects:

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| 1. WUI Preplans, CWPP and Fire Preventions materials: | Total | \$67,100 |
| a. Fund City’s portion of CWPP and Pre-Attack Maps | | \$61,600 |
| b. Prevention materials for Mid-State Fair/Events | | \$ 5,500 |
| 2. Chipping in non-SRA areas | | \$68,200 |

Awards should be announced in the next few days.

CAL FIRE SRA – Fire Prevention Fee Grant

Application process opens soon, listed below are some suggestions for projects:

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| • South Shore Lake Nacimiento: Gage Irving Rd Tree removal | \$ 75,000 |
| • Heritage Ranch Haz Fuel Reduction: | \$ 10,000 |
| • Mid-State Fair Fire Prevention materials (2 years) | \$ 10,000 |
| • Lopez Lake/Upper Lopez Drive Prescribed Burn prep | \$ 75,000 |
| • Curtain Burner- 2-year lease | \$ 75,000 |
| • Cambria Monterey Pine Harvest | \$200,000 |
| • Countywide Haz Fuel removal | \$200,000 |
| • Cypress Mountain Rd clearance | \$200,000 |
| • Water tanks for fire, cattle, wildlife | ???? |

Western States WUI Grant

Grant application is due mid-August 2017. Direction was given to the board to organize an Ad Hoc committee to assist Dan Turner, Business Manager, in identifying areas that meet the grant criteria and aiding with the grant application submission. Volunteers for the committee are Dan Dulitz, Martin Scott, Bruce Fosdike, Jim Harrison, Steve Gasperson and Steve Negro. The grant has a \$260,000 limit and can only be used in areas where no prior WUI grants have been issued.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday, August 16 at County Government Center in SLO
Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, September 20, 2017, tentatively to be held in Cambria

FIRE SAFE DEMONSTRATION HOUSE DEDICATION

The SLO FSC reconvened at the Mid-State Fairgrounds to dedicate the Fire Safe House building to Es Berliner. A plaque was mounted on the house commemorating Ms. Berliner's service, commitment and dedication to fire prevention.

Ms. Berliner spearheaded the creation of the Fire Safe Demonstration House to further educate people on fire safety, defensible space, and making homes more resilient to fire. The design demonstrates multiple ways to construct buildings that are both fire resistant and beautiful. Through Es, CAL FIRE and the San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council, the house was designed, funded and constructed by donations and grants. Semmes and Company Construction of Atascadero built the building.

Ms. Berliner was instrumental in promoting continuous improvements in fire safety education utilizing the latest fire safety research, benefitting thousands of school children, their families and the public throughout San Luis Obispo County.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary