



Meeting minutes
Board Meeting
Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County
Thursday, Oct 21, 2021
10 am - noon

Attendees: Lisa Lurie, Matt Abernathy, Marco Mack, Robert Gray, Abby Young, Mark Bisbee, Betsy Stiefelmaier, Felix Sorrentino, Lynn Sestak, Andy Hubbs, Carly Blanchard, Tim Shields, Ilana King, Chris Duymich, Cathy Smith, Evan Taranta, Jake Simon, Mark Bingham, Patty Ciesla, Sanjay Khandelwal

1. **Call to Order** – Marco Mack
2. **Agenda Revisions/Approval** – none requested
3. **Consent to Agenda** – Aug 19 minutes approved.
4. **Introductions**
 - 4.1 Marco Mack – Central Fire, Tim Shields - Santa Cruz Fire, Max Carter – Santa Cruz Water
5. **Reports**
 - 5.1 Executive committee reports
 - 5.1.1 Summary of activity – LizAnne previews various committee reports described in detail below.
 - 5.1.2 Treasurer’s report -
 - 5.1.2.1 Review of financial Reports – refer to attached reports.
 - 5.1.2.2 Donation from Better Place Forests – Evan Taranta. The FSC thanks them for their generosity.
 - 5.1.2.3 Community Partners webpage update
 - 5.2 FSCSCC Reports from Board Members
 - 5.2.1. Strategic planning update – Mark Bisbee: No updates from Mark but he indicates Dave Reid appointed to Director of ORRR. Abby Young summarizes vision/mission of the plan and discusses the four main pillars they came up with. A third and possibly final meeting will take place in the future.
 - 5.2.2. New grant proposals and funding updates: No discussion.
 - 5.2.3. County Board of Supervisor Grant - Abby Young: The County will fund an Admin Coordinator for the FSC. LizAnne Jensen: Position posted on local job boards with 3 applicants to date. Marco reports his department is keeping some of the BOS and/or staff informed of their Firewise efforts.
 - 5.2.4. California Fire Safe Council Capacity Building Grant - Abby Young: It was a long application process. CA FSC is finalizing award decisions next week and will announce on the 31st. Marco reports CA FSC may have funding for another opportunity like this in the near future.
 - 5.2.5. Firewise program update - Lynn Sestak: Now up to 20 Firewise communities in the County with several more in process. Local Firewise leaders are assisting with Firewise coaching. HIZ Assessment planning about to begin. Would like to make presentation to Fire Chiefs regarding Firewise promotion. Refer to attached information below for more details.
 - 5.2.5.1. Firewise and CERT Auxiliary of Santa Cruz County update
 - 5.2.5.2. Firewise and Red Cross Climate Action Group update
 - 5.2.5.3. Creative Crisis Leadership project may create wildfire evac simulation.

5.2.6. NFPA HIZ Program

5.2.6.1. Report on HIZ Training - Joe Christy: Occurred mid-August. BDFSC will be using a HIZ assessment form developed by NFPA. Some scheduling difficulties with the assessments so far.

5.2.6.2. Implementation of HIZ Inspector Program - Lynn Sestak/Matt Abernathy: Developed proposal based Santa Clara County FSC. Training component being developed by Matt.

5.2.7. Ca Fire Safe Council Annual Conference recap - Marco Mack: Would like to introduce Brook McAlister of the CA FSC for those who are interested. They plan to conduct a training in the County soon. Four grant writers are available to assist with grant preparation. Marco has some ties to some of the CA FSC board members. Would like to incorporate some additional helpful topics in the CA FSC member guidebook.

6. FSCSCC Administered Projects updates

6.1 Grant Status Report Discussion

6.1.1 PG&E Grant (Summit Road SFB) - Joe Christy: Summit residents plan to do about 12 miles of work overall. The PG&E grant covered about 2 acres of the planned work.

6.1.2 CSAA Grant - LizAnne Jensen: On hold.

6.1.3 Rosewood Grant - LizAnne Jensen: Social media and website development.

6.1.4 California Fire Grant - LizAnne Jensen: Social media and website development.

7. Public Comments

Evan Taranta and Jake Simon from Better Place Forests reports on the donation made to the FSC. They are a land conservation and end of life cremation alternative. Fire mitigation is part of their forest management plan: ladder fuel removal, thinning and fuel breaks.

Chris Duymich from Monterey Bay Area ARD reports on burn permit options and current and expect burn status, as well as a wood stove change-out incentive program.

8. Board members reports

Marco Mack, President, Aptos / La Selva / Central Fire Departments – Write ideas out for future meetings, both to make agenda easier or for info needed in the minutes.

Bob Gray, Vice President, Felton Volunteer Fire Department – Thanks everyone for all of the great work.

Lynn Sestak – nothing additional

LizAnne Jensen, Treasurer, Bonny Doon & Santa Cruz County CERT & Concerned Resident – will focus on website. LizAnne's neighborhood just got Firewise certification.

Andrew Hubbs, Secretary, CAL FIRE – Reports on escaped prescribed burn last Friday. Upcoming rains should end fire season and focus will turn to pre-fire and fuel reduction efforts.

