



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of  
California Fire Safe Council  
February 24, 2015  
At Radisson Hotel, Ontario, CA  
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

**The following directors were present:** *Kate Dargan , Jerry Davies, Niel Fischer, Pat Frost, Pat Kidder, David Horne, J.Lopez, Frank Stewart, Jay Watson, and Troy Whitman.*

**The following directors were excused:** *Dave Bischel and Bruce Turbeville*

**The following members of staff were present:** *Margaret Grayson, Amber Gardner and Katie Martel.*

**The following guests were present:** *Gerald Newcombe (Arrowhead Communities Fire Safe Council), Steve Turner (Crescenta Valley Fire Safe Council), Tom Smezik (Fire Safe Council of East Orange County Canyons), Bob Click (Fire Safe Council of East Orange County Canyons), Neville Connell (Greater Alpine Fire Safe Council), Richard Brewer (Morongo Valley Fire Safe Council), Beth Burnam (North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council), Ryan Ulyate (North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council), Christina H (Orange County Fire Authority), George Ewan (Orange County Fire Authority), Mala Arthur (Pasadena Glen Fire Safe Council), Melvin Matthews (Pasadena Glen Fire Safe Council/Kinneloa Irrigation District).*

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Davies called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. and opened the floor to self-introductions of Board and staff members.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11, 2014 MINUTES**

On motion made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Horne and carried, the board approved the previously distributed minutes of the meeting of the board held on December 11, 2014.

**FIRE SAFE NEWS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mala Arthur of Pasadena Glen Fire Safe Council** distributed copies of a presentation on the recent activities of the Pasadena Glen Fire Safe Council in Los Angeles County. Their fire safe council was founded in 2010 in a small community of 55 homes north of Pasadena that adjacent to the Angeles National Forest. They have a small and supportive Board of Directors who is active in both the fuels and education projects.

**Richard Brewer of Morongo Valley Fire Safe Council** requested feedback about using crews on private properties for fuel removal programs in his communities in San Bernardino County. Local fire safe councils in the audience responded that they have successful programs and will provide details at the networking session later in the day.

**Beth Burnam and Ryan Ulyate of North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council** presented a summary of the fuel reduction activities in Topanga Canyon and the recent community feedback and endorsements. Topanga Canyon is a very large community in the middle of the Santa Monica Mountains in Los Angeles County. The fire safe council fuels work is grounded in the Santa Monica CWPP, a collaborative effort of many organizations including the Ventura County Fire Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department. They have received many grant awards for this project. Beth recommended a visit to their website for video and other resources about their activities: <https://sites.google.com/site/ntcfsc/>.

**Neville Connell of Greater Alpine Fire Safe Council** addressed their fire safe council program's in San Diego County. Their keystone program is the Chipping Program which generated up to \$900,000 dollars of in-kind/cost share volunteer hours in 2013 alone. They are adding up to 200 customers per year for their Chipping Program and currently have 1300 chipping customers. The automation of their registration and cost share recording processes has greatly increased their efficiency and effectiveness.

**Gerald Newcombe of Arrowhead Fire Safe Council** spoke about the current programs of their fire safe council in San Bernardino County. The goal of the FSC is to make the Arrowhead Communities more fire safe.

**Tom Smezik of East Orange County Canyons** shared numerous brochures on fire prevention, emergency evacuation, and fire resistant vegetation. Mr. Smezik offered his services and expertise with customized information to help stimulate communities to be more fire safe.

-----10 MINUTE BREAK-----

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A) SUPPORT OF WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT**

Ms. Grayson gave an overview of HR 167 and SB 235 of which CFSC has been a supporter from their inception. The bills are trying to set aside funds for suppression and fire prevention. She gave an updated reported in the Board Packet.

### **B) 2016 FOREST SERVICE GRANT SUBMITTED**

Ms. Grayson submitted CFSC's application for \$3 million dollars from the U.S. Forest Service (FY2015) for the CFSC 2016 Grants Clearinghouse funding. There is a 50% or dollar for dollar

match requirement. CFSC's 2016 application is a true application and CFSC will go through a capacity and risk assessment as part of the new OMB grant regulations.

### **C) WUI CONFERENCE /OTHER CONFERENCES**

Ms. Grayson, Mr. Davies and Ms. Martel will be attending the 2015 WUI Conference in Reno on March 24-26, 2015. Ms. Martel will be representing CFSC on the Fire Adapted Communities Panel on the topic of fire safe councils at the WUI Conference. Ms. Martel and Ms. Grayson will also be attending the IAWF Conference "International Wildland Fire Safety Summit and 4<sup>th</sup> Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference" in Boise, Idaho on April 20-24, 2015. They will be sharing a presentation on Fire Adapted Communities in California. Ms. Grayson is also working with a group of wildfire experts and planners who has applied to participate California Planners Association Meeting on the "Future of Planning and Wildfires in California" which will be held in Oakland this October. Mr. Davies will be speaking on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 in Buellton, CA on Insurance at the Fire Prevention Officers Training Conference.

On a motion made by Mr. Kidder and seconded by Mr. Stewart, the Board will submit a letter in support of the recent wildfire legislation stating if additional non-federal funding were to come to California, CFSC would prefer it be routed through the Grants Clearinghouse.

### **D) 2015 CLEARINGHOUSE UPDATE**

The Grants Clearinghouse closed on February 19, 2015. Staff was happy to report there were very few technical glitches and applicants were happy with the technical and customer service provided by ZoomGrants. There were 63 applications submitted and over \$7 million dollars requested.

### **ANNUAL RENEWAL OF BOARD CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**

Mr. Davies stated CFSC adopted in 2009 a Conflict of Interest Statement and the Board members sign it every year. Please forward signed statements to Margaret Grayson. *(Board Members present were provided with copies if they didn't have them. Some were turned into Ms Grayson).*

### **JUNE 11 BOARD MEETING & PROPOSED JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE**

The next Board meeting will be held in Redding, CA on June 11, 2015 and CFSC is planning to conduct a full day networking conference the day before on June 10<sup>th</sup> with local fire safe councils. There may be stipends available for participants and local speakers. Mr. Frost suggested topics to include successes from the Weed, CA fire last summer and prescribed fire successes in Weaverville, CA. There may be another version of this conference in Southern California later in 2015.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### a) December 31, 2014 Financial Statement Approval

Mr. Horne, Treasurer, reviewed and responded to the directors' questions on the previously distributed financial statements.

On motion made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Kidder, and carried, the board accepted the Financial Statement from December 31, 2014.

### b) The 2015 Budget Approval was carried over to the Executive Session

## **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

In a motion made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Horne, and carried, Chairman Kidder moved the meeting to Executive Session at 1:03 p.m.

## **RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

In the Executive Session the Board discussed the 2015 Budget, Governance, CWPP grants, Personnel, PG&E, and sub-grantee issues.

## **FINAL ADJOURNMENT**

In a motion made by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Frost, and carried, Chairman Kidder adjourned the Public Meeting at 3:01 p.m.

SAME AS THE EXECUTIVE MEETING

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Gardner

Clearinghouse Administrator

## **Next Board Meeting:**

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Redding, CA