



Board Meeting Minutes Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County

DATE: June 15, 2023

TIME: 10am *sharp*

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 10:12am after technical solutions - Joe Christy
 - a. Attendees (*indicates voting board members): Joe Christy* Patty Ciesla* Lisa Lurie* Lynn Sestak* Christopher Bradford, Lindsay Speth, Katherine Lee, LizAnne Jensen, Jim Frawley, retired Santa Cruz Fire - helped found the first Firewise community in the county: Prospect Heights. Keegan Guillory BLM, Brett Agler CAL FIRE, Chris Berry Santa Cruz Water, Michael Horn, Tony Akin Central Fire, Adam Hensleigh, Roy Ortega, Tina Castle, Pam Peck Monterey FSC, Kelley Feller, Sanjay Khandelwal Summit Area

2. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS OF BOARD NOMINEES, & OTHERS** (20 minutes)
 - a. Katherine Lee lives in Prospect Heights, orig from Sonoma County, experienced 2017 fire, hit close to home, wants to work with community to come up with better solutions to ensure well-being of forests and homes, emphasize education on fire safety. Recently accredited as ecological verifier, to review lands management, water, minerals, wildlife responses to environment, interested in grazing animals holistically in how they are managed for the benefits to the ground. Question about how to answer questions about goat grazing when they come up at events, can you help? Yes - I have contacts with goat grazers, would be happy to share, willing to share her contact info to Tina.
 - b. [Michael Horn](#) calling in from France, lives in midtown Santa Cruz, previously lived in Prospect Heights, works in TV as a journalist for last 30 years, has been vol and paid firefighter, No.Monterey Co, storytelling about the community, recently finished BS about fire science in the WUI, learned about how to manage fires in habitable areas. Now working on MS in Fire Ecology at University of Idaho. Very interested in educating people and taking a more active role in community involvement. Lived here in Scruz Co most his live, recreates in the woods, friends living up in the mtns, WUI. His education may not give all the answers but wants to help us be more effective in communication and learn here and also

take in info here as well as in his coursework. Goals for Scruz and all over the state.

- c. [Christopher Bradford](#) This is near and dear to my heart, I live in BC, lost our home in CZU fire, huge impact to us. On the importance of preparation, very easy for people who grew up in urban areas to not understand how wildfire works, it's been very difficult, been working on educating myself and trying to help and educate neighbors, to get our community to participate in mitigation. Wants to make the jump from educating people to getting them to actually do the work, get them the resources they need and help them engage in the work. My community is vulnerable, and I want to help create a culture of engagement.
- d. Tony Akin works with Central Fire is a retired annuitant from CAL FIRE as a captain here and in BEU, is a defensible space specialist. Used to work with Marco Mack, former chair of FSCSCC, prioritizing home hardening education, defensible space without a desert teaching people how to get fuel breaks in place. We at Central are pushing hard to get our D-space, working with SP Nisene Marks getting SFB going. Local dude raised on the point, son is an engineer in Corralitos, brother is Assistant Chief at Central, my goal is to put input into the FSC with focus on D-space and local actions in NRG and Aptos and getting more Firewise communities recognized. Thinks we can do a lot of work together on getting shaded fuel breaks going. Latest FHSZ maps have High hazard zones all the way down to Soquel Ave. Question: how do we get this for the SLV? Talk to SLV local depts. Most people are cooperative but don't know how to do it, so we decided to teach people, do an evaluation/assessment and teach them abt veg removal/leaving plants, and how to harden the home. We feel we are extremely successful, you can see open fields being taken care of. We have Branciforte and Happy Valley areas we are helping CAL FIRE outside our district but inside our sphere of influence. Funding comes from Central's budget, we have two specialists as well as two inspectors doing the inspections. How does it work cross-departments? Joint handshake, we assist and help them get started. Our advising is free to those district areas in our SOI.

