



**California Fire Safe Council**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**OPEN SESSION MINUTES – January 22, 2019**  
**Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Sacramento, CA**

**Open Session: 9:40 AM:**

Attendance: All Board members were in attendance but Pat Frost who was teaching at Chico State.

Chairman Jerry Davies opened the meeting at 9:40. The first item was the adoption of the Open Session Minutes from the December 11-12, 2019 meeting. Motions by Troy Whitman, seconded by Dave Bischel. Adopted Unanimously.

The Chair called on Kate Dargan to discuss the interview process held by the Search Committee (Jerry Davies, Kate Dargan, Ruben Grijalva and Pat Kidder) to interview Tracy Katelman and Niel Fischer for the Executive Director's position. Kate noted that each of the candidate's resume was given to the board to review before Tracy and Niel came in for a full board interview.

Kate said the Search Committee conducted a lengthy conference call interview with each candidate. It consisted of 8 questions ranging from Relevant Experiences, Strengths, Interest in CFSC, Board Experiences, Finance, Government Interaction, Fundraising, to Strategic Planning. Kate passed out a Search Committee Report noting the scores given to each candidate and said that both, after the interviews, were determined to be viable candidates and were invited to be interviewed by the board at today's board meeting

After discussion of the candidates and review of their scores, a motion to adjourn from Open Session to Closed was offered by David Horne. Troy Whitman seconded, and Chair Davies closed the open session and went to closed session at 9:55.

**Moved to Closed Session: 10:00AM**

**Returned to Open Session: 12:00AM**

Kate left the room to let Tracy and Niel know the results of the vote. Both were invited back into the board meeting after a break.

After a brief recess, the board resumed its Open Session meeting.

Tracy Katelman opened the session with discussion of her immediate plans for the CFSC once she was officially in the office. She said number one, she would like to appoint a Policy Committee to handle legislative, regulation, federal, and other important issues as they arise. Ruben, Kate, Tracy, Roper, Jerry.

Tracy said her second plan is the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) that is close to approval. She has requested, and it is close to being approved, that her consulting company, ForEverGreen Forestry, with the Watershed Research and Training Center in Hayfork, be the recipient of a \$3 million grant (out of the total \$20 million being considered) to work the state's watershed and forestry issues. (Details not worked out yet). She said she has asked the Resources Agency in charge of this grant to divert \$1.5 million to the CFSC for the ForEverGreen Forestry component. It would entail a statewide effort to develop community capacity for identifying and implementing landscape level fuel treatments. (Details to follow). The other \$1.5 million of the \$3 million will not be CFSC's responsibility.

Tracy noted that fundraising would be a priority of CFSC under her leadership and working with state and federal agencies and would work on foundations and other groups to achieve CFSC funds.

Tracy explained her understanding of the Executive Directors duties and noted that the budgeting would be a priority. She said she hoped to possibly assign other duties to staff in order to have time to devote to fundraising and coordination of expanding CFSC's name in the state. She said it would be important for the new Executive Director to spend time visiting with key state agency heads, Forest Management Task Force members, Cal Fire, and the Legislature.

Tracy then described the **California Fire Safe Council and Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network's Northwestern California Regional Wildfire Resiliency Gathering** at the Sea Ranch in February: A regional gathering for community wildfire practitioners to share best practices and skills, and identify common challenges, needs, and priorities for collaboration.

The Chair said a press release would be distributed on the Gathering and the info would be placed on the CFSC Web and Facebook pages. After Gathering story and pictures would follow.

The next item was discussion of the Feb. 27 board meeting. It was decided to hold the meeting at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel. Agenda and details would follow. A discussion of inviting local FSCs to join the Board meeting was discussed and will be decided at a later date.

The Board set the calendar for future board meetings.

March 20, 2019---Telephone Conference Call

April 24, 2019—Telephone Conference Call

May 7, 2019 – Awards Dinner

May 8, 2019 – In person, Sacramento

June 19, 2019-Conference Call

Liaison Assignments. Stephen discussed methods for appointing board members to key districts in the state near where they live. Such as: Frank Stewart, Northern CA.; Pat Frost, Trinity and Shasta Counties; David Horne and Laura Blaul, Orange County and San Diego Co. Others to be appointed.

The Chair discussed letters to be sent to DHS, USFS, BLM, Interior and USDA. He said with the government shutdown, letters are on hold until shutdown is concluded. Letters would be sent then, and face-to-face meetings with Randy Moore and Ed Perez would be set.

The Chair said the Washington D.C. trip is on and would be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Stephen Gort said he had made contact with the Legislative Aide to Senator Feinstein. He will keep in contact especially after the shutdown is concluded.

Laura Blaul presented the FEMA grant application. She handed out a report on the status of the grant application and detailed explanation of the grant.

The Chair discussed the May 7, 2019 CFSC Awards Banquet in Sacramento during Wildfire Awareness Week. It would include a silent auction, awards to key CFSC supporters, key note speaker-possibly Senator Feinstein, and dinner. Prospective supporters would be invited along with the key supporters. Jerry will contact the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Sacramento as a site for the dinner. The board was encouraged to look for silent auction items.

Niel Fischer reported that he was unsuccessful in convincing PG&E to use CFSC to manage their \$2,000,000 grant pool for local FSCs.

With no further business, David Horne motioned the Open Session to close. Troy Whitman Seconded. It was Unanimous.

The Chair then noted action items from the Closed session. Including the two Executive Director Interviews and he reiterated the election of Ruben to Vice-Chair, Tracy Katelman to Executive Director and Jerry Davies to Chair for 2019.

Dave Shew motioned adjournment. Troy Whiteman seconded. Unanimous.

**Adjourned 4:00PM**