



**California Fire Safe Council  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES  
August 9, 2016  
Wildfire Training & Conference Center  
3237 Peacekeeper Way, Bldg. 200  
McClellan, CA 95652**

The Public Meeting was called to Order by Chair Jerry Davies, at 09:14.

Directors present:

Jerry Davies  
J. Lopez  
Pat Kidder  
Pat Frost  
Niel Fisher  
Dave Shew

Directors absent:

Kate Dargan  
Dave Bischel  
Jay Watson  
Troy Whitman  
David Horne

Also present:

Liron Galliano, Grant Specialist  
Stephen Gort, Executive Director  
There were no members of the public present

The chair reported that approval of April 28, 2016 Public Session Minutes will be carried forward to the October Board meeting.

**Board Chair Report**

- The chair reported that he and Stephen Gort attended the USFS Regional Meeting on June 7-10. Members of the Washington office of the forest service were in attendance. Jerry made a well-received presentation on the history and work that is done by the CFSC. Jerry also mentioned that we will be arranging a meeting with Randy Moore USFS, for September.
- Liron Galliano reported on a tour that she conducted for this same group on the following day to meet members of the El Dorado FSC and to witness a chipping demonstration. They also reviewed a map of the recent fire in the area.
- Jerry Davies reported on the successful Valley Center Event. There were 135 people in attendance. He has received several follow-up calls from Fire Departments inquiring about possible help from CFSC and possible future events. Jerry held a preliminary 2017 grant request meeting with Farmers executives. The meeting went very well.
- Jerry reported that we have the funds to run one more of these events this year, and asked the Board for site suggestions. Some possibilities that were discussed were Sonora, Tuolumne County, Pat Frost has a visit from an AG executive – might be an opportunity for a combo event.

- Jerry Gave a summary of recent happenings on the Tree Mortality task force:
  - The PIO Committee has created and released several videos, pictures and information on their web site
  - They are also conducting tours for legislators, CAL FIRE, BLM.
  - The Resource Committee stated that funds are being pulled from both State & Federal sources to deal with the problem, possibly as much as \$100,000,000 currently.
  - They are looking for \$150,000,000 a year for the next 4-5 years.
  - The affected counties has been increased from 6 to ten. Have added: Placer, El Dorado, Amador, and Calaveras.
  - CAL FIRE SRA will direct \$5,000,000 to tree mortality projects.
  - Air Resources regulations continue to be a major stumbling block even for incinerator solutions.
  - General liability indemnification is also a major concern because vendors will not have liability for errors in work.
  - The possibility of FS funds for tree mortality work coming through CFSC was discussed.
  - Niel Fischer indicated that budgeting is just now starting to gel, and it might be a good time to enhance our visibility to possibly handle some of these funds.
  - Pat Kidder suggested that Stephen might join the Mortality Task Force and press for CFSC management of some of the funds.
  - The California Timber Harvesting Exemption was about to expire, and AB2029 was under consideration to address this. CAL FIRE had lodged an objection to the bill as written, and amendments were in-process. Just learned: the bill has been placed in suspension.
  - J. Lopez recommended that we keep John Kessler, our forester informed of any activities we may become involved in.
  - Stephen will have staff review our current applications to identify wherever tree removal or tree mortality is mentioned.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments or questions.

### **At 10:45 AM a coffee break**

### **Treasurer's Report**

- In Treasurer David Horne's absence, Stephen Gort distributed copies of the half year (June 30) financial reports.
- David had suggested that the reports were routine, with no unusual issues or problems.
- Stephen explained the possibly confusing item of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and half year to date federal revenue items being virtually the same. This is a function of not having received any federal income in the first quarter.
- Pat Frost asked for an explanation of the item "Accrual Adjustments to Income". An explanation was not at hand and David was not reachable. This will be covered at the October Board Meeting.
- Pat Kidder made a motion to accept/approve the half year financials, J. Lopez seconded, all in favor: unanimous.

### **Executive Director's Update**

Stephen Gort presented plans he has in process to improve Meetings & Communications. Topics covered included:

- He will begin to conduct monthly CFSC Staff meetings with one or two rotating Board attendees.
- Will begin Bi-Monthly Board meetings (every-other-month) with, at least one, rotating staff member making presentations to the Board on topics of organizational interest.

- Both offices will be upgraded for video conferencing:
  - Screen/monitor & camera for full meeting video
  - Screen sharing: presentations, documents, spreadsheets
  - For now: Attendees will go to their local CFSC office to attend meetings
  - Future implementation for attendance with other devices (laptops, tablets, smart phones) will become available.
  - Future uses may include conducting webinars, education, grant workshops, etc. with the CFSF communities.
  - Software, equipment, cost, and business case are under evaluation

**Other Board Member Topics:**

1. Due to scheduling conflicts, it was agreed to move the PG&E/CPUC letter of recommendation subject forward from the planned executive session. Niel Fisher stated his request:
  - The governor's drought declaration in 2014 started the PG&E mitigation projects funding with \$5.6M in 2014, and \$2m in 2015 going directly to local fire safe councils throughout the state.
  - Niel asked if the CFSC would be willing to send a letter of recommendation stating that PG&E's mitigation program is consistent with the mission of CFSC.
  - He emphasized he is not asking for CFSC to approve their approach or funding methods.
  - Pat Kidder motioned to approve such a letter if Niel would furnish a draft letter, consistent with the 2015 letter for CFSC use. Dave Shew seconded the motion, motion passed. Votes:
    - Aye: Jerry Davies, Dave Shew, Pat Kidder, J. Lopez.
    - Opposed: Pat Frost.
    - Abstained: Niel Fisher
  - Niel mentioned that PG&E had doled-out \$2.1M at a cost of only \$34k, much less expensive than it the indirect cost for CFSC to have done it.
  - Niel agreed to provide a draft letter for CFSC.
2. Director Pat Frost asked about CFSC participation in the "Fire Adapted Communities Program" asked what roll the CFSC is playing in the program, and/or if there isn't some funding available for work on the subject area. No one in the meeting had any information on the subject. J. Lopez stated that he believes that CFSC is or has been a member of the Fire Adapted Network. Stephen Gort agreed to research the subject to see if there has been any CFSC participation, and where it stands today.
3. Pat Frost and Stephen Gort proposed applying for an SRA grant for doing outreach & local fire safe council development, where CFSC is the grantee and staff would do the work. Dave Shew indicated that portions if the SRA funds are focused on such work. Stephen will develop a plan & cost estimate, as a first step for making such an application
4. Stephen informed the group that we learned of a large, under-performing grant from Trudie Mahoney. It is a significant FS program from 2015 which is intended for fire safety planning in San Bernardino & Riverside Counties which is grossly under-subscribed. To date only one FSC has responded, and there is over \$450,000 potentially available. Stephen is working with people from the area and the San Bernardino National Forest to potentially expand the program to areas other than CWPPs, which address the spirit of the grant, in order to re-vitalize the program. Pat Kidder advised that we should also find out who, at the FS, might be in a position to expand the scope even further if the current work with Trudie does not yield better results.

5. Dave Shew mentioned that the CAL FIRE WUI grant application process is now open. It is, due to end by about September 21, after which CAL FIRE will do the grant review and award process, prior to turning over the program to CFSC to manage.

Lunch Break – was replaced by a working lunch and the group adjourned to Closed Executive Session

<u>3:30 PM:</u> Return from Closed Session	All - Board
<u>3:35 PM:</u> Announce Winners of 2016 SFA Grants	Jerry Davies
<b><u>3:40 PM: Final Adjournment</u></b>	Jerry Davies