



**CFSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
PLACER COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE AGENCY
CYPRESS ROOM (AUBURN, CA)**

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

The following directors were excused: *Frank Stewart, Niel Fischer, Dave Bischel, and Bruce Turbeville*

The following members of staff were present: *Katie Martel, Amber Gardner and Liron Galliano*

The following guests were present: *Joanne Drummond (Fire Safe Council of Nevada County) George Alves (Placer County Fire Safe Alliance), Luana Dowling (Placer County Fire Safe Alliance) and Diane Bush (Private Sector).*

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Davies called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m. and opened the floor to self-introductions of Board and staff members.

NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION: DAVE SHEW

Mr. Shew is the Staff Chief at CAL FIRE and works with the SRA Fire Prevention Fee Program. He has been employed with CALFIRE for 23 years. He's excited to be part of the California Fire Safe Council Board and assist in fire prevention projects and programs.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 11, 2015 MINUTES

On motion made by Mr. Frost, seconded by Mr. Horne and carried, the board approved the previously distributed minutes of the meeting of the board held on June 11, 2015.

FIRE SAFE NEWS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joanne Drummond Executive Director of Fire Safe Council of Nevada County gave a program update for Nevada County. A recent 2300 acre fire in the area inspired the local communities to become more fire prepared and the FSC was able to ramp up their prevention efforts. Nevada County has 15 certified Firewise Communities now with 10 communities on the waiting list. Ms. Drummond also gave an overview of several new funding streams for the FSCNC such as California Conservation Corps, CALFIRE's SRA program, AmeriCorps Volunteer Crews for implementing Firewise Neighborhood Action Plans, and California Fire Safe Council's 2015 Grants Clearinghouse. Ms. Drummond will be attending the National Fire Academy on the WUI Fire Adapted Communities program.

Liron Galliano reporting (via email) for Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council’s Patty Ciesla

encouraged the Board to put together a conference with local fire safe councils covering topics such as fire safe prevention, vegetation treatment, paid/consultant options, social media, and current fire science outreach. Ms. Ciesla is the new coordinator for the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council.

TREASURER’S REPORT

June 30, 2015 Financial Statement Approval

Mr. Horne, Treasurer, reviewed and responded to the directors’ questions on the previously distributed financial statements. (Note the Board had not received the financial statements at the time of the meeting).

On motion made by Mr. Kidder, seconded by Mr. Whitman, and carried, the board accepted the Financial Statement from June 30, 2015. Mr. Frost abstained because he had not seen the financial statements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A) 2015 CLEARINGHOUSE UPDATE

Ms. Martel gave an overview of the projects selected for the 2015 Grants Clearinghouse, there were 25 projects selected for funding located in 23 counties throughout California. Subawards were mailed last week and the start date of the 2015 grant will be October 1, 2015. Grant Award Workshops for 2015 subgrantees are scheduled for late October. The environmental compliance process has been changed this year and the new RPF is already working towards completing the reviews of current grants.

B) GRANTS CLEARINGHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Martel reported that the process improvements for payment requests have been implemented and we have seen substantial success with the turnaround time of payments to subgrantees. We have received much positive feedback from subgrantees as a result.

There are many other improvements with reporting and CFSC’s online systems that CFSC staff are working on and will be phased in soon.

-----BREAK-----

PLACER COUNTY FIRE ALLIANCE PRESENTATION

George Alves gave an overview of the Placer County Fire Alliance. The stakeholders include representatives from BLM, BOR, CAL FIRE, USFS, Placer County OES, Foresthill/Iowa Hill FSC and a few other local FSCs. His position and a part time grant writer and Firewise Coordinator are funded primarily through Title II funds. In 2014, the Alliance received approximately \$1.1 million in grants through sources such as PG&E. In 2015 they are expected to receive \$2.1 million in grants through CAL

FIRE, PG &E and \$1.5 million from FEMA. They have an active Firewise program with many communities certified and many in progress. Their challenges are sustainable funding, grants, coordinator and FSC participation.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER UPDATE

CFSC has contracted with an independent Registered Professional Forester, John Kessler (John Kessler Forestry) to provide technical assistance with mitigation measures on the environmental compliance for the 2015 subgrants. Mr. Kessler has already begun the initial environmental assessments for the 2015 projects.

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES UPDATE

In the last three months, we have reached the 100 Firewise communities mark in California. California is one of three other states in the country with over 100 Firewise communities (Arkansas and Colorado are the other two). This partnership would not be possible without the support of Dave Shew and CALFIRE, especially with the local on the ground technical assistance to the FIREWISE groups.

The renewal date for Firewise Communities has been changed and is now November 15th to allow extra time for NFPA staff to process the renewals before the end of the year.

INSURANCE SURVEY: CFSC & PCIAA PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Davies reported that PCIAA/California Association of Insurance Companies, who represent 2000 insurance companies, will be working with CFSC to provide insurance tips on CFSC's website. PCIAA educates on financial wellness and insurance and has developed an e-magazine on wildfire prevention and financial wellness that CFSC will promote on our website. CFSC will create a wildfire insurance survey on our website for homeowners as well. Mr. Davies mentioned additional projects with insurance companies coming soon. Mr. Horne questioned the survey and would CFSC staff to revisit the project before launching.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Ms. Dargan shared a new resource called Fire Enterprise Geospatial Portal (Fire EGP), found at www.egp.nwccg.gov, a public site to find wildfire incident information. The page is reloaded every 15 minutes. This site will replace inciweb.gov.

Mr. Lopez has briefed the Society of American Foresters on CFSC activities.

Mr. Whitman reported the Flame Sniffers project is expanding in other areas in Orange County, and SCE may install the poles to mount the Flame Sniffers.

Mr. Horne the City of Laguna is putting more emphasis on wildfire prevention.

Mr. Shew there was a huge number of wildfires reported yesterday 9/9/15 during the heat wave, one of which was the Butte Fire in Amador and Calaveras County, which exploded into 4,000 acres overnight. Mr. Shew will present an update on the Fire Plan to the Board of Forestry in October.

Mr. Kidder fire funding has been an issue for several years. This fire season will generate a lot of interest with future fire funding.

Mr. Frost 10% of Trinity County has burned this year. New fire start sources are emerging.

----LUNCH BREAK at 11:35 pm-----

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

In a motion made by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Shew, and carried, Chairman Davies moved the meeting to Executive Session at 11:45 a.m.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

In the Executive Session the Board reported back on the 1) Adopted Employee Salary Policy and COLA, and 2) Approved the Executive Director Search Ad Hoc Committee.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT

In a motion made by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Dargan, and carried, Chairman Davies adjourned the Public Meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Next CFSC Board Meeting:

December 8-9, 2015 in Sacramento

Respectfully submitted,
Amber Gardner
Clearinghouse Administrator