

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

Thursday, October 3, 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 10:15 by Paul Horvat

2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Directors Present: Paul Horvat, President
Ed Hayes, Vice President
Joe Christy, Vice President
LizAnne Jensen, Treasurer
Tim Reilly
Bob Loveland
Zeke Bean (in for Chris Berry)
Becky Steinbruner
Felix Sorrentino
Lisa Ehret
Ian Rowbotham
Lizzy Eichorn (by phone)

Directors Absent: Chris Berry
Andy Hubbs

Attendees: Ilana King – FSCSCC
Leigh Wunce – Paradise Park
Sharon Simas – Paradise Park
Mike Gagarin
Pam Peck – Fire Safe Council Monterey County

3. AGENDA REVISIONS/ APPROVAL

3.1. No changes made to the agenda.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1. Review and approve 8/1/19 meeting minutes. Lizanne moved approval of the minutes, Ed seconded the motion. Becky abstains having not read the minutes. The motion carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 min. each)

5.1 Paradise Park Firewise application completed. No CAL FIRE staff available to review assessment. Encouraged to ask local Fire Dept for help. Assessment has been completed by neighbors. They just need a fire service staff member to review and approve it.

5.2 Becky put on a 'how to create a Firewise community' event at the Aptos library on 9/20. The library waived the room fee and 20 people came. Becky was unable to get a CAL FIRE representative to attend. Aptos/La Selva and Central Fire Departments did attend upon the understanding that areas outside their protection zones will ask CAL FIRE for support. Rob Sherman of CAL FIRE says there are 0 resources available for doing Firewise assessments and suggested Becky call Peter Munoa which Becky did. The response from Munoa's assistant was that they are interested in addressing the problems.

Given the lack of Fire Dept staff available they had the following suggestions:

1. If you have a fire agency person resident in community – have them help do the assessment and then send it in to Mr. Munoa and send a copy to Jeff Hakala.
2. Do your best and send it in.
Joe has talked to Rich Sampson – there is a broader plan to put in Fire Prevention grant with funds for this. Rich also suggested that Santa Cruz attempt to emulate Santa Clara Fire Safe Council's approach. They have 4 people who have been through NFPA training and those people have trained community members.

5.3 Pam Peck from Fire Safe Council of Monterey County is here to hear about Firewise communities. No Firewise communities set up yet in Monterey. She is looking for help getting Firewise Communities off the ground and is hoping to get input from Santa Cruz. A number of communities have met requirements but are not yet at the assessment level.

Pam also reported that FSCMC was planning on applying for a Forest Health grant but the area is not heavily forested so the proposal morphed into Fire Prevention aka fuel mitigation grant. They are writing smaller grants for chipping and are also interested in doing a County-wide education and outreach grant. They have 2 grants with PG&E and are working with Scott Carlton of PG&E.

5.4 Joe reports that the Greenhouse Gas/CCI grant workshop that was held in Sacramento on Monday 9/30/19 will be webcast soon.

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Consider approval of RCD/FSC MOU for FY 19-20

Ed described the MOU. One change was made from prior year MOU – "RCD will assist FSCSC in developing policies". The RCD board president has approved and signed. Becky asked about costs associated with creating policies. Ed: not anticipating any significant costs. Policies are required for grantors. Felix clarified that the draft language stipulating that policies will be created by 'end of year' means by June 30, 2020.

Lizanne moved approval. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

6.2. Consider approval of the council doing business as Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County (announcement needed in newspaper)

Lizanne described the reasoning for re-naming the organization to 'Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County'. There were no objections. The new name will be used for media outreach. There is a need to file a Fictitious Business name - \$45 fee + .67 stamp for copies. Lizanne and Joe will proceed. Joe says website domain name can be changed to www.FSCSCC - shorter name.

