



Board Meeting MINUTES
Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County
DATE: October 19, 2023

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1. CALL TO ORDER - Joe Christy 10:03

Attendees Joe Christy*, Patty Ciesla*, Adam Hensleigh*, Lynn Sestak*, Tony Akin*, Robert Gray outgoing Felton Fire Chief, Dan Walters new interim Felton Fire Chief, new Fire Chiefs Association contact, Clara Elliott, Ed Hayes, Chris Bradford*, Dani Ebskamp-Franke DAYnee BC resident on advisory board, lived in WUI 20 years, studying for CWMS, Michael Horn* @ 832-239-2546, Cindy Weigelt*, Sanjay Khandelwal*, Ed Fulton BLM, Sally Mack working with Lynn on Firewise, helping on Summit fuel break project, Jim Frawly, retired fire chief from City of Santa Cruz, spent some time working at Meta, back in the Valley wants to support the work we are doing

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (5 minutes)

3. CONSENT AGENDA - Joe Christy (5 minutes)

- a. Discussion and approval of [Minutes of prior meeting](#) Moved by Sanjay, Chris seconds, passes unanimously

4. TREASURER'S Report - Chris Bradford (5 minutes)

- a. A lot of progress with Jitasa, connecting them with the banking system with Joe's help, setting up payroll through quickbooks, meeting with new staff member to go over offer for employment, checked on board documents, going smoothly with new checks arriving should be able to handle reimbursements within 3 day turn around going forward.

5. ACTION ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL

- a. Revivifying Outreach and Education committee in order to develop a media outreach plan. (10 minutes) Joe nominates Sanjay and Michael to head up the committee, Tony Akin has been a PIO in his career, so is interested in serving on the effort, Patty nominates Sanjay, Michael, and Tony, to head up the committee as the initial three members who may recruit others inside or outside the org to join the committee to assist in Lynn seconds, Adam abstains on the vote, motion carries.
- b. Adding Dani Ebskamp-Franke to Advisory Committee (5 minutes)
(Adam) Adam wants to nominate Jim to the advisory committee,

Dani contacted us via website, Adam talked to her on the phone at length Dani from Holland, has lived in LA and the Mojave, has been evacuated due to fire in the Mojave and has built a barn following rural fire regulations, has kept up on wildfire mitigation as something that keeps her interest, glad to be here and help in anyway she can. Coco (cooperatives and collectives) program out of Colorado, offers a class online (two months) or two days in person on wildfire mitigation. Adam has been talking to their coordinator about the classes, they teach about grants and CWPPs, she is using it to help learn and prepare for CWMS test to learn jargon.

Jim from SoCal, worked at Glendale Fire Dept, worked in many areas, PIO, mitigation, helped create the first Firewise in Glendale and SoCal, as a pilot program, fell in love with it. Was fire chief in SoCal and Santa Cruz, started the first Firewise with Abby in Prospect Heights, he is so excited it's taken off everywhere and appreciates the work of Lynn and others. Now has more time and wants to give back to the fire community he got so much from and is looking forward to it.

Adam moves, Lynn seconds, motion carries,

6. OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORTS - Lynn Sestak (15 minutes)

- a. Firewise now up to 54 communities, with 11 in progress, 4500 households, has done 6 new presentations over zoom, did a workshop on sheltering in place with Zyante, and Annie did an event, RCD hosting a rural roads event at Felton Library, Adam will table at that event. Sally Mack is helping with Firewise coaching, many thanks. Kathleen

Newman at Summit Woods, Lizanne, Sherie Henney. Firewise leaders has 150 members, hosting a gathering at Skypark, Requesting \$200 for snacks and sodas, approved by voice vote.

- b. HIZ 108 assessments, 19 trained only 8 active, wants to do another training to increase volunteers. Hoping to get help from new COE hire. Chris Bradford will get with Lynn to discuss onboarding/training in HIZ Did an HIZ assessment for a reporter for SLV Press, did that last Sunday, and expecting a story to appear soon.
- c. Brush Busters started by Sherry Heaney, (see slides) only 3 volunteers so program is maxed out after November program will take a hiatus until March. To get involved contact Sherry or Julie.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

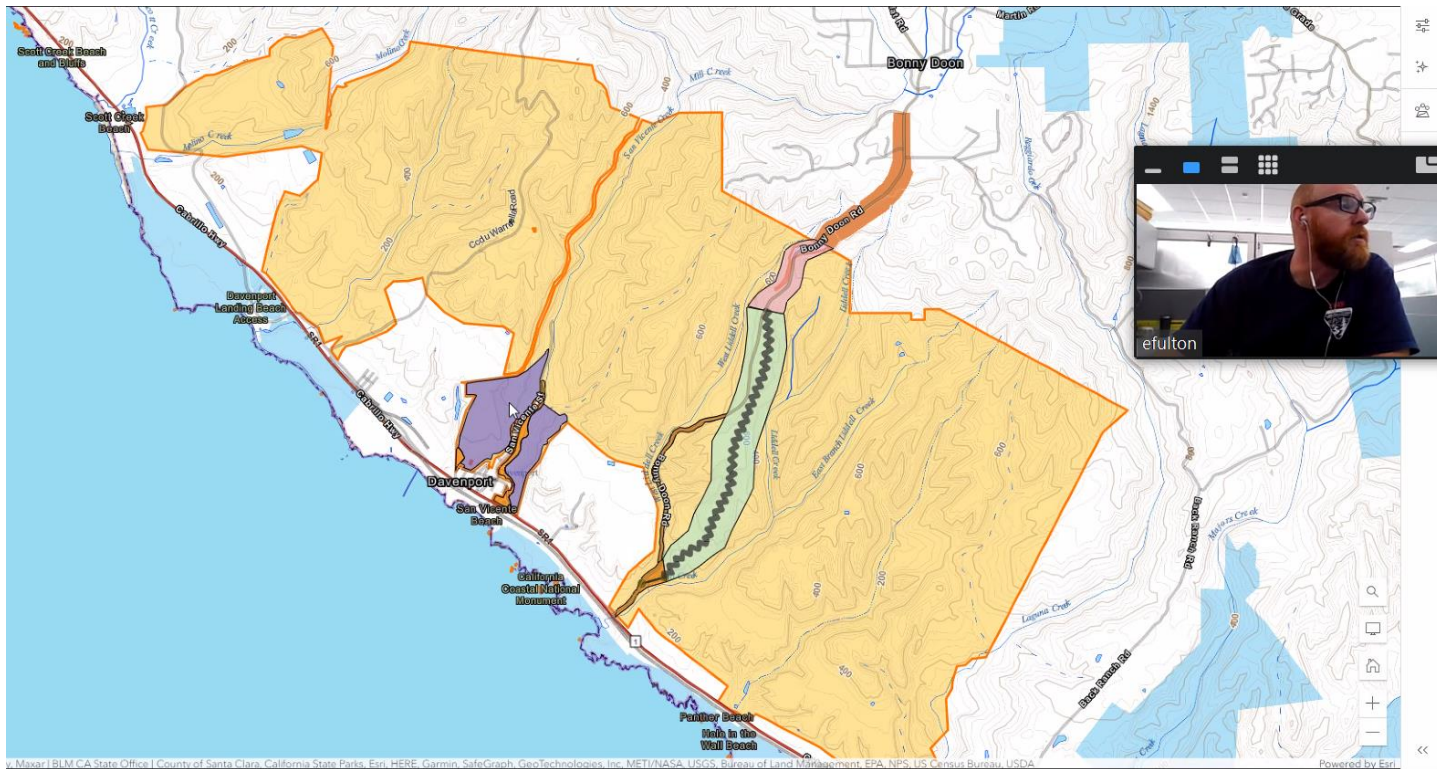
- a. Reports from interview committees for
 - i. Community Outreach & Education Coordinator/Administrative Assistant (5 minutes)
Lynn - Interview committee was Lynn, Lisa, Chief Gray. Baton passed to Christopher, we have a second candidate who wants to be informed one way or the other. Chris meeting with top candidate tomorrow to make the offer. Chris has been working on the prep to be ready as an employer, We had 6-7 candidates many were not best qualified. The ones that were a match there were 3 well matched, interviewed 2, we need much better turn around to get faster progress between posting the job and getting to interview phase. It should be easier to do this the second round, now that we are more experienced and have infrastructure. Recommend having a timeline set out from the beginning so that hiring committee and candidates can be informed and prepared to move between posting and hiring.
 - ii. Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project Manager (2 minutes) Joe - we had 10 applicants 2 stood out well above the rest, rest of candidates were not well qualified. Many were consulting foresters with Davey. Did interview one candidate, then now doing doodle poll to set up next interview lots of conflicts between committee and candidate calendars Michael Horn volunteers to be interview committee to help get the interview set.

Note: internet voting requires all board members to respond to the motion and vote.

- b. Should we file a proper Fictitious Business Name Statement for Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County? (5 minutes) Report on 2020 statement of information got filed without a signature and it took a long time note the error and send us a notice we were delinquent. Registry of Charitable Trusts, Joe working on correcting delinquency. \$40 fee to fill out application, and publish DBA in newspapers (good times is easy). Alternative is to rename the corporation through Secty of State. Dani can help with that, has experience. Sanjay has done the FBN filing, it's not hard or expensive. Sanjay moves to file DBA FBN, second by Patty, passes unanimously.

8. Presentation - Ed Fulton, Bureau of Land Management (15 minutes)

a. Cotoni-Coast Dairies NM Fuel Reduction Project



Ed's responsibility is the Bakersfield-Central Coast Fuels Battalion, is counterpart with Keegan Guillory, has been a great help to identify priority project sites and partners. Wants to connect fuels projects to other projects in the landscape/adjoining. Met with Brett Agler CZU fuels forester, wants to connect to existing project on upper Bonny Doon Road, will use remote controlled tracked

chipper, will be reducing broom and young conifers, anything under 8" to pile burn, plan is to do the work and start the burn in late April . Then 20' wide dozer line fuel break to be conducted by BLM crews will be chaparral then a shaded fuel break near the bottom. Supported by broadcast burning 25 feet on either side of the dozer line. 1.5-3 acre sections to do understory on a 3-5 year frequency. Partners are CZU and Joby Aeronautics who will be paid to maintain yearly to control broom regrowth. 50' buffer on either side will be implemented on Bonny Doon Road where not adjacent to the larger ridgeline fuel break. Near Davenport lots of blowdowns in the Euc groves. Plan to buck and chip and haul material. No burning under eucs to protect habitat. Many thanks and congratulations to BLM for this excellent plan.

9. Round Robin (3 minutes each)

Joe: Ballot initiative to only required 50%+1 for parcel tax on various benefit projects such as parks, land acquisition. Estimated 7 million a year new tax income possible. Long history of defeats on $\frac{2}{3}$ vote initiatives.

Adam: Santa Cruz County Wildfire Resilience Summit, looking for venue to host 100+ attendees Coconut Grove was a great venue for the one hosted by the State Wildfire Resilience Task Force. Recommend putting together a budget and sponsorship plan, finding out facility rental costs.

Dan: working with OR3 on notifications system, making it more robust, all hazard including wildfire

10. Topics for next board meeting - (5 minutes)

Zayante sirens project

RCD's fuel break project in Scotts Valley connecting over to Graham Hill
SCCFSC/SCU Calfire project on the county line, Mt. Madonna to
Summit Store fuel break project

Any local fire department report/update on fire prevention projects
Genasys/Zonehaven update

11. ADJOURNED 11:49

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, November 16 10:00 AM
