



San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
0900-1130 hours**

Meeting held via Zoom

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
Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension	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	Anais Tournier – Air Pollution Control Dist
Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large	David Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group
Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District	Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large
Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group	William Hollingsworth – County Fire Chiefs
Brandon Roberts – Atascadero FD Focus Grp	Andrew Johnson – Resource Conserv Dist
Matthew Graybeal – Farm Bureau	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Keith Aggson – City of San Luis Obispo	Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large
Randy Harris – Fire Prevention Officers Assoc	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc	Emily Miggins – Los Osos Focus Group
Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen’s Association	Greg Saenz – Pacific Gas and Electric
Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group	Eddy Moore – San Luis Obispo County Fire
Jeanie Hanson – ECO SLO	

FOCUS GROUP REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek Focus Group

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	Greg Alex – SLO FSC Webmaster
Jason Potts – CAL FIRE	

GUESTS:

Natalie Lee – SLO Mow	Scott Jalbert – SLO County OES
Hallie Richard – Coastal RCD	

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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CONSENT AGENDA

- September 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented.
- October 2021 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented.
- Abbreviated Bank Statement ending October 31, 2021 was presented.
- Contract Services report ending October 31, 2021 was presented.
- SLO FSC Internal Operating Budget ending October 31, 2021 was presented.
- Active grant summary report ending October 31, 2021 was presented.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the September 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes and accept for review the October 2021 Executive Committee minutes. It was also approved to accept all consent agenda items as presented: Waage Second: Neumann

NEW BUSINESS / ROUNDTABLE

- Cambria Wildfire Awareness Day was held on October 9, 2021. The attendance was both in person and virtual. The event was recorded and there is a link on the SLO span website under "Special Events." Presentations by the California State Insurance Commissioner's office and the SIM table demonstration were well received.
- Mid State Fair projects for 2022 should draw people into the display. Turko Semmes would like a group formed to review the scope of the project and make recommendations on new ways to involve the fair goers. Russ Johnson, Bob Neumann, Dan Dulitz and Chris Dicus have volunteered to assist Turko.
- Point San Luis prescribed burn was held on November 12. Denny O'Neil reported on the coordinated efforts of CAL FIRE, PG&E and the SLO County APCD to burn 242 acres. This project was the first test of the new Terra Torch provided by SLO FSC. The goals of the project were met and no complaints were received by the involved agencies.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS

- Any Board member who has their seat expiring in January needs to submit a letter from their organization supporting the assignment for the next two years.
 - Richard Gonzales has resigned his position representing the Farm Bureau. Daniel Ponti has been appointed by the Farm Bureau with Matthew Graybeal remaining as the alternate.
It was moved, seconded and approved to accept Richard Gonzales' resignation and approve the appointment of Daniel Ponti as the representative of the Farm Bureau: Dulitz Second: Neumann
 - It was decided that we will return to in person meetings when we can meet inside without masks.
 - Our annual board meeting may be held in person at the Vet's Hall in San Luis Obispo with a barbecue lunch. Barbecue volunteers include Dan Dulitz, Turko Semmes, Bob Neumann, Jim Neumann, Tom Wright, Dan Ponti and Jeff Jones.
- Internal Revenue Service letter – penalty for late 2019 tax filing
 - Automated IRS system recommends \$29,000 penalty

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- Contact made with IRS representative who was able to stay the action. A letter from our CPA and Business Manager should resolve the problem and negate the penalty. Resolution may take 9-12 weeks due to the IRS backlog.
 - Direction from the Executive Committee was given to Dan Turner to coordinate with the accountant and submit letters to the IRS.
- Overturf claim for landscaping repairs to 6320 Buckley Drive, Cambria
 - Direction was given by the Executive Committee to pay the claim with the SLO FSC Operations account up to \$18,000.