Ed moved approval of the name change. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Executive Committee report

7.1.1. Update on Board of Supervisors August presentation

Paul was at the presentation and gave an update on activities. He highlighted the fact that FSCSCC is doing a lot with very little money. Board thanked FSCSCC. Primed to ask for additional funds next year.

Becky asked about the follow up letter to Board of Supervisors. LizAnne sent those inviting Supervisors/aids to FSCSCC meetings. Coonerty's office wanted a tour of completed projects. Paul will give tour of City of Santa Cruz projects.

Becky would like a Supervisor on the FSCSCC board.

Felix comments about potential collaboration between PG&E and County for evacuation routes.

Becky suggested sending a letter to Dept of Public Works Director, Matt Machado, to ask for a representative from SC County Public Works to sit on the FSCSCC Board. ESC will follow up.

7.1.2. Insurance coverage update – Ed reported that the CSAA grant required General Liability insurance not just D&O. Also, venues where CSAA grant activities are being held require General Liability. CSAA grant funds were used to purchase General Liability and Auto insurance. Cost = \$1000. Policy dates are: 8/15/19 – 8/15/20.

7.1.3. Grant application plans: Greenhouse Gas Reduction (formerly CCI) includes 4 categories of grants. In SC County 3 grants in discussion: Applications due December. Funding to begin summer 2020. Performance period 4 years (can be up to 1 yr for environmental clearances)

7.1.3.1. Forest Health (see Lizzy **RCD** report)

7.1.3.2. Fine scale vegetation mapping of Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties – able to map 3-dimensional fuel loads including ladder fuels. Santa Cruz Mountains Steward Network is applying for a Fire Prevention grant to fund this work.

7.1.3.3. FSCSCC is applying for a two-part grant:

A. Two vegetation management projects on neighborhood level.

B. Education – we will use the funds to jumpstart the Firewise Community coordinator project using part-time contractors. The funds would also be used to get NFPA certification for more people and fund events. Administration funds will be included in the grant application.

Becky asked about 'shovel-ready' projects. Lizzy has a list and is working on making it available to view. TAC will prioritize those projects.

7.1.4. Business plan progress and next steps – Ed reported on items in the business plan:

7.1.4.1. Executing home hardening grant – in process.

7.1.4.2. Developing policies and procedures manual – added to MOU; in process.

7.1.4.3. Publish annual report - held off until spring 2020.

- 7.1.4.4. Name change - voted on and in process.
- 7.1.4.5. Develop person to answer requests – in process.
- 7.1.4.6. Working with RCD for educational events throughout county - in process.
- 7.1.4.7. Execute Firewise Coordinator position - on hold while working on CSAA project.
- 7.1.4.8. Develop databases - in process; CSAA grant providing venue to work on this. Zeke asks about the proposed name change to Santa Cruz County Fire Safe Council in the business plan and is informed that those initials were taken by Santa Clara County FSC. Zeke also clarifies that the entity he is representing is City of Santa Cruz Water Department (not District). Note: adjust under Member Agencies on org chart.

Felix pointed out that the list of ‘databases’ in the business plan did not include a database of pending projects; that is very important for PG&E grants to have projects ready to go. Lisa asked if there were past PG&E awards available for review. Becky suggested connecting with Member Agencies for developing potential projects.

- 7.1.4.9. Develop databases - in process; CSAA grant providing venue to work on this.
- 7.1.4.10. Google Voice – done
- 7.1.4.11. Debit card – Lizanne got a debit card for our checking account.

7.2. Treasurer’s report - \$4,122 spent to date on CSAA project. We have a \$500 restricted donation from a volunteer to develop a “community partners” web page as part of our website. We also received a donation for the “Prepared not Scared” brochure cost. (Funds to be moved to Restricted Funds).

7.3. CSAA Grant Committee report – Ed reported that the committee is meeting regularly. Ed and Ken are doing outreach to commercial partners to provide their ‘contractor’ discount on home hardening supplies. SLL and Big Creek signed on. Scarborough will sign on soon. Monument and Home Depot in process. Ed shared the draft coupon. Lizanne has lined up presenters and venues – 6 throughout county on Home Hardening. Discount certificates will be available at the events and are good for 3 months (Oct 22 – end of January). Participants will be asked to provide Before-and-After photos for FSCSCC web library. Yana Valakovich’s presentations will be videoed and put up on website. After the 6 events are completed there will be press releases and other support to getting education out so people will do home hardening. We are hoping to analyze what kind of home hardening people are willing to do. Posters and literature will be handed out at stores. The committee is working on targeting landscapers, nurseries, architects and tree-work professionals to come to events so they understand what is needed. Lizanne is also trying to get a fire department representative for each meeting along with representatives from materials suppliers who may also provide additional coupons.

The grant is currently well within the proposed budget. Board members request a grant funds Budget to Actual report for the next meeting. Zeke suggested one-way blasts on Next Door. A committee member will ask Jason Hoppin, County CIO how to do this.

- 7.4. Education and Outreach Committee report – Becky reported that a meeting will be held next Thursday with a focus on helping CSAA working group. Guest editorials continue to be published every month. This month’s theme is “What to Expect in a Fire Evacuation”. Please report back when you see something printed. This helps the E&O committee to track where articles are being published. All articles are posted on FSCSCC website. Lizanne and Ed did an interview on KSQD. They are trying to get an mp3 of the interview to put up on the FSCSCC website. They are working on scheduling a podcast with Santa Cruz County Residential Realtors.
- 7.5. TAC report – all covered above. Joe will schedule next meeting via Doodle Poll.
- 7.6. Development Committee report – mostly CSAA grant work. See discussion items below.
- 7.7. RCD report – In mid-October coastal conservancy board is signing a capacity grant for RCD. With this money RCD will hire a forest health program specialist. This staff member will do site visits. This is a technical position not Firewise coordinator. But they should be able to help landowners make plans. The hire should be completed in January. A job announcement will go out next week – please distribute. RCD needs a letter of support from FSCSCC; Lizzy will write and then send letter to Paul to sign.

Lizzy is headed to Palo Alto today to meet with project team for Forest Health grant. They will be defining the project scope and determining if the grant application is feasible. An update will be provided next meeting. These will be large landscape projects – as opposed to neighborhood level. Last Chance Road project being proposed – which is in direct response to an earlier request from LCR residents to the fire safe council. Becky asked for a description of prescription. Lizzy responded that it depends on property (geology and flora) and landowner preferences. Masticator use is proposed on most properties.

- 7.8. Other director reports –
Paul: reported that a Disaster Preparedness Fair at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium on 10/13 10am-4pm in memory of the Loma Prieta earthquake. Many entities will be on hand.

Becky: she is following up on Insurance Commissioner Peter Meza’s work trying to make legislative changes to help people with insurance non-renewal notices. She distributed the ‘Update to Appendix D Availability Affordability Report’. Becky has contacted State Insurance Commission Ombudsman who had not heard of any legislative activity. In her opinion, the public needs to lean on legislators to make them aware of the issue. This issue is pervasive in our region and into Monterey County. It is vital to pool resources all over the state to address the insurance cancelation issue. Lisa asked if the Board has considered creating talking points; Executive Committee will take that up.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8.1. Community Partnership Program – volunteer Elizabeth Quinn suggested asking businesses to donate and make their support public. Program won’t be up and running until December.
- 8.2. New FSC brochure – LizAnne developed (and funded) Prepared Not Scared brochure. Eventually there will be website back up. Rosemary Anderson from EOC has printed 1,000

copies and has begun distributing to schools. RCD may provide funding for additional copies. Revisions welcome at this time as the text is not fully finalized.

9. ADJOURN At 12:05 by Paul Horvat

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be December 5th, 2019 at the Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services building, 5200 Soquel Avenue.