



# Board Meeting Minutes

## Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County

Thursday, May 18th, 2023  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### 1. CALL TO ORDER - Joe Christy

- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** No quorum of board members; Executive Steering Committee all present to take action on pressing Action Items as per bylaws.  
New PG&E Representative Travis Eddy, born and raised in SLV, lives in Freedom area now, mom is in the Acorns.

Christopher Bradford, deeply passionate about fire safety and getting resources to folks in our area, being prepared, lost his home in the CZU fire, very formative event for him. Lives in Boulder Creek off 236 near the golf course, close to finishing rebuild.

Nancy Yellin, a community member, a coordinator for Porter Gulch Firewise.

Pam Peck, Monterey FSC very interested in county coordinator grant, checking in on how coordinators are going, and the CFSC/CAL FIRE grant brainstorming

Joe Christy, Patty Ciesla, Lisa Lurie, Bob Gray in person at Felton Fire Community Room

### 3. CONSENT AGENDA - Joe Christy

- a. Any additions to the Agenda
- b. Approve minutes from 4/16/23 Board meeting no quorum
- c. Contracting with RCD for Chipping added

### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT - Patty Ciesla

- a. Report on [CAL FIRE Wildfire Fire Prevention Grant](#) revision to reduce request to \$999,999 chipping and Soquel San Jose Rd Fuel Reduction
- b. Report on 2023 County Coordinator Grant opportunity
- c. Report on total anticipated indirect cost recovery & capacity for executive director position

### 5. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Appoint advisory committee chair - Joe Christy. Patty moves to appoint Adam Hensleigh, second by Bob Gray, unanimous consent.
- b. Approve outreach printing expense - Lynn Sestak - Up to \$300 for outreach flyers for the HIZ program
- c. Approve HR special expense up to \$2500 per position for managing hiring processes including posting position, selecting candidates for interviews in consult with personnel committee, organize and schedule interviews, doing background checks. Lisa wants to make sure there are at least 2 board members doing the interviews. If we have updated position descriptions with updated submit by dates then they can be passed around. Can forward to the Podio forums per Tracy Kattelman. Lisa moves to approve up to \$2500 for

HR consulting to manage the hiring process in coordination with board members. Patty Ciesla seconds, all in favor

## 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Update from nominating committee - Joe Christy. Joe spoke with Christopher Bradford, is keen to get the community more involved, Michael Horn, come by way of Kristina Glavis (Manu Koenig's analyst) he is a professional videographer, has media contacts. Christina Lee sent an email about could she help. She is interested in goat grazing as prescribed herbivory, she has a lot of ideas and might be willing to be nominated to the board. See nom com doodle poll. Fire prevention officers might have a possible nominee. Joe to call Robert Oatly in the City, appointee to fill Paul Horvats' shoes, Tim Shields too busy.
- b. Contracting with RCD and South Skyline for spring chipping program. We need to go through next steps, work will be wrapping up soon, Lynn will pull up old contracts and follow up with Patty & Joe, copying Ed. Could be 30-45 days for CAL FIRE check from our grant to arrive.
- c. Advisory committee report - Marco Mack. Marco sent his archive of all previous meetings while he was chair. Also has folders in the archive related to nonprovit governance and financial management. Patty will write a thank you note to Marco, second by Lisa, approved unanimously
- d. Brainstorm [CFSC/CAL FIRE Defensible Space Grant](#) innovative ideas - Patty Ciesla, this grant is looking for innovative ideas, up to \$500k, \$4M available statewide. We should consider helping needy people in our community whose properties terribly need work, expect \$5k per acre would be provided D-space, also include a plan to do outreach to non-compliant properties proactively, Christopher Bradford Julie Kimball, Julie Wuest, could also use ideas and people from other communities outside the CZU/SLV, Brush Busters program leader is Gary, Pam Peck has ideas, Monterey is looking at the program and is doing a needs assessment, Social Vulnerability Index, (AI send Pam a link for more info). Also running into insurance issues, wondering how to solve that. We have a hold harmless form for the HIZ program., Lisa thinks it would be good to continue chipping program and extend to other programs, vulnerable populations, volunteer work crews, Could also support HIZ outreach, and Firewise community outreach. CAL FIRE pilot program in San Diego county, to do work on private property D-space, very limited and specific criteria for income levels with a \$1500 match from the homeowner.. Napa may also have had a similar pilot program. Leverage the chipping program in the existing calfire WP grant application, to sustain chipping program county wide, Fire Chiefs had talked about biomass disposal site. Tipping fees at the dump funded, has been very successful in prior years at Monterey or Buena vista dumps. A mobile greenwaste collection day specific for defensible space. Look at the county's contract with Green Waste, something like the program in San Jose with the scraper scooper machine and a dump truck. Bob thinks combining with brush brigade, to help people who can do the work themselves. Lisa says San Mateo RCD or FSC had a greenwaste pickup program. Art contest? Ellen Farmer was working with Cabrillo on firwise landscaping, maybe something combining landscaping/beautifying. Youth outreach by fire agencies was a very successful program prior to COVID, this has started again, 4th graders seeing go bags and how to prepare. Kids take the messages to heart. Nancy thinks art is a great idea also expand to a landscaping/gardening class to budding gardeners, also include architects who are doing landscape design, Bob: creating a list of recommended and TRAINED contractors for D-space landscaping Adam: there are certifications for landscapers, out of Monterey College Maybe a chipper operator training. Lynn advises we check in with Lynn for ongoing needs for HIZ program (see this months' program report),

Bob hopes we could map out where the HIZ assessments are being done, Patty concerned about privacy for confidential program.

## **7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

(none requested for agenda yet)

Lisa: chipping underway, should be wrapping up in a few days, did a tour of the Fall Creek Truck trail, is about 75% complete 60 acres done, work underway at Last Chance Road, removal of hazard trees and Monterey Pine regeneration about 27 acres, one of the few areas of native Monterey Pine groves.. Goes through to El Soyo Heights. People really seem to get into it when projects are in their area. Strong turnout at the Governors task force last week. It's impressive to see how many projects are happening locally. SCMSN hosted a forum at Asilomar in April, dots and sticky notes on what is happening in the Scruz Mountains. Bob did a presentation at El Solyo heights, did a chipper program through County Fire Chipper program, heavily hit by the winter storms.

## **8. OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORT**

- a. [Firewise](#)
- b. [HIZ](#)

## **9. ROUND ROBIN (3 minutes each)**

## **10. TOPICS and LOCATION FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING**

## **11. ADJOURN 11:38 adjourned**

The next Board meeting will be held at 10am, Thursday, June 15th, 2023.

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