



# San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 21, 2021  
0900-1100 hours**

**Meeting held in person and via Zoom  
Southbay Training Center  
Los Osos**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Debbie Arnold – Co. Board of Supervisors	Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Tom Wright – Citizen at Large
Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group	Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University	David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group
Dan Dulitz – Fifth Supervisorial District	Steve Negro – First Supervisorial District
Turko Semmes – Building Industry	Carissa Reynolds – Air Pollution Control Dist
Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large	David Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group
Keith Aggson – City of San Luis Obispo	Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large
Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group	William Hollingsworth – County Fire Chiefs
Randy Harris – Fire Prevention Officers Assoc	Greg Saenz – Pacific Gas and Electric
Matthew Graybeal – Farm Bureau	Devin Best – Resource Conservation District

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc	Emily Miggins – Los Osos Focus Group
Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen’s Association	Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District
Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large	Eddy Moore – San Luis Obispo County Fire
Jeanie Hanson – ECO SLO	

## **FOCUS GROUP REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:**

Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek Focus Group
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## **STAFF PRESENT:**

Dan Turner, Business Manager	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE
Jon Gee – CAL FIRE	Denny O’Neil – CAL FIRE
Jim Neumann – SLO FSC Project Coordinator	Adan Orozco – CAL FIRE

## **GUESTS:**

Natalie Lee – SLO Mow	Mika Timpano – City of San Luis Obispo Fire
Hallie Richard – Coastal RCD	Hayley Barnes - RCD
Susie Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group	

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Arnold at 9:00 a.m. followed by introduction of directors, staff, focus groups and guests.

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### MINUTES

May 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented.

June 2021 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the May 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes and accept for review the June 2021 Executive Committee minutes as presented.**

### NEW BUSINESS / ROUNDTABLE

- Battalion Chief Denny O'Neil gave an overview of active California wildfires and weather patterns.
- Chris Dicus stated research is showing the grant work being completed is significantly impacting fire behavior and green house gases.

### PRESENTATIONS

- Ranch ID/Ag Pass training has been scheduled by SLO County Fire for July 17.
- Informational flyers will be added to our website for public review. The first two flyers are:
  - Private wildfire protection services offered by insurance companies
  - Fire retardants available to the public
- The San Luis Obispo County Strategic Plan is scheduled for presentation to the Board of Supervisors on August 24, 2021. The BOS ad hoc committee has asked SLO FSC to review and comment on the plan. It is not our mission to comment but familiarize and recommend people with questions and comments to contact their BOS representative.

### FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Abbreviated bank statement ending June 30, 2021 was reviewed.
- Contractual expenditure report ending June 30, 2021 was discussed.
- SLO FSC Operations account report was presented.  
**It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the June 2021 Abbreviated Bank Statement and purchases along with the Operating Budget and contractual expenditures report for the same period.**
- The Lake Nacimiento hazard fuel reduction project contract and resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on July 6, 2021. The contract amount is \$400,000. All environmental work has been completed so work could start immediately upon execution of contract. The project will conduct hazard fuel reduction in the areas near the Chimney Fire.

### LOCAL GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Executive Committee recommended two scholarship applicants to receive a recommended award of \$2,000 each. One applicant is a current Cal Poly student, the other is an incoming freshman to Alan Hancock Fire Academy. It was recommended that \$20,000 be allocated to serve the elderly and disabled in local grants for abatement projects. HOA's and focus groups are encouraged to apply for the local grants we offer.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to allocate \$20,000 to assist the elderly and disabled in local grants with abatement projects.**

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### **MID STATE FAIR**

Turko Semmes has finished the projected work at the Mid State Fair Fire Safe Demo house. Work completed consists of:

- Hydration station installed and working inside the Fire Safe Demo house
- Three picnic tables with umbrellas placed in the area
- Message board installed
- Landscaping area cleaned up with gravel installed – courtesy of Madrone Landscaping

Discussion was held on purchasing fair entry tickets for volunteers working at the Fire Safe Demo house.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to purchase fair entry tickets for volunteers working at the Fire Safe Demo house.**

### **ACTIVE GRANT FISCAL SUMMARY**

The active grant summary and current project status reports were reviewed. Work is complete on the Lake Nacimiento and Parkhill grants. The work for the 2021 PG&E grant (Toro Creek) is 95% complete. CAL FIRE may request we redirect a portion of the 2019-2020 Countywide hazard fuel reduction grant to another project due to the environmental review not being complete. There is a public works project plan underway through Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD that may prove to be a viable option. Those plans are good for 10 years. Santa Cruz and San Mateo RCDs have already processed Cal VTP projects through their districts. CAL FIRE is supportive of the projects but does not like the process of requiring the public works projects going through RCDs as the only option for long term solutions. The Coastal Commission process may impact the ability to conduct operations. Time is our biggest obstacle on this project.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the Active Grant Summary report for June 2021.**

Perimeter Solutions applied Fortify on Nacimiento Lake Drive between Chimney Rock Road and the dam. Several handfuls of the dry grasses sprayed were collected and lit but they would not ignite and burn. After our fuel treatment was publicized, SLO FSC was contacted by national media outlets and other fire safe councils for a review of our experience.

### **NEW GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Governor's 2020-21 and 2021-22 Budget Proposal Update

- \$50 million in fire prevention grant funds immediately
- Budget for early award approved: amended 2020-21 budget
- Potential for additional \$80 million in fire prevention grant funds after July 2021

Grants submitted, awaiting determination:

- SLO County Community Outreach (SLU-054)
- SLO County Evacuation Planning (SLU-055)
- SLO County Hazard Fuel Reduction (SLU-056)
- SLO County Forest Health (SLU-057)

CAL FIRE Unit Projects – High Priority and possible SLO FSC involvement

- Lake Nacimiento project funded with \$400,000
- Cal Poly – Miozzi
- Temattatte – environmental review done, continuation of previous CAL FIRE project
- Covelle Ranch – Phase 2
- West Atascadero

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to keep the projects outlined as high priority by CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire a priority.**

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### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

President Debbie Arnold would like to see the agenda item for Board of Director's meeting changed to depict a more accurate time commitment. It was decided those meetings would be scheduled for two and one-half instead of two.

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

#### **Executive Committee Meeting**

- Wednesday, August 18, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: Possible in person meeting w/Zoom for those more comfortable

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

- Wednesday, September 15, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- Location: Possible in person meeting w/Zoom for those more comfortable

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Debbie Arnold adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Loree McRoberts*

Recording Secretary