



**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County**

Thursday, April 15, 2021

10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

ZOOM meeting

- DRAFT FOR BOARD APPROVAL -

1. CALL TO ORDER: 10:12

2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Directors Present:

LizAnne Jensen, Vice President
Joe Christy, Treasurer
Andy Hubbs, Secretary
Ed Hayes
Marco Mack
Bob Loveland
Lisa Lurie/Matt Abernathy
Tim Reilly
Felix Sorrentino
Bob Gray

Directors Absent:

Paul Horvat
Lisa Ehret
Ian Rowbotham
Carly Blanchard
Ryan Wall

Attendees:

Lynn Sestak
Elizabeth Quinn
Mark Bingham
Betsy Stiefelmaier

3. AGENDA REVISIONS/ MINUTES APPROVAL

- 3.1. Revisions or additions to the agenda: none
- 3.2. Review and approve 2/18/21 meeting minutes. The motion carried to approve the minutes as written.

4. REPORTS

- 4.1. Executive Committee Report – LizAnne Jensen: Will be a motion to add Marco Mack and Lisa Ehret to Executive Committee and Lynn Sestak to the Board. Website has been developed new version should be

available for viewing by 4/24. Social Media sites increasing in usage. Home hardening workshop with RCD will occur in Bonny Doon on June 12th.

- 4.2. Technical Advisory Committee – Andy: No TAC meeting since last board meeting, still awaiting the announcement of PG&E grant award.
- 4.3. Firewise USA update – Lynn: Currently 12 recognized in County; 2 additional since the last meeting. Several more expected soon with interest from multiple other neighborhoods. Still a lot of chipping interest from communities. Home hardening, why go Firewise and evac workshops on going but input from fire officials needed. More online information about local Firewise program needed. Involved with Southbay Firewise forum as well.
- 4.4. RCD – Matt: Chipping program planned with prioritization to Firewise communities. Developing an on-line map to direct people to the correct source for chipping assistance and information. Also, looking for new funding sources/grants for future chipping. Lisa - Chipping program workshop will occur, with sign-ups for chipping around May 1st. Involved with various fuel reduction projects as well.
- 4.5. Treasurer's Report – Joe Christy: report on current balance in bank (see attached balance sheet). Discussion of left over funds from last year's CFA home hardening grant. Significant donations occurred over the past fiscal year; with other revenue from the Cabrillo home hardening class and bank interest.

5. ACTION ITEMS

Approve addition of Lisa Ehret and Marco Mack to the Executive Committee and addition of Lynn Sestak to the Board with three separate motions. All in favor, motions carry.

6. **Discussion topics:** Marco – Would like to invite David Reed from the County who is involved with the OES/FEMA grant to attend FSC meeting. Thought is to give him input from FSC and agencies involved with the FSC and fuel reduction.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT** Chief Gray introduces Stephanie Smith-Berdan from Forest Lakes. Stephanie is interested in becoming involved and in Firewise. Chief Mark Bingham from Boulder Creek Fire interested in learning more about the FSC.

8. REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS AND AFFILIATES

LizAnne Jensen, Vice President, Bonny Doon & Santa Cruz County CERT & Concerned Resident

A lot of post-fire interest in Bonny Doon, especially with homeowner's insurance. Her neighborhood is also becoming Fire Wise certified.

Joe Christy, Treasurer, Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council President & Concerned Resident

BDFSC began spring chipping program with CAL FIRE; will likely be followed up in May with chipping contract chipping too. NFPA home hardening and defensible space certification workshop to occur later this spring. Workshop is \$500/person and limited to 40 people. RCD may offer scholarships for attending through an existing grant. May be able to fund up to 6 spots.

Andrew Hubbs, Secretary, CAL FIRE

Wrapping fire engine fuel reduction work in the next week or two and focus will shift to opening truck trails and fire roads until resources are committed to regular fire activity.

Lisa Lurie and Matt Abernathy, RCD

Lisa – State of the San Lorenzo Symposium coming up. Matt discusses future potential fuel reduction projects.

Carly Blanchard, San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Final draft of fire veg management plan released. Currently seeking grant funding.

Ed Hayes, South Skyline Fire Safe Council & Concerned Resident

Developing new website. Chipping program sign-ups with 85-90 home owners to participate. Involved with HWY 35 fuel reduction efforts. Other FSCs involved as well; efforts extend from HWY 92 south past HWY 17 to Mt Madonna area. Will be involved with presentation given by SMC Fire District.

Bob Loveland, County of Santa Cruz, Planning

Discusses Coastal Zone issues, especially related to PG&E efforts in the fire footprint.

Marco Mack, Aptos / La Selva / Central Fire Departments

County OES/FEMA grant update. Working to add some LRA areas in the gulches to the CWPP and working with County on permit streamlining. Working with road associations to perform assessments of fire response. Hiring of multiple inspectors for defensible space and roads expected. Central Fire involved with information sharing related to BOF regulations for roads; public comment, for example.

Tim Reilly, State Parks

No updates.

Ian Rowbotham, Sempervirens Fund

Update on some of our fire related work, spread across the 24 properties we own or protect that burned last year:

Sempervirens has been working on debris/structure removal at 5 of our properties that burned in the fires, and along with our partners at San Vicente Redwoods will be initiating work on multiple Cal Fire grants to create/enhance shaded fuel breaks, conduct post-fire research with UC Berkeley and the Amah Mutsun Land Trust, and post-fire stand improvement planting. The Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council will be doing a lot of this work through a Cal Fire grant they received, and the rest will be through a Cal Fire grant that the RCDSCC was awarded. Sempervirens is also conducting botanical surveys across 6 of our other burned properties.

Felix Sorrentino, PG&E

Veg management routine work occurring as normal except in the Coastal Zone due to post-fire agency issues. Hazard tree work finishing up within the fire footprint. Person managing grant program retired; unknown when a replacement will occur. Felix may be able to assist with any communication problems associated with the grant program.

Ryan Wall, City of Santa Cruz Water

Since the last meeting the City of Santa Cruz Water Department had a small 1-acre wildfire off of Bear Creek road, near the Newell Creek watershed. A single helicopter pulled water from Loch Lomond once during the fire. At the start of March the water department contracted Confluence to help us eradicate French Broom from our watersheds as well as working on shaded fuel breaks at our Apple Orchard property (Zayante). Loch Lomond opened March 1st, and we are currently sitting around 70% capacity (approximately 15-20ft below full). We are unsure how long we are going to be open for the season to the public, as the water levels continue to drop.

Bob Gray, Felton Fire Protection District

Defensible space inspections are ongoing and meeting with concerned citizens in the post-fire environment.

Lynn Sestak, Santa Clara Fire Safe Council (SCC FSC)

Chipping program through SCC FSC very popular this year. Def Space and home hardening program resuming through SCC FSC.

Reports from Affiliates:

None

9. ADJOURN 11:32

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be June 17, 2021 via Zoom.

Attachments:

- FSCSCC Profit & Loss Statement by Class: July 1 through April 12, 2021.
- FSCSCC Balance Sheet: As of April 12, 2021

Last updated: 4/20/21 AH