

California Fire Safe Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION Agenda
February 1, 2017
Wildland Fire Training Center Room # W120
3237 Peacekeeper Way, McClellan, CA 95652

The public meeting of the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) Board of Directors was called to order by Chair Jerry Davies at 10:05 AM.

Directors Present

Dave Bischel
Jerry Davies
Neil Fischer
Pat Frost
David Horne
Pat Kidder
J. Lopez
David Shew
Troy Whitman

Directors Absent

Kate Dargan

Staff Present

Thelma Clark, Grant Specialist
Amber Gardener, Clearinghouse Administrator
Stephen Gort, Executive Director
Bethany Perez, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present

Matt Thau of Fire Tool

Approval of Minutes

Chair Davies asked if there were any changes to the October 11, 2016 Public Session Meeting Minutes. It was noted that on page two, there was missing insect name that needs to be added where the question mark is. Troy said the change would be made. With that, Pat Frost made a motion to approve the minutes. David Horne seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously and the October 11, 2016 Public Session Meeting Minutes were approved.

Board Chair Topics (Jerry Davies)

Tree Mortality Status – the January report was sent and shows an increase from 6 to 10 counties. A Resource Committee comprised of CAL FIRE, Caltrans and OES is working to get funding and resources to areas to get rid of the dead trees. There are about 102 million trees that have been affected. The three main sources of funding are Governor’s budget; Cal Trans and OES. They are considering using air curtain burners. A public information tour of the Sierras is being considered for legislators and the media. Jerry will send all email updates out to the Board. Some homeowners have been unable to renew their insurance policies because they are in high hazard areas (6 of 10 communities have this

problem). There is a Total Webinar to be held on February 9th and the info to participate will be forwarded to the Board. Dave Bischel said they are working with companies to provide data but that many are not sharing information. Wildland fires are only one piece of the puzzle of the factors that are evaluated so we will work with them to see if we can improve the modeling. David Horne commented that it's important for communities to present directly to the underwriters and this approach worked in Laguna Beach via David Horne's leadership. He added that the local fire safe councils could also do this or be helpful in organizing such presentations.

Fire Prevention Outreach Day – possibly in March in conjunction with the \$1500 check presentation to Topanga

USAA Update- we approached them and they are interested in doing events with us but they would like us to coordinate to conduct events at military bases in California since USAA insures military personnel only. USAA has interest in -- (Tahoe, Camp Pendleton, Edwards AFB). The first event would be in Camp Pendleton in May or June. Phos-Check has offered to pay the food at these events. USAA is a big supporter of Firewise and would like to have a luncheon with us and NFPA.

Farmers Update – a proposal for \$110K was sent and the monies will be awarded in March/April.

Enhance our brand through social media?

After funding is sent and received by CFSC, CFSC will meet for a planning meeting in Woodland Hills (Home Officer of Farmers) to begin planning events.

State Farm – just awarded us \$20K in addition to the \$33K received earlier—total: \$53,000. They want it to be used to start new fire safe councils. We would use Stephen's model developed in NAPA. There needs to be 150-200 homes minimum for a FSC to be formed and there needs to be insurance agents in that area along with enough staff and volunteers. State Farm has a very large communications center at their headquarters in Illinois where we could produce APS and PSA's. Dave Shew said CAL FIRE is trying to map all the counties to validate their information and keep it updated but that they will need help to identify "holes" in order to have a single collective database.

Randy Moore Meeting – March 3, 6 or 14th are possible meeting dates – location will be Vallejo.

Attending will be Jerry plus 3 others TBD. The 2018FSA could be in question. Update: The meeting was held in McClellan on March 14. Attending were Jerry Davies, Stephen Gort, Dave Bishel, Trudie Mahoney and Randy Moore.

Ken Pimlott Meeting – plan to meet in late February or March, in Sacramento. \$3-5 million a year is the ask. Update: We will meet sometime in May.

Neil Fischer inquired how are we able to quantify how much extra pressure is being put on CAL FIRE crews that work with the local FSC's since we are not receiving funding from CAL FIRE. Dave Shew replied that the number of crews has dropped because of prisoner realignment. State prisoners are being moved down to the counties, reducing the State Corrections camps. The use of the California Conservation Corps (CCC) was briefly discussed. Pat Frost asked how many of the grantees are counting on inmate crews. Amber will research and get back to him with the answer.

Prepare Education Materials on important issues and plan visits to key Congressional legislators, staff and agencies in Washington, D.C., to educate them on significance of issues that affect CFSC or FSCs (Item moved to Executive Session)

Recognition Dinner Plans – CFSC would invite our insurance contacts and possibly corporate and charitable foundation people, have a full dinner, award plaques. It would take a lot of planning but may open doors to unrestricted funds. We will have more discussion on this at the next meeting.

Plan two board/staff planning retreats in 2017 to update, improve, add, subtract and sharpen 2017 key CFSC tactical strategic plans. (Item moved to Executive Session).

Public Comments/Questions – Matt Thau gave a brief presentation on the Thau Claw, a fire tool he invented (patent pending) that is