LOCAL GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Executive Committee recommended approval of the following local grant submittals:

- Atascadero Fire Department (\$13,582.62) – Residential Wildland Fire Consultation program. This program is designed to conduct individual inspections, inform residents on actions to prepare their properties for a wildland fire. Recommendation to grant the funds needed for a one-year pilot program with conditions that (1) a template and presentation be created and available to other agencies so they can emulate the program and (2) report submitted on the costs incurred. Vote held four (4) yes, one (1) opposed and one (1) absent.
- Cambria Evacuation Planning (\$25,000) – This project would entail a contract with Cal Poly Professor, Dr. Nuworsoo. Five evacuation scenarios would be modeled. Recommendation to support project with Business Manager, Dan Turner, reviewing existing grants for funding available before using our local grant/scholarship funds. If no existing grant funding available then approved to utilize Operations funds from the local grant/scholarship program: Vote held five (5) yes, zero (0) opposed and one (1) absent.
- Cal Poly LEAP program – Forestry Leadership program (\$5,000)
This is the first time this program is being offered. It would teach skills beyond what students are able to obtain in their normal academic experience, giving them real world experience. Cal Poly is asking for support (\$2,500 per student per year) with no expectations to continue the sponsorship. Direction given to Business Manager, Dan Turner, to advise Cal Poly to submit a formal application and notify them of our requirements and expectations. Recommendation to grant a one-time award of \$5,000 for the program if Cal Poly follows through with submission.
- Oak Symposium sponsorship for registration fees – not to exceed \$2,500
Presented by the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the 8th California Oak Symposium is intended for anyone involved in research, education, management, and conservation of California's oak woodlands. Recommendation to sponsor local college student's registration fees up to \$2,500. Royce Larsen abstained from voting on this submittal.
It was moved, seconded, and approved to grant the local grant submissions as presented:
Waage Second: Jones

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GRANT UPDATES

CA FSC/PG&E Resilience Grant – awarded

- \$100,000, grant term is 14 months expiring November 2022.
- Goals:
 - Countywide CWPP
 - Focus Group building, looking to form groups for Templeton and Avila Valley.
 - Sim table demonstrations for each community depicting fire behavior and evacuation impact.

CA FSC/CAL FIRE County Fire Safe Coordinator Grant – pending Tier 2

- Tier 1: 24 Counties were selected for up to \$175,000. Grant term is 18 months.
- Tier 2: Approved for award if additional funding is received

Monterey Pine Mortality

- Public Works project process approved by Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD; public hearing was September 16
- US-LT RCD Public Works projected approved unanimously by Coastal Commission
- Covell Ranch PSA approved unanimously by CA Coastal Commission on October 15
- CA Board of Forestry and Fire Protection certified the PSA without amendment
 - Site tour September 27 with CA Coastal, US Fish and Wildlife, US-LT RCD, ARC, CAL FIRE, SLO FSC to resolve PSA questions and red legged frog letter from US Fish and Wildlife
- Operations have begun
 - Hand crews
 - Mastication test and demonstration November 15 through 18
 - All parties are happy with work performed and have no recommendations for change.
- Department of Fish and Wildlife would like to do their property that adjoins the Covell Ranch
- Rancho Marino (UCSB) has 100 acres and would like to conduct treatments

NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

CCI Grants

- SB 170 and SB 155 budget trailer bills could add additional funding to 2021-22 budget
- CAL FIRE will open grants December and close January 22 – large grants preferred
 - Awards will have funding available Summer 2022
 - Will work off existing project list if any potential new projects submit them ASAP
 - Fire Prevention Grants
 - Forest Health Grants
 - Watershed scale projects

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GOOD OF THE ORDER

Steve Negro would like to see funds put into new grant opportunities to completely finish work at Covell Ranch. He also thinks money should be earmarked for the Mid State Fair in case the existing grant award.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, December 15, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: Probable Zoom

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, January 19, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: Possible in person meeting

ADJOURNMENT

President Debbie Arnold adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary