



San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
0900-1130 hours**

**Meeting held via Zoom
due to no large gatherings order in place
by San Luis Obispo County**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Arnold – County Board of Supervisors	Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen’s Association
Dan Dulitz – Fifth Supervisorial District	Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group
Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District	Tom Wright – Los Osos Focus Group
Jeanie Hanson – ECO SLO	Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large
Justin Kephart – PG&E	William Hollingsworth – County Fire Chiefs
Scott Jalbert – San Luis Obispo County Fire	Steve Negro – First Supervisorial District
Turko Semmes – Building Industry	Carissa Reynolds – Air Pollution Control Dist
Casey Bryson – Atascadero FD Focus Group	Ed Waage – Citizen at Large
Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group	Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension
Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large	Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc	Rodger Maggio – City of SLO (Alternate)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group	Richard Gonzales – Farm Bureau
David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group	Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large
Keith Aggson – City of San Luis Obispo	Bill White – Fire Prevention Offcrs Assoc

EX-OFICIO AND FOCUS GROUP REPRESENTATION:

Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek Focus Group

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner, Business Manager	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE
Brandon Sanderson – CAL FIRE	Jason Potts – CAL FIRE
Jon Gee – CAL FIRE	

GUESTS:

Randy Harris – Fire Prevention Offcrs Assoc	Emily Miggins – Los Osos Focus Group
Anais Tournier – APCD	Tom Plymale
Dave Van Son – Atascadero FD	John Owens – CAL FIRE
Brent Burchett – Farm Bureau	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Arnold at 9:00 A.M. followed by introduction of directors, focus group members, staff and guests.

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MINUTES

November 2020 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented.

December 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented.

2021 SLO Fire Safe Council meeting calendar was presented.

It was moved, seconded and approved to approve the November 2020 Board of Directors meeting minutes, the 2021 meeting calendar and accept for review the December 2020 Executive Committee minutes as presented

PRESENTATION

Retired Chief Scotty Jalbert reviewed fire season 2020 and provided a forecast of what 2021 might bring. While each year it is said that this is the worst fire season ever, 2020 proved that to be correct once again. While San Luis Obispo County was spared from massive destruction many other counties in California were not. There were nearly 10,000 fires that burned over 4.2 million acres, more than 4% of California's roughly 100 million acres of land. The August Complex fire has been described as the first "gigafire" as the area burned exceeded 1 million acres. The fire crossed seven counties and has been described as being larger than the state of Rhode Island. On August 19, 2020, the state was battling 367 known fires, many sparked by lightning strikes.

Fire season in California and across the West is starting earlier and ending later each year. Climate change is considered a key driver of this trend. Warmer spring and summer temperatures, reduced snowpack, and earlier spring snowmelt create longer and more intense dry seasons that increase moisture stress on vegetation and make forests more susceptible to severe wildfire. The length of fire season is estimated to have increased by 75 days across the Sierras and seems to correspond with an increase in the extent of forest fires across the state.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS

2020 Budget Items

- Abbreviated bank statement ending January 15, 2021 was reviewed.
- Monthly contractual expenditure report ending December 31, 2020 was reviewed.
- 2020 grant fund budget year-end report was reviewed
- 2020 SLO FSC Internal Operations budget year-end report was reviewed.

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the 2020 year-end budget reports for WUI grant and Internal Operations

2021 Budget Items

- 2021 SLO FSC Internal Operations Fund proposed budget was presented and discussed.

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the proposed 2021 fiscal year Internal Operations budget

NEW BUSINESS / ROUNDTABLE

- The California Forest Management Task Force report was provided.
- Prescribed Fire Burn Boss training program was discussed. The representatives from the Range Management Improvement Association, Cattlemen's Association and the SLO County Farm Bureau all

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expressed interest in attending. SLO FSC will inquire whether we could host a course here on the Central Coast if enough interest.

- Salinas Riverbed clearing will be utilizing grazing this spring.
- Senator John Laird is trying to increase funding to the Fire Safe Councils across the state.
- Assembly Bill 2911, which requires on or before July 1, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter, surveying local governments and fire districts to identify existing subdivisions, in either a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone, without secondary egress routes, that are at significant fire risk. The bill would require developing recommendations to improve the subdivision's fire safety. The question was asked, "how will this affect us?".

ELECTION OF 2021 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Proposed amendments to the 2021 Board of Directors are as follows:

1. John Owens to replace Scott Jalbert due to retirement (CAL FIRE / County Fire)
2. Randy Harris to replace Bill White (Fire Prevention Officers Association)
3. Emily Miggins to replace Tom Wright (Los Osos Focus Group)
4. Carissa Reynolds asks that Anais Tournier become an alternate representing APCD
5. Casey Bryson asks that Brandon Roberts and Dave Van Son be alternates for Atascadero FD Focus Group
6. Bill Tietje resigns as an alternate for UC Cooperative Extension
7. Tom Wright would like to become a Citizen at Large

It was moved, seconded and approved to affirm the amended list of the Board of Directors, accept the alternates as requested and expand the current slate to accept a new Citizen at Large position for the 2021 Board of Director's election

2021 Officers and Executive Committee members proposed as:

- President – Debbie Arnold
- 1st Vice President – Dan Dulitz
- 2nd Vice President – Ed Waage
- Secretary – Steve Negro
- Treasurer – Bob Neumann

Executive Committee proposed as:

- President – Debbie Arnold
- 1st Vice President – Dan Dulitz
- 2nd Vice President – Ed Waage
- Secretary – Steve Negro
- Treasurer – Bob Neumann
- Director – Royce Larsen

It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the slate of officers and Executive Committee for 2021

WORKING CAPITAL FUND/LOCAL GRANT FUND PROGRAM

Our working capital account has exceeded \$400,000. We can afford the community our local grant and scholarship program outlined in Policy 14, "Excess Working Capital Revolving Fund". Ed Waage is the officer in charge of the review process for this program. He and Dan Dulitz plan to meet next week to prioritize requests.

It was moved, seconded and approved to activate our local grant fund program in accordance with SLO FSC bylaws and policies

MID STATE FAIR FIRE SAFE HOUSE

We are waiting for a contract between the Fair Board and CAL FIRE to be drafted before starting work on the Fire Safe House area. We expect the contract to be drafted in the next few weeks. President Arnold will arrange a meeting at the Fair site so planning and preliminary work can begin.

GRANT REPORTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

2020 YEAR END GRANT FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

Grant status report reviewed with current expenditures and revenues.

Grants completed and closed in 2020:

- 14-15 Greenhouse Gas – Cambria \$498,000
- PG&E 2020 Grant – Village Lane \$ 88,000
- Webster VMP \$400,000

It was moved, seconded and approved to approve the 2020 year end grant status and financial reports

2021 ACTIVE GRANT SUMMARY

Countywide Tree Mortality	\$833,868 award, \$794,839 expended
Parkhill-Huer Huero WUI Project	\$505,848 award, \$504,354 expended
Nacimiento-Adelaide WUI Project	\$775,620 award, \$775,974 expended
Monterey Pine Mortality	\$1,816,304 award, \$1,039,727 expended
Countywide Fuel Reduction	\$972,606 award, \$941,853 expended
Countywide Haz Fuel Reduction	\$1,888,395 award, \$951,800 expended
Fire Prevention Planning - CWPP	\$ 221,026 award, \$0 expended

It was moved, seconded and approved to approve the 2021 grant status and financial reports

PENDING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- Western Forestry Leadership Coalition, Cal Poly-Mioosi WUI Project
 - Administered by CAL FIRE on behalf of WFLC-WUI
 - The request was submitted for \$250,000 with 50/50 match. Decision pending.

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FUTURE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- Governor's 2021-22 Budget Proposal Update
 - Potential for \$50 million in fire prevention grant funds immediately
 - Potential for an additional \$80 million in fire prevention grant funds after July 2021

GRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The grant committee prioritized a project list for new and upcoming grant funds. The list was presented and discussed.

It was moved, seconded and approved to move forward with the grant committee recommendations

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Anthony Stornetta from the Cattlemen's Association of Santa Barbara County will be invited to speak at a full board meeting. He will present the livestock identification program they have initiated and use.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, February 17, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Location: Zoom Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, March 17, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Location: Probability of Zoom Meeting unless group gathering restrictions relaxed

ADJOURNMENT

President Debbie Arnold adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary