



## **Approved Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County**

DATE: November 16, 2023 TIME: 10am PDT

More meeting documents in the [2023-11-16 Board Meeting](#) folder

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - Joe Christy\*, Patty Ciesla\*, Lauren Moody, Dan Walters Felton FPD, Lynn Sestak\*, Adam Hensleigh\*, Brett Agler, Sanjay Khandelwal\*, Thomas Sutfin, Laurel Bard RCD Santa Cruz, Ed Hayes, Christopher Bradford\* Chris Berry, Becky Steinbrunner, Dani Ebskamp-Franke, Clara Elliot, Pam Peck Monterey FSC. (\* indicate board members)
  
- 2. WELCOME LAUREN MOODY** - Chris Bradford,  
Lots of experience working with non-profit board, seasoned administrator, gave environmental and humanitarian grants in Corralitos with last position, loves doing outreach, loves the redwoods, will call each of us in the coming month to have a 5-10 mins get to know everyone better.
  
- 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** (5 minutes) Each Board member welcomes Lauren, Chris Berry watershed manager City of Santa Cruz/Loch Lomond, Laurel Bard on behalf of RCD's Lisa Lurie (ED) is part of the Forest Health team. Brett Agler, CAL FIRE VMP Forester covers Santa Cruz County, Fuels projects, prescribed fire. Dan Walters, Chief Felton Fire and representative of the Santa Cruz County Fire Protection Association. Adam Hensleigh, VP, Advisory committee chair. Chris Bradford, Treasurer. Ed Hayes, former board member, VP of South Skyline FSC, Lynn Sestak, BOD member volunteer leader of Firewise and HIZ programs, Joe Christy, president of Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council and of this County FSC. Thomas Sutfin, local forester, volunteering on the Soquel San Jose Road Project, retired Soquel Demonstration State Forest Manager at CAL FIRE, Sanjay Khandelwal, board member. Patty Ciesla, Secretary, Becky Steinbruner Aptos Hills, next to Nisene Marks SP, Firewise leaders, former board member.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA - Joe Christy (5 minutes)**

- a. Discussion and approval of [Minutes of prior meeting](#)

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

Discussion of the necessity of creating a chart of accounts for the grants, and doing further analysis of our grants to determine how exactly we should be categorizing our common expenses so that moving forward those categorizations will be accurate, and quick to execute.

**6. ACTION ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL**

**7. REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Adam Hensleigh (15 minutes)**

no October meeting, did meet in November, welcomed 3 new members, Dan Walters, Dani Ebskamp-Franke, Jim Frawly. Conversation centered around topic from Dave Reid, based on Right of Entry program in Mendocino, to expand fuel reduction along county roads onto private property, interesting idea to explore. Clara discussed air quality, plan to work with Dani on Jim's Joint Information Systems. Speaker Series discussion to follow up on Felton Library. Strategic Planning session and new board member orientation. Wildfire Resilience Summit scheduling targeting May 4th, NFPA wildfire awareness day. New nonprofit called Damien's Ladder who helps seniors with home repair services, to see about partnering with HIZ and Brush Busters. Laurel Bard, Angie Gruys is also interested in a speakers series, RCD just put on a workshop on living on rural lands.

**8. OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORTS - Lynn Sestak (15 minutes)**

- a. Firewise – 55 now recognized, added Quail Hollow in BLo, and Fall Creek in Felton, 11 communities on deck, 4495 homes in the communities. Going through renewal season, some communities may drop off as volunteer leadership changes. Will be tallying hours and dollars invested at the end of the year. Did 3 new presentations, did an Alba Road education event, had a gathering of Firewise leaders at Skypark, 30 attendees. Becky asking about a tracked chipper awarded to Central Fire
- b. HIZ 92 requests, completed 80 have 12 scheduled, 5 very active assessors, 3 others active in doing assessments. We need more assessors before we can expand the program. We are a little down from

last year's 108. Adam suggests looking on the drive for a list of media contacts curated by Michael Horn.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1E8jtxgNZgL5y6GEmPudO1mjKP121s95VifREW7mzSzg/edit?usp=sharing>

- c. Brush Busters: Sherry Heaney, Julie Kimball and Tom Fidrych also are leaders, who help coordinate the program. Most referrals have come from Laurel at RCD, and are located in the SLV. FSC reimburses for dump fees. 5-6 adult volunteers. Just acquired a utility trailer. On hiatus until March when mud abates, hoping for SLV High students to assist. Damien's Ladder meeting. Encouraging them to create their own version of Brush Busters.

## 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Consider endorsement of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County's [Safe Drinking Water, Clean Beaches, Wildfire Risk Reduction, and Wildlife Protection Initiative](#). Please the folder of the same name; the [SantaCruzCountyInitiative\\_FinalText...](#) within is what would appear on the November 2024 ballot, if sufficient signatures are collected. \$87 parcel tax to supplement county budget. Will raise \$7.3M per year, 20% set aside for administration, Land Trust formed a 501C4 with its own board to manage the campaign.

[Land Trust Initiative](#)

[2023-2024 Wildfire Protection Grants](#)

- b. [Recent CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention RFP](#)

New round of funding for wildfire prevention grants, applications due in January, possibility of being delayed due to legal review at CAL FIRE HQ. Patty willing to assist with writing a grant for the FSC as part of a team/committee. Dylan at the Stewardship queried about possible applicants. Bonny Doon FSC interested. State Parks has a new right of entry program for neighbors up to 300' out from structures into a State Park. Estimate is about 100 acres.

## 10. Presentation - none

## 11. Round Robin - (3 minutes each)

- Joe 6pm Weds Dec 6th Bonny Doon Prescribed Fire notifications, at Beauregard tasting room. Lynn suggests sending meeting info out to board and advisors list.

- Lynn requesting status on hiring for HFR staff member. Brett Agler and BLM fire chief interested in doing the interviews.
- Patty suggests building a grant writing team for the WP grant. Becky interested and Clara interested in helping bring FireWise leaders into the grant writing team for the WP grant.
- Chris Berry attended a talk on recovery of the fire in Big Basin. Stream effects esp Waddel Creek (looking bad). Redwood forest fuel management needs professor, almost 100% of mature trees survived the fire, implying fuels management is not needed. It's on youtube if you want to watch it. Lompico access discussion for roads, JM brown email came in. Lompico is a box canyon, ongoing challenge to get another road out of there. Lake Blvd, Private drive that connects, Webb Drive out of west side of the canyon to get out to Newell Creek Rd. Lots of issues, private landowner concerns, Loch Lomond safety zone. Ginny Gomez interested in getting community involved in getting a CSA Steve Wiesener at Co Rds, LAFCO guy, supervisor McPherson was there.
- Dani went through old Grand Jury reports also interested in learning more about CWPPs will take it off line with Joe and Patty

**12. Topics for next board meeting - (5 minutes)** - Patty suggests canceling next BOD meeting in December and instead encourage board members to attend advisory committee meeting December 14, and discuss the WP grant there. Adam offers consent to the idea. No BOD members at this point on the call want to retain the Dec 21 meeting.

**13. ADJOURN 11:25am**

The next Board meeting will be on **Thurs, Jan 18th** (Canceled for 12/21/23)

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