Matt Abernathy for Lisa Lurie, Advisor, Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County – Glad to see October rains especially with regard to regrowth in the burn scar. Chipping program being implemented. Future grant awarded projects being planned. Application period for another RCD Forest Health Specialist is underway.

Carly Blanchard, San Lorenzo Valley Water District – Fuel reduction around critical infrastructure underway this month and seeking future grant opportunities with the RCD.

Max Carter, City of Santa Cruz Water District – Not in attendance.

Joe Christy, Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council & Concerned Resident – Important to develop relationship grant managers. Reports on BDFSC upcoming annual meeting presentation. Jared Childress of the Central Coast PBA and the BDFSC will host a back yard burn (pile burn) workshop.

Lisa Ehret, Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3) - Not in attendance.

Ed Hayes, South Skyline Fire Safe Council & Concerned Resident – Not in attendance but submitted an update: I can report that SSFSC is now in the midst of our Fall chipping Program with 65 residents participating. We have completed our work on a PG&E Grant to maintain Fuel Break along Highway 35 (Skyline Blvd) from Black Road to Castle Rock State Park. SSFSC will assist Santa Clara County Firesafe with Fuel Break clearing along Highway 9 East from Skyline toward Saratoga starting Nov 1. SSFSC is also now coordinating with San Mateo FSC in their implementation of a \$2.4 Million CalFire Grant to create a fuel break along Highway 35(Skyline Blvd) from Highway 92 to Approx. Page Mill Road. I am in full support of the Executive Board Strategic Plan and additions to the Board. Please keep up the good work

Bob Loveland, County of Santa Cruz, Planning - Not in attendance.

Tim Reilly, California State Parks - Not in attendance.

Ian Rowbotham, Sempervirens Fund - Not in attendance.

Felix Sorrentino, Pacific Gas & Electric – Lots of on-going fire mitigation work. Too early to know about future grant opportunities but will advise.

Abby Young, Concerned Citizen & Firewise Coordinator –Prospect Heights Firewise group conducted a clean-up recently. As the first Firewise group in the county, would like to thank Jason Hajduk of Santa Cruz Fire for helping to form the group.

Tim Shields, City of Santa Cruz Fire Department – Chief Hajduk retired last month. Chief Oatey now interim chief. Three wildland fires in the Department's response area near Pogonip Park area last week. Currently an open space closure in effect. Close to finishing a grant for Arroyo Seco and DeLaveaga area. Will finish in the spring. Looking for future fuel reduction work areas and grant opportunities.

Adjourned at 11:46



FIREWISE USA™

Residents reducing wildfire risks
FireSafe Santa Cruz County BOD status report for 10/21/2021

Firewise recognized communities: 20

- Santa Cruz Mountains: **7** (with SCCFSC assistance)
Las Cumbres, Marty Road, Riva Ridge, Sunset Ridge Road, Terrace Grove, Ellen Roads, Hutchinson Road
- Remaining part of county: **13**
Prospect Heights, Paradise Park, Highland, Western Drive, Redwood -Cathedral, Bird Streets, Tanglewood, Forest Lakes, B40FirewiseCharlie (Branciforte), Viewpoint Rd (Aptos), Santa Cruz Gardens, [Lost Acres](#), [Westdale](#)

Firewise communities in progress: 16

- Santa Cruz Mountains: **2**
Upper Zayante, Old Ranch Road
- remaining part of county: **14**
Woodlands, Larson Rd (Aptos), Mt Hermon (SV), Wild Iris Ln (BD), North Rodeo Gulch, Comstock Ln (BD), Pineridge (BD), Country Estates (BD), Porter Gulch (Aptos), Waterman Gap, [Alba Road](#), [Ridge Ridge Road](#), [Happy Valley](#), [Summit Woods](#)

New Interest: 6

- Olsen Rd (Soquel), [Indian Rock \(Skyline\)](#), [Quail Hollow \(BL\)](#), [Upper Glenwood](#), [Nina Terrace \(BC\)](#), [Ben Lomond community](#)

What's New?

1. Total of **20** Firewise recognized communities and **2554** households as of Oct 20, 2021
 1. Started with **9** communities and **1200** households on Jan 1, 2021
2. Presentations since our last meeting (9/16/2021):
 1. Why Go Firewise presentations: **5**
 2. CERT and Firewise presentation ([LizAnne and Lynn](#)): **1**
3. Stephanie Smith (Forest Lakes Firewise Leader) helping with Firewise coaching
 1. Represented Firewise and FSCSCC at 9/11 North Rodeo Gulch event and 10/21 Happy Valley event with Supervisor Manu Koenig
4. Sally Mack of Terrace Grove Firewise also assisting with Summit Woods Firewise
5. HIZ Assessment planning (NFPA HIZ training weekend completed)
 1. "Practice sessions" and identifying pool of assessors
 2. Developing Assessment forms with Matt, LizAnne (next meeting later October?)
6. FSCSCC + Firewise Webinar for local Fire Chiefs: how can we collaborate?

