

**Minutes - Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Fire Safe Santa Cruz County (FSSCC)**

Thursday, August 1, 2019

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services
5200 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** At 1005 by Paul Horvat

2. **INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME** 10:00-10:05

Directors Present: Paul Horvat, President
Ed Hayes, Vice President
Joe Christy, Vice President
LizAnne Jensen, Treasurer
Lizzy Eichorn
Tim Reilly
Bob Loveland
Frank Rogers (in for Andy Hubbs)
Nic Retford (in for Chris Berry)
Becky Steinbruner
Felix Sorrentino

Directors Absent: Andy Hubbs, Secretary
Ian Rowbotham
Jen Michelsen
Lisa Ehret
Chris Berry

Attendees: Ilana King
Susan Tatsui-D'Arcy
Mike G
Leigh Wunce
Betsy Stiefelmaier

3. **AGENDA REVISIONS/ APPROVAL**

3.1. No changes made to the agenda.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

4.1. Review and approve 6/6/19 meeting minutes. LizAnne moved approval of the minutes, Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (3 min. each)

5.1 Leigh Wunce and Betsy Stiefelmaier: Leigh and Betsy are Paradise Park residents. They have set up an application for Firewise certification, but they need someone to certify their Firewise Risk Assessment. They have been referred to different fire personnel but haven't gotten any help. Paul said he could help them after the meeting.

5.2 Susan Tatsui-D'Arcy: Susan is from the North Rodeo Gulch area and is California Mother of the Year. She and her neighbors are working to create defensible space around their homes (with assistance from the FSC/RCD chipping program). She has been working extensively with Chief Hall from Central Fire Protection District to do inventories of her neighborhood by way of a Micro Community Disaster Plan (a community inventory guide she has developed) and is working on making YouTube videos of all fire preparedness steps she is taking. She would like to work with the FSC to elevate this work to the State level and is looking for local and state government contacts.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Approve Long Term Strategic Plan

- Changes suggested by the board: under the first objective of *Pillar I: Partnership*, remove "Santa Cruz County" and change to "Communicate regularly with partners regarding wildfire preparedness projects across the region. Determine further ways to collaborate and identify needs and capabilities." Under the second objective of the same pillar, change the wording to include legislative entities: "Grow partner network by reaching out to entities that are not yet involved (i.e. legislators). Determine ways to collaborate and identify needs and capabilities."
Joe moved approval of the Long-Term Strategic Plan pending the above changes.
Ed seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

6.2 Approve FY19-20 Business Plan

- Changes requested by the board:
 - Add UCSC to Member Agencies
 - Change OES to County of Santa Cruz to be more inclusive
 - Add an asterisk by Affiliate Organizations. At the bottom of the Organizational Chart, add "* established financial relationship" to describe what "Affiliate" means.
 - Budget- differentiate between real and projected funds (i.e. turn FireWise blocks yellow)

Frank moved approval of the FY19-20 Business Plan pending the above changes.
LizAnne seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Executive Committee report

- Executive committee members are working with the RCD to edit the FY19-20 RCD/FSC Memorandum of Understanding and RCD/County FY19-20 Scope of Work.
- LizAnne has drafted a letter to the County Board of Supervisors to ask them to attend our meetings. Letters will be sent to them after the Board of Supervisors presentation on 8/6/19.

- Ed was authorized to sign the Home Hardening Grant at the last ESC meeting. He signed the grant and the check is in the mail.
- The Home Hardening Grant requires general liability insurance. Ed is in process to fill out the application to receive a quote.

7.2. Treasurer's report

- The council has received several generous donations from board members (Ed, Joe, and LizAnne).
- The Home Hardening Grant intern is being paid through the FSC general account at this point and will be reimbursed when grant money comes in. \$418 has been paid to Stephan.

7.3. Education and Outreach Committee report

- Insurance presentations with Peter Meza were very successful; over 200 people came. At the Education and Outreach meeting next Thursday the committee will debrief the events, consolidate lessons learned, and will discuss future events.
- Guest editorials will be added to the website.

7.4. TAC report

- There is a current lull in the fire grant cycles. The group is working to evaluate and prioritize projects. CAL FIRE grants are expected to come out in the fall.

7.5. Development Committee report

- Covered by above reports.

7.6. RCD report

- Match forms for the CA FSC grant (which funded the recent insurance events) are needed from volunteers. Lizzy will send out the match form shortly.
- In the CA FSC grant budget, there is \$212 left over for future events (for venue space, food, supplies, etc.). Much of the event budget was spent on filming the event in the County Supervisors Chambers. A YouTube link will be posted on the FSC website soon.
- The contract is now executed for the RCD's CAL FIRE fire prevention grant (for more neighborhood chipping, Cliffwood Estates ladder fuels reduction, and continued work on Graham Hill Shaded Fuel Break).
- The chipping program is underway and will run through August.

7.7. Other director reports

- Paul: There is an event that will be held Aug 21 from 6-8pm at the Santa Cruz City Police Department where they will talk about grants the city has received and general disaster preparedness for the community. He wanted to know if anyone would be interested in tabling. The CSAA Grant Committee is interested.
- LizAnne: The action items outlined in the Firewise Community Coordinator proposal and timeline are on track and she is working on building a relationship with FDAC.

- Joe: Joe suggests that FSC consider CAL FIRE CCI grant funds for funding 2 half-time Firewise employees.
- Felix: On Monday August 5, from 6-8pm, there is a public event about PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program at the Louden Nelson Community Center, 301 Center St. Topics include: system hardening, enhanced vegetation management, and public safety power shut downs.
- Lizzy: The RCD will be hiring a forest health and fire preparedness program specialist by the start of 2020. They will be overseeing the implementation of fire-related grants. Lizzy will continue FSC coordination.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1. Home Hardening Grant

The grant term starts today. We have 6 months to complete the grant. The CSAA Grant Committee has hired an intern from UCSC to be the go-to project manager. Six workshops are being planned for the first couple of weeks in October (working on getting speakers). The funder wants to know what we can do to incentivize people to implement home hardening techniques.

8.2. Plans for future education and outreach events

- Home hardening events will need the help of the Education and Outreach Committee.
- Ed will work with South Skyline to host another insurance-related event.
- Insurance event in the Summit area requested - Becky will follow up with the Santa Clara FSC.
- Susan would like to interview someone from the Fire Safe Council on her new podcast platform.
- The Santa Cruz County Fair will be held from September 11th-15th. Becky suggested that the board consider having a tabling event. The group decided that this decision would be talked about at the upcoming E&O meeting. If it's too late to get a booth, the group agreed that having a handout about the council and the chipping program at the CAL FIRE booth would be ideal.

9. ADJOURN At 1157 by Paul Horvat

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be October 3rd, 2019 at the Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services building, 5200 Soquel Avenue.