

MINUTES OF THE June 13, 2017 FIRE SAFE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting of the Fire Safe Santa Cruz County (FSSCC) was called to order at **10:35AM June 13, 2017** at the Cal Fire Training Center Conference Room – 6040 Gushee Street, Felton, CA.

Directors Present:

Directors Present: Joe Christy, President
Chris Coburn, Treasurer
Chris Berry
Ian Rowbotham
Rich Sampson
Tim Riley
Frank Rodgers
Nancy Cole
Roger Tompkins
Trevor Dirksen
Jen Michelsen

Directors Absent: Matt Johnston, Vice President
Andy Hubbs, Secretary
Felix Sorrentino

Public Attendees: Ed Hayes, South Skyline Fire Safe Council
Janet Wohlgemuth, California Conservation Corps
John Jones,
Rich Sampson
Roger Tompkins

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:35AM. Joe Christy, Board President, chaired the meeting.

2. Introductions and Welcome

- Joe welcomed the group
- Joe suggested that the Board consider alternates for Directors who represent a public agency. Chris Berry noted that whoever would be an alternate would need to sign the conflict of interest policy.
- Chris Berry moved to allow substitutes and add Ed Hayes to the Board. Second by Tim Riley, all in favor. Motion passed.
- Joe indicated that the conflict of interest forms should be returned to Chris Coburn @ the Resource Conservation District (RCD). 820 Bay Street, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010
- Chris Berry noted that he and his colleagues at the City are excited to see the formation of the group. City staff reviewed the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and is interested in working with group to possibly update that plan and use it to advance fire protection efforts.
- Ed Hayes reported that the spring chipping program from South Skyline has wrapped up. Ed reported that 13 residents were provided assistance through that program.
- Chris Coburn reported that the RCD has funds from the Monterey Bay Air Pollution Control District to assist residents with chipping of downed wood from this past winter's storms. Chris asked that anyone interested contact Angie Gruys at the RCD – 464-2950 X 22.

- Rich reported that the Pineridge neighborhood is interested in chipping
- Rich Sampson mentioned that the chief's chipper is still available, at least one agency who was involved in the purchase would need to be involved with its use
- Janet Wohlgemuth reported that the CCC, if awarded SRA grant funds, would have a new chipper available.
- Rich reported that fire season has been declared and engines have been staffed up. Rich reported that an area of emphasis is getting truck trails open – he reported that CalFire is about halfway through 150 miles of roads. Working closely with state parks.
- Rich reported that the San Mateo County Fire Safe Council has acquired a track chipper,
- Rich reported that several projects in north county are nearing readiness – San Vicente, among others.
- Rich reported that getting ready for some prescribed burns this summer / fall – up to 500 acres.
- Ed reported that the chipper ran about \$1,700 / day – 4 man crew with a truck.

3. Approve/Amend/Re-order agenda

- No comments on Today's agenda

4. Approve minutes prior meeting [All]

- Minutes will be circulated from the last meeting, along with today's meeting minutes for consideration at the August 3rd meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report [Chris Coburn]

- Chris reported that Fire Safe Santa Cruz County has received \$40 donation – at the last meeting. Chris reported that the RCD is working through how to manage the separate 501(c)(3) – acting as a fiscal sponsor, to ensure that the funds are accounted for appropriately.

6. Brief reports from the field [All]

7. Upcoming State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fee [SRAFPF] Grants

7.1. Next workshop: 10am to noon, Thursday, June 16, 17000 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill. For others, cf. [http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/downloads/2017 SRA Workshop.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/downloads/2017_SRA_Workshop.pdf)

- Joe reported on the upcoming workshops.
- Rich reported that State Fire Assistance grants are still on hold – no news on when the funds will actually arrive.

7.2. What is known as of now. Also, cf.

http://calfire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_fund_grants for last year's program.

8. Permanent Meeting Schedule [All]

- Joe reported on the feedback received from those who could not attend today's meeting – there was no consensus.
- Joe felt that quarterly was fine.
- Rich supported the idea of a bi-monthly meeting as the group gets off the ground and established.
- Chris Coburn moved to establish bi-monthly meetings, Rich Sampson seconded, all were in favor. Motion passed.
- Thursday mornings, 10AM will be the set time for the group. Chris Berry moved that group meet at 10:30 AM the first Thursday of every other month. (e.g. August 3rd, October 5th, December 7th). ??? Seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

9. Residual Santa Cruz County funds for FY 2015-2016 [All]

- Potential options include: Director's and Officer's insurance.
- Rich reported that a previous Executive Director from San Mateo FSC liked making websites for fire safe councils, and suggested that he might be an option.
- Joe reported that insurance was about \$1,500 for Directors & Officers (D&O) and Liability; Ed reported that his group upped the liability up to \$2M, and that it's running about \$2,200.
- Joe reported that officer insurance was paid for under a grant from USDA US Forest Service.
- Group realized that several folks had not gotten the notice for today's location change.
- Rich Sampson moved that the RCD investigate using the RCD for liability coverage and seek D&O coverage from the insurer who is working with local fire councils. ?? seconded. All approved, motion passed.
- Rich Sampson moved that the group evaluate finding someone to develop a website and encumber up to \$2K for the RCD to contract for development of a website. Janet second. Rich added that the site would include mailing lists and google docs. All were in favor, motion passed.
- Rich brought up the idea of working on the CWPP. Joe suggested that we prioritize projects within the CWPP. Splitting San Mateo / Santa Cruz CWPPs would require going back to the drawing board, an idea that was not broadly supported, but there was support for a minor update to the plan including more project information, updated graphics or other information.
- Rich mentioned that the San Mateo FSC is meeting tomorrow, and he offered to initiate a discussion with them regarding updates to the CWPP with support from RCDs.
- The question of using remaining funds to purchase tools and equipment. Question of where, who maintains, etc? Need to resolve liability insurance before implementing projects. San Mateo Chipper – County Parks agreed to maintain that chipper. Chief's chipper is about \$1,500 year to maintain. Safety and air quality standards are important considerations with a chipper.
- Rich made a motion to encumber up to \$2,000 on CWPP upgrade. Chris Berry seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

10. Protocols for planning, prioritizing, and coordinating projects [All]

- Question – is there a planned protocol for projects? Rich – in other councils, what projects are priorities for the next year – e.g. scope, scale, timing, cost. Jennifer asked if there was expertise available to identify projects within the District. Current CWPP doesn't prioritize projects. Rich reminded the group that the intent of this group was to access additional funding that previously individual groups were competing against. Need to develop a program that will prioritize projects and line us up for funding in a coordinated manner that attracts additional resources for efforts in the County. No action / resolution on this item, will be taken up at a later date.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM. The next meeting of the Fires Safe Santa Cruz County Council is scheduled for the week of August 3rd, at meeting TBD. Topics for the next meeting may include, updates to the CWPP, funding opportunities, updates on E/O and liability insurance and the website. Requests for future agenda items should be emailed to Chris Coburn @ ccoburn@rcdsantacruz.org.