



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

February 6, 2020

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 10:06 by Paul Horvat

2. INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

Directors Present: Paul Horvat, President
Ken MacLean (in for Ed Hayes, Vice President)
Joe Christy, Vice President
LizAnne Jensen, Treasurer
Andy Hubbs, Secretary
Bob Loveland
Zeke Bean (in for Chris Berry)
Becky Steinbruner
Felix Sorrentino
Lisa Lurie (in for Lizzy Eichorn)

Directors Absent: Chris Berry (Sub)
Tim Reilly
Lisa Ehret
Rick Rogers
Ian Rowbotham

Attendees:

Brackin Andrews	Ben Lopes
Abby Young	Thompson Brooks
LeAnn Bjelle	Ilana King
Greg Vandervoort	Mike Chiodini
Marget Aramburu	Chris Norton
Betsy Stiefelmaier	Elizabeth Quinn
Mike Gagarin	

3. AGENDA REVISIONS/ APPROVAL

3.1. No changes made to the agenda.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1. Review and approve 12/5/19 meeting minutes. The motion carried to approve the minutes as written.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Gagarin: Pre-fire plan example from San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Fire and SLO FSC. Developed through grants/County Fire GIS analyst. A consideration for local communities in Santa Cruz County. Funding would be needed.

Zeke Bean: Annual State of the San Lorenzo River Symposium will be held on Feb 29th in Zayante. Impacts/Challenges to the river will be discussed. Also, Cal Salmon will have their annual conference March 31st in Santa Cruz.

Chris Norton: Introduces himself; from Happy Valley, previous fire fighter, land clearing, trial building, GIS educated, currently in college drone program. Envisions using drone technology to show high detail vegetation conditions in specific areas. Concerned with current home insurance problems facing WUI residents. Per his insurer, drones will be used to evaluate conditions at individual homes and score them to assess risk.

Abby Young: Fire Wise update of local neighborhoods. Looking to seek additional funding and possible assistance from the FSC to expand Fire Wise as it may assist with insurance problems. Currently four Fire Wise communities in the County and others are working toward certification.

Beck Stienbruner: Reports moratorium of insurance cancellations from the State applies only to the areas of the state recently affected by large fires. Also, Fire Wise certification allows discounts to homeowners with FAIR plan policies.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 Consider developing a website revamp working group and group leader to address shortfalls of website in its current form: LizAnne, RCD and Elizabeth volunteer to revamp.
- 6.2 Review and approve thank you letter to Supervisor McPherson: Letter approved as written; Paul signed. Andy will send to Supervisor McPherson's office.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.1. Fundraising game plan and need for full board engagement – delineate roles and next steps: Additional capacity needed for fund raising because only a few members have been participating. Could be current members or new recruits; input and suggestions sought. Board members through their agencies to assist with funding as a possibility; including the Fire Chiefs Association; or Board members who could assist with writing grants to obtained funds.

8. REPORTS

- 8.1. Executive Committee: Joe reports on the two meetings last month; discussions on how to obtain organizational sustainability (funding). Public comment at the BOS meetings was suggested to get the fire safety needs of the community on their radar.

- 8.2. Treasurer: LizAnne reports several donations totaling \$3,148 in the first half of the fiscal year. Approximately \$17,000 in bank and \$14,000 is CSAA grant money which is TBD if CSAA will allow it to be kept.
- 8.3. CSAA Grant Committee: Half of the CSAA grant has been spent. Will propose more home hardening events and develop educational quiz for use by other entities which they hope to monetize. Mailing list test will occur to mention chipping events and seek donations. Video of home hardening now on website.
- 8.4. Education and Outreach Committee: Becky reports meeting on the Jan 16th. Discussed website needs, homeless issues surrounding fire safety, home hardening extension class at Cabrillo, current and future editorial topics, chipping program outreach, and future public workshops.
- 8.5. TAC: no meetings; nothing to report
- 8.6. Development Committee: no meetings; nothing to report
- 8.7. RCD: Lisa reports Lizzy has moved on from RCD. Two positions for Forest Health and Watershed Program specialists to be flown. Lisa will attend meetings and Angie Gruys will cover current FSC business and grants in the interim. Chipping program to begin in March; Cliffwood Estates project to be implemented this spring. SM and SC RCD awarded Forest Health grants for about 1,000 acres total: Last Chance Rd and San Vicente Redwoods in SC County. County scope of work related to the FSC approved by Rosemary.
- 8.8. Other director reports: Lizanne reports CERT "Map Your Neighborhood" program will begin presentations as to how to begin the program in other neighborhoods. Bonny Doon will be first presentation as an experiment.

9. ADJOURN at 11:25

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be April 2nd, 2020 at the County EOC building.