3. CONSENT AGENDA - Joe Christy (4 minutes)

- a. Additions to Agenda

- b. Approval of May 18 [Minutes](#) Lisa moves with minor edits, Lynn seconds, passes unanimously

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORTS

- a. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Joe Christy (3 minutes)
- b. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT - Patty Ciesla (10 minutes)
- c. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Cindy Weigelt (3 minutes)
- d. RCD REPORT - Lisa Lurie (3 minutes) - extending appreciation for the funding for chipping - we served 600 members of the community, also got some county BOS funding and RCD grant funding. To mention, we completed Fall Creek Truck Trail SFB in partnership with SP, looking for opportunities to partner with State Parks to improve outreach and community awareness of the projects, what they look like. Final stages of completing hazard tree removal on Last Chance, went out to bid on a hazard tree project on Skylark Girls Scout Camp
- e. SIDEBAR DISCUSSION about grants
 - i. Linday Speth has questions about CAL FIRE grants. How do we as Firewise Communities get the funding? Lisa replies at RCD for CALFIRE we are working on partnerships with landowners through the Forest Health program, all projects above were funded by Forest Health prog. We are getting a Direct Grant from CAL FIRE for completing the Summit Rd SFB this year, and for planning a shaded fuel break in Lockhart Gulch, environmental scoping.
 - ii. Tina Castle gets questions at tabling, **would be helpful to have a one pager on FSC funding**, how people can apply, is this possible?
 - iii. Jim ~~Frawley~~Frawly, retired firechief, suggesting we set up an ad hoc committee to take it off line and build capacity because we now have way more firewise communities than before. Joe Christy, Matt Abernathy, Patty Ciesla on technical advisory committee, need to engage with the committee to establish criteria and goals for the project funding and community engagement. Jim ~~Frawley~~Frawly will reach out to Adam to discuss the meeting of the technical committee.
 - iv.

5. ACTION ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

- a. Incidental budget for HIZ/Firewise Lynn Sestak (5 minutes)
See ~~L~~lynn's proposal in the drive.

All small asks approved, moved by Patty second by Lynn, unanimous (missed Adam's first two points) Adam, open season with State Farm and Allstate pulling out we are left with just the Fair Plan, next month proposal for discussion. Cindy not in attendance but Joe did talk to her, State Farm is not cancelingcanceling just not writing new policies. Let's get her involved in the discussion.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. OR3 D-Space Grant
- b. Woody waste disposal post April windstorms, waiving dump fees
Who is the point person, Patty can help connect them with Dave Reid, Tina is interested. Lindsay, Tina: McPhersons office said if we can find funding to cover the dump fees, yes, if not, no.
- c. Firewise Report (see report in the drive). New FW comm Laguna Creek, it's a huge area that goes up to Bonny mede-Meed in the Doon, up to 47. Canyon del Sol in La Selva Beach, Quail Hollow in BLo, Summit Lane in the Doon, Summit watershed, straddles county line. Did a community event, next up Sunlit Lane, Hutchins, CZU remembrance event tabling POC Alison Breeze
- d. HIZ Report

7. Round Robin (3 minutes each)

Brett, we are eagerly waiting for the WP grants announce, doing the annual truck trail, did Hwy 1 to China Grade, north and south Butano, and Ward TT to 35. Finished Bonny pile burning, those guys did good work. Lots of back and forth with air quality regarding the curtain burners, had a recent site inspection, they are letting us use them now in San Vicentey, hoping to move them to other sites.

Pam from Monterey, impressed with all the work we are getting done, we look to you for inspiration. Was very interested in the SBFW partners, on the Santa Clara support from the BOS. We are at 38 Firewise, we have no staffing to support it.

Keegan, we have a few fuels mitigation projects in San Benito Co, Sierra de Salinas, Ft Ord, clearing/masticating/thinnging also joint with Mrty Regional. The field office spreads up into Merced/Fresno. We have had a lot of pre

season meetings. FY 25 goal starting process for areas around Davenport some fuels tx.

8. Topics for next board meeting - (5 minutes) Elections, term ending dates, Tech Committee, Grant award news, Recommend we do not use Felton Fire Comm Room again as we need a functioning hybrid environment, OR doing ONLY zoom or ONLY in person.

9. ADJOURN 11:53

The next Board meeting will be at 10am, Thursday, July 13~~6~~, 2023
