



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

Thursday, February 18, 2021

10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

ZOOM meeting

- DRAFT FOR BOARD APPROVAL -

1. CALL TO ORDER: 10:02

Quorum Established

2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Directors Present:

LizAnne Jensen, Vice President
Joe Christy, Treasurer
Andy Hubbs, Secretary
Ed Hayes
Marco Mack
Bob Loveland
Ian Rowbotham
Carly Blanchard
Lisa Lurie/Matt Abernathy
Ryan Wall
Tim Reilly

Directors Absent:

Paul Horvat
Felix Sorrentino
Bob Gray
Lisa Ehret

Attendees:

Lynn Sestak

3. AGENDA REVISIONS/ MINUTES APPROVAL

- 3.1. Revisions or additions to the agenda: Marco to discuss Board of Forestry (BOF) regulations during Director Reports.
- 3.2. Review and approve 10/08/20 meeting minutes. Motioned: Joe Christy, Seconded: Ed Hayes The motion carried to approve the minutes with recommended changes

4. REPORTS

Executive Committee Report – LizAnne Jensen: (1) Conversation about potential fiscal role of the Fire Safe Council and FireWise Communities. Santa Clara and Marin County's Fire Safe Councils discussed and decided against the possibility of being fiscally responsible for their FireWise Communities because the liability, administration and responsibility were too great. FSCSCC made the same conclusion but will revisit in the future. (2) After requesting bids for upgraded website updates, it was determined that to provide

ADA compliant web-functions an additional \$2,500 would be needed. LizAnne Jensen will request an increase web-development budget (3) Still in need of a FSC President, a fire service person may be best but no candidates come to mind at this time.

Technical Advisory Committee – Andy: Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) invited the FSCSCC to submit project proposal for grant of up to \$100,000. TAC met to discuss three potential projects to propose. The projects include 1. A stand thinning and shaded fuel break in Pogonip by the City of Santa Cruz, 2. A continuation of the Day Break Shaded Fuel Break, and 3. The Summit Road Shaded Fuel Break proposed by the Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance. After deliberation, the TAC decided to select the Summit Shaded Fuel Break and brought to the FSC board for approval.

Formal motion made by Ian Rowbotham, Ed Hayes second – motion passed.

Firewise USA update – Lynn: Currently ten recognized in County. Five in the Santa Cruz Mountains and five in parts of Santa Cruz County. Nine more areas are in progress. Also, two new inquiries recently, both initiated by Bob Grey. A lot of chipping interest from these communities. Also, considering pooling communities together to apply for larger grants. Current educational presentations to Firewise Communities include Why go Firewise, Home Hardening, and Evacuation workshops.

Landscaping Training – Marco: Presentation this Saturday will include home hardening too. Link to be sent to Board members. Sharing program info with CA FSC and BOF.

- **RCD** – Matt: The RCD has made progress on the planning of the CAL FIRE: Forest Health Grant amendment. The amendment now includes three Fuel Load Reduction Projects in the northern part of Santa Cruz County. The chipping program has been averaging a cost of \$250 per household and expects to continue its momentum this year. LizAnne brought up a concern heard from the community about not wanting to keep the chips anymore, due to potential fire risk. The RCD is helping to put on and present at the State of the San Lorenzo Symposium. Educational workshops on the horizon related to post fire monitoring and response. Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association holding a prescribed fire training workshop in April.

4.1. **Treasurer's Report** – Joe Christy: \$54610.42 in bank. Website/social media improvement expenses expected.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1. \$7,5000 will be needed for website; \$5,000 is allocated. Motion to increase funding by \$2,500 for website by LizAnne. Second by Marco. All in favor, motion carries.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT None

7. REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS AND AFFILIATES

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

Working with Chris McCloy from Yapacopia. They assist homeowners who have lost their insurance.

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

BDFSC FEMA/OES grant preparations continue. Spoke with County regarding their FEMA/OES grant applications. NFPA Home Ignition Zone two day training planned for August; those interested in attending should contact Joe.

Andrew Hubbs, Secretary, CAL FIRE

Ongoing fire engine fuel reduction work and future prescribed fire in south county.

Carly Blanchard, San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Fire Management Plan public meeting will occur tonight. Invited board members to attend. Will look for funding to implement plan in the near future.

Ed Hayes, South Skyline Fire Safe Council & Concerned Resident

Tomorrow last day for Portola Heights project. Hope to implement work on Black Road. Santa Clara County FSC will be working on Alpine and Skyline Road by sometime in August. South Skyline Fire Safe Council proposed building a fire break along Highway 35 to benefit Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. Spring chipping program to occur. New website efforts underway.

Bob Loveland, County of Santa Cruz, Planning

PG&E moving forward with Coastal Zone permit for post fire clean-up.

Marco Mack, Aptos / La Selva / Central Fire Departments

Discussed Freedom Fire and January weather event. Grant coordination with the County underway and would like to investigate a local CWPP grant opportunity. Has been working with the Board of Forestry (BOF) on their guidelines for defensible space and private road compliancy. Due to when most the homes and roads were constructed in Santa Cruz County, the current mindset has been to ignore the compliance of these homes. Marco hopes to help to produce better guidelines for this situation. BOF defensible space standards and State Fire Marshall building standards likely to be updated. Some do not seem reasonable. A workshop is planned for new standards next week. Link to be shared. Additionally, Marco has been working with CAL Landscapes to produce home hardness guidelines for contractors.

Tim Reilly, State Parks

Discussed possible future funding for Parks regarding fuel reduction projects. Black oak project underway at Castle Rock. Possible future work at Nisene Marks and Henry Cowell.

Ian Rowbotham, Sempervirens Fund

Sempervirens Fund is making progress on the San Vicente Redwood projects. 95% of properties burned in CZU fire. They have been working on how to better recover their properties and prepare the unaffected for potential future fires. They have also been looking at their road infrastructure and hope to create plans to better utilize them for access roads as well as strategic fire breaks. A general concern for how to clean up the work left by PG&E. Forest Health grant involvement at San Vincente Redwoods property. Post-fire botanical surveys planned. Post-fire projects being considered.

Ryan Wall, City of Santa Cruz Water

Currently working with Bonny Doon residents and BD FSC. Preparing for seasonal opening of Loch Lomond. Trying to work with CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation fire crews for more fuel breaks on watershed properties.

Reports from Affiliates:

None

8. ADJOURN 11:32

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be April 15, 2021 via Zoom.

Attachments:

- FSCSCC Profit & Loss Statement by Class: July 1 through February 18, 2021.
- FSCSCC Balance Sheet: As of February 18, 2021