



California Fire Safe Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
October 11, 2016
Laguna Beach City Hall Council Chambers
505 Forest Ave, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

The meeting was called to order and welcome by chairman Jerry Davies.

Those present:

Jerry Davies J. Lopez
Pat Frost Pat Kidder
Kate Dargan Dave Shew
Dave Bischel David Horne
Stephen Gort

Not Present:

Jay Watson
Troy Whitman
Niel Fischer

Jeff La Tendresse, Laguna Fire Chief addressed the meeting, welcoming the Board to Laguna. He gave a brief history of fires and mitigation projects in the community.

Jordan Villwock, Laguna CERT and OES manager welcomed the group, and related his responsibilities for the OES, CERT, and Fire Grant applications.

The Chair asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the April 28 public meeting. There was a date discrepancy on the reporting of the Grass Valley event which was noted and will be altered. David Horne motioned to accept the minutes as modified, Pat Frost seconded, approved – unanimous.

The Chair asked if there were any changes in the minutes for the August 9, 2016 Public Session, There being none, David Horne motioned to accept the minutes, Pat Frost seconded, approved – unanimous.

Board Chair Topics, Jerry Davies

- Report on the Tree Mortality Task Force:
 - There have been no further meetings
 - Next meeting expected to be in December
 - They appear to have identified \$250,000,000 over 5 years
 - The problem of non-liability of contractors was illustrated by a vignette given by the chair. A landowner refused help because of the insurance exposure.
 - The Task force has a website available with information & pictures:
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/>
 - Kate Dargan asked if anyone had developed an expend plan – what are the priorities for spending these funds? Dave Shew said the emphasis is on protection of life and property, immediate defensible space work.
 - Dave Shew indicated that the CAL FIRE is funding \$6,000,000 for tree mortality, and that the SRA Grant is funding a further \$5,000,000.

- Dave Bischel and J. Lopez reported that the Southern problem is worse than was thought. Oak tree loss is also considerable, and is not being focused on. The “Gold spotted Borer” and another(?) have killed over 100,000 Oaks in the last few years.
- Jerry Davies also showed a file of sources of funding. (see web site).
- Chair Davies indicated he is still looking for suggestions for the next Fire Prevention Outreach Day.
- PCI/ACIC gave \$10,000 in January, which was used for web site and new brochures. They asked that \$5,000 of the donation is going to joint/PCI/ACIC/CFSC “needy” FSCs.
- Currently we are jointly sending \$1,200 to the Crescenta FSC; \$1,200 to Willow Creek FSC; and a third organization TBD, will get \$1,500.
- IBHS Summit Report:
 - Institute for Business & Home Safety (50 U.S. companies), has a significant facility in Tampa with a major wind tunnel which is used to test building strengthening products and construction techniques. The test with wind, embers, rain, etc.
 - All of the results of their testing are available to the industry and the public.
 - See their web site: <https://disastersafety.org/>
- USAA intends big support for CFSC in 2017, and there are prospects for CFSC to administrate grants for them.
- State Farm will contribute \$20,000 to the new outreach program if we get the SRA grant
- We will ask Farmers’ for \$120,000 for 2017.
 - Farmers has promised to do intros in Washington DC, open doors for us.

Public Comments/Questions: There were no attendees from the general public.

Treasurer’s Report - David Horne

- The Treasurer gave an explanation of “Accrual Adjustments to Income”: The 4110 account, Federal Grant Income, includes the actual cash amount of grants received. The 4120 account will show a positive amount if you are owed money. (In other words, you spent more on the grant than you received to date, you are owed money) It will show a negative amount if you have not spent all the money you have received. (You don’t get to report the grant money received as “income” until you spend it.
- Payment problems - Stephen Gort acknowledged that there have been problems with funding getting to the sub-grantees over the past few months. He reported that the process is undergoing review, and many steps are being shortened – time between sub grantee requests and requests to the Forest Service; removing one review step at the Forest Service; investigating ACH use by the Forest Service, etc.

Fire Prevention Day – J. Lopez reported additional information on the event:

- It was managed by the Topanga Canyon FSC, who shared their plans
- There were equipment demos, helicopter tour, etc.

Break (20 minutes)

Executive Director’s Update – Stephen Gort

- 2017 Forest Service Funding application is out, proposals due 12/12/2016. FS says it expects next year to be about the same as 2016 - \$3.5 million
- Stephen noted that Anne Pandey’s presentation on California Firewise is postponed due to

the workload of pre award conferences, and an unfortunately sick child. It will be carried to a future board meeting.

- Video Conferencing Status & Plan- Dalonna Scott
 - A comprehensive presentation was given by Dalonna Scott on several approaches and software options.
 - In summary, it is obvious that the business case and expected positive results are there.
 - Pat Frost made a motion to approve going forward to implement a Video Conferencing capability for CFSC; J. Lopez seconded, approved – unanimous.
 - Stephen stated that final decisions and a cost/budget will be developed and implementation will follow during the fourth quarter.

- Outreach – “Back to the Future” for CFSC - Stephen Gort gave a presentation of the process used to initiate new FSCs used in Napa County, as well as the approach that would be used if the CAL FIRE-SRA grant is won. Stephen showed what would be borrowed from Napa, and how the CFSC approach would differ, including the use of video conferencing capabilities.
 - SRA Grant Status: The application was filed early, Dave Shew was thanked for getting a “Unit Identifier” for the project. Next news is expected in November.
 - State Farm Insurance is committing \$20,000 towards this project to offset the difference in indirect cost rate accounting.

- Fire Adapted Communities – Stephen reported on his investigation into the relationship with the Fire Adapted Communities network:
 - Nature Conservancy is main sponsor
 - Lesser supporters: FS, Interior, BLM, Fish & Wildlife
 - Uses the “Cohesive Strategy” framework
 - An educational – “How To” resource
 - Best Practices, shared experiences
 - Self-Assessment tools
 - Focus Areas:
 - CWPPs
 - Community Communications & Education
 - Networking
 - Treatment Economics – Types, costs, management, program income
 - Watershed concerns
 - Landowner incentives, motivation
 - Periodic meetings, occasional webinars
 - Core Members and Affiliate Members
 - Washington, Colorado have State organizations.

California Fire Safe Council Involvement

- Interaction & proposal: November, 2014
- Proposed grant work schedule: January-June 2015
- Proposed grant award \$16,000:

- Develop a wildfire safety preparedness web application
- Hold 4 workshops in California – shared experiences, best practices
- Add blog/forum on CFSC web page
- Katie Martel and Margaret Grayson cancelled the project, work pressures.
- A grant application was developed never pursued/received.
- Some travel expense was covered for Katie to attend a meeting (\$200 left)
- Spoke with the FAC Network program Director, they would welcome CFSC involvement

Observations

- Directed at communities in practice
- Not focused on new group development
- Functionally Centrix/PODIO platform
 - Interactions plus data stores, conversation memory, data management
 - Connect with others (friends)
 - Share stories, photos, experiences, etc.
 - Core Members also develop content
- It was agreed that CFSC should support the FAC concept and make links to their web site available to our sub-grantees.
- Attention will be paid to possible additional activities between FAC & CFSC.

Other Board Member topics

- Jerry Davies pointed out the new CFSC shirts were at the meeting to be picked-up by the members.
- Pat Frost suggested including success stories in the new brochures.
- Pat also mentioned that Pat Bonnie(sp.?) is working on the USDA transition team for the presidential election. They have asked for a strong one-page description of CFSC history, good works, and reasons for continued good work with the new administration. Stephen and Jerry will work on this and get to Pat before Halloween.

Lunch Break – Adjourn to Closed Session

Jerry Davies

Final Adjournment

Jerry Davies