



Board Meeting Minutes Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County

Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Location: Zoom

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Joe Christy
2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** Joe Christy, Patty Ciesla, Adam Hensleigh, Lisa Iurie, Lynn Sestak, Ed Hayes, Marco Mack, Cindy Weigelt, Brett Agler, Thomas Sutfin Irene Miranda Monteray Bay Air Pollution Control (can talk to her about a carbonator) District; Travis Eddy local vegetation program manager with PG&E, Felix Sorrentino, stepping off BOD and Advisors Committee
3. **CONSENT AGENDA** - Joe Christy
 - a. Any additions to the Agenda
 - b. Approve [minutes from 3/16/23 Board meeting](#) Moved by Lisa second by Lynn, approved unanimously
 - c. Accept resignations of Chris Berry, Ashley Weil, Felix Sorrentino from BOD
 - i. Chris Berry had a call with Joe after our last meeting, stated he was resigning. Ashley Weil has left State Parks. Felix resigned from the board at our last meeting and recommended new PG&E liaison. Moved by Joe, second by Patty, Unanimous approval.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** - Patty Ciesla See grants report spreadsheet for comments on old grants/donations and purposes/remainers Action Item to send out thank you notes for donations received (deposited 3/24)
5. **ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. Approve Jitasa bookkeeping proposal moved by Lisa second by Cindy, unanimously approved.
 - b. Approve providing chipping funds from the 22-FP CAL FIRE grant to RCD and South Skyline FSC. Lynn fully supports. Ed asks if Bonny Doon needs money, Joe reports 100 signups and a week of chipping via a CAL FIRE crew, very energetic volunteer coordinating, so Bonny Doon does not need funding. RCD average has been 250 households per year, have had 600 people apply, have increased limits from 3 piles to 4 piles and also roadside. South Skyline will need some additional funds, we have the same issues, we have about triple our normal amount of applicants and much larger piles. Normally it would cost about 30, 35 households, has over 40 signed up now maybe \$12000 for the whole season. Future WP grant would be executed in November so funds would be late fall, not now. Cindy moves, Joe Seconds, Lisa Abstains, others vote yeah.
 - c. Approve meeting location for May in person meeting

- d. Consider appointments to the advisory committee (Travis Eddy, Chris Berry)

- i.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Advisory committee report - Marco Mack Advisors met several times over the last month, report here covers these meetings, later Marco met with Patty, Marco states we need to recruit a person with a finance background as a volunteer BOD member Treasurer as an officer and hire a bookkeeper, lacking an executive director, we need to have a monthly FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting, change in ad/hoc bookkeeping, also need to establish financial policies (for board oversight) and procedures (for daily/regular bookkeeping/data entry/payments). Also needs a grant expenditure summary to include in financials.
- b. Discussion: Patty states not a lot of transactions to record each month, no way to add new users to quickbooks at this time. Consider Jitasa proposal today.
- c. Advisory committee will work on meeting with Fire Chiefs Assoc over the next month.
- d. Report on 2023 [CAL FIRE Wildfire Fire Prevention Grant](#) Revision - Patty Ciesla
- e. Discuss Central Coast CA Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force meeting in Santa Cruz May 11-12 Lisa will put link in the chat and will send to the board list. This is the quarterly governors task force, generally well attended by locals as well as state leadership at the coconut grove May 11 all day agenda, speakers panel, resource fair hours 8.30 to 10am, recommends FSCSCC attends the resource fair and consider coordinating with other FSCS for the presence. Friday May 12 are field tours, checkout the website, tours to highlight what's unique about the central coast about forest and fire work collaboratives, challenges, coordination could be improved, registration for in person ends May 1, resource fair Barry Small at Coastal Conservancy is coordinating that. Could use day of logistics support if any FSCSCC folks could volunteer. Patty Joe, Lisa plans to attend and will register.

7. BOARD MEMBER and COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Report from the Nominating Committee - We have a nomcom consists of Carly Blanchard, Cindy Weigelt and Joe Christy, Joe is preparing a vision for what an ideal board member qualifications would be. Lisa wants to know who we have currently on the board, we should have a discussion about direction of board makeup and advisory committee, we are seeing shifting agency representatives to advisory committee and more grassroots people on board of directors, we should be mindful if this really is our intention/vision and pros/cons, determine if there is consensus on this as a strategy, people dropping off the board without a replacement in mind, is happening organically rather than intently, we are losing leadership we don't want to lose momentum on programs. Joe reminds BOD elections are in June. Lisa mentions there are a lot of different models across the state, what is right for our county going forward based on our past history, how do we shift from that intentionally (or not). Think through strengths of different models, how to we backfill if we are needing more leadership on our board. Joe, should we schedule a special meeting between now and May to have the full board discuss the vision and strategy for bringing leadership to the board? Could do an hour before our next BOD meeting, discussion at 9am? Make it a key discussion item for the regular time of the May meeting and could push back elections to July. Joe will convene NomCom to discuss nominees before may meeting.
- b. Report on hiring staff TA on vacation, will be engaged in entire hiring process, Ed believes advisory committee wants to see this process completed as fast as possible.

8. OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORT

- a. Firewise
- b. HIZ

- c. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1p3S56xn1tl8pMxYpg7DHNYxGQAYK25UL?usp=sharing>
- d.

9. ROUND ROBIN (3 minutes each)

- a. Ed Hayes, SSFSC, main push is chipping have over 110 applicants total, about triple from normal, hired two contractors, hope to start them next week. Did submit a WP grant to CALFIRE for Alpine Road, San Mateo FSC has a large \$2M grant to work on Skyline Blvd from 92 to Page Mill, huge project they are getting underway to work this summer. Rt. 9, due to everything in the winter is now getting good tree removal treatment by CalTrans, on SClara side, moving to Scruz side. South Skyline his having an emergency preparedness fair on May 21st, Sunday, will be lots of vendors, Lynn will bring the Firewise booth, Cindy state farm, wants Patty from OR3 to come, could join one of the booths, all the fire departments, CERT, Radio people (ARES)
- b. Lisa from RCD recently started implementation of Forest Health Project on Last Chance Rd, hazard tree and monterey pine stand restoration after CZU fire, just started on Fall Creek Truck Trail SFB in partnership with State Parks, FHFm project on Whitehouse Canyon Rd with Girlscouts. Submitted direct award grant application to CAL FIRE for extending SFB on Summit to 17, Mt. Bache, Forest Health Grant application in Nisene Marks, Euc in San Andreas, – valley. Created a video highlighting partnerships with CAI FIRE, State Parks at Graham Hill SFB
- c. Thomas Sutfin reporting on RCD awarded direct grant from CAL FIRE to enable Summit Rd SFB, once agreement completed RCD will work with existing contractor Atlas, to complete work around Loma School all the way to 17.
- d. Patty reporting the SFB/HFR SSJ Rd funding request for WP grant from CAL FIRE. Lisa thinks this a great opportunity for FSCSCC to take on roadside projects, great to see us taking up this project. RCD intends to continue roadside projects working with private landowners, on private lands, projects that have a lot of county maintenance components should have resources from the county and FSC engaged.
- e. Adam Hensleigh quick question, how many bod members left? Answer is 7. Minimum in the bylaws.

10. TOPICS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

11. ADJOURN

The next Board meeting will be held at 10am, Thursday, May 18th, 2023, IN PERSON.
