

MINUTES OF THE April 19, 2017 FIRE SAFE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The First Meeting of the Fire Safe Santa Cruz County (FSSCC) was called to order at **2:10pm, April 19, 2017** at the Simpkins Family Swim Center, Meeting Room A, 979 17th Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting started at 2:10pm. Chris Coburn of the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, and Director of the newly-created, non-profit entity, Fire Safe Santa Cruz County (FSSCC) led the meeting.

2. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Introductions were made of all attendees and their agency representation.

3. APPROVAL OF BYLAWS DRAFT

- A) Suggested revision to the Director's term to reduce the term from four years to two, for both Directors and Officers.
- B) Suggested revision to revise the bylaws so that Half of the Board of Directors will serve an initial term of 1 year to avoid reelection of the entire Board of Directors at once.
- C) Edit- Typo to be corrected on page 17, section 2, education.

As set forth in the Article of Incorporation, Chris Coburn was established as the initial Board of Directors. As such, Chris approved the bylaws, as amended.

4. APPOINT DIRECTORS

As the Board of Directors, Chris Coburn accepted nominations and moved to accept the following nominations for the Board of Directors:

Joe Christy, Bonn Doon Fire Safe Council
Felix Sorrentino, PG&E
Andrew Hubbs, CAL FIRE
Matt Johnston, County of Santa Cruz
Tim Riley, State Parks
Trevor Dirksen, Aptos/La Selva Fire District
Ian Rowbotham, Sempirvirens Fund
Chris Berry, City of Santa Cruz
Jennifer Michelson, San Lorenzo Valley Water District
Nancy Cole, Resident / Santa Cruz Mountains Alliance
Chris Coburn, RCD

5. ELECT OFFICERS

Nominations and acceptance of Officers to the FSSCC

President: Joe Christy
Vice President: Matt Johnston
Secretary: Andy Hubbs
Treasurer: Chris Coburn

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS-NEXT STEPS

6.1. CONSIDERATION OF A BOARD OF ADVISERS

A suggestion was made to establish a Board of Advisors so that representatives of agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, could be involved in the FSSCC without running afoul of conflicts of interest.

6.2. MEETING SCHEDULE/DATES

Meetings will be held quarterly. The next meeting will be the week of May 22, 2017. The date and time will be determined by Joe Christy, President, through a doodle poll.

6.3. TARGET FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Federal Grants (Clearing House Grant) due on May 12th. One avenue could be that the FSSC would act as the applicant, but that the RCD could serve as the fiscal and administrative sponsor. Another grant that is currently soliciting proposals is the Green House Gas Grant fund, for which the FSSCC is an eligible applicant. Santa Clara FSC is preparing an application to the GHG program to implement a shaded fuel break, which would also benefit Santa Cruz County. There was general interest in securing funding for a county-wide chipper program.

OTHER MATTERS

There was general discussion about how the FSSCC would function and a suggestion that the RCD could act as the entity's administrative and fiscal sponsor. This is a model employed by the San Diego Fire Safe Council, and Chris Coburn will follow up with them to better understand that model.

There was an additional suggestion that the FSSCC could copy the programmatic structure of the Santa Clara Fire Safe Council that incorporates 1) Fuel reduction, 2) Outreach and Education, 3) Fundraisers, 4) Administration and 5) Planning. Other suggestions were offered to focus on possible projects that allow for early detection cameras in rural areas and water tanks to be placed in limited access areas.

There was discussion regarding active and upcoming agency fuels work and their ties to the CWPP. An update to the CWPP was mentioned as a possibility, but was encouraged to be kept intentionally broad and/or to have a CWPP within a CWPP to help with planning at local levels.

7. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Fires Safe Santa Cruz County Council is scheduled for the week of May 22, 2017. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

(RM/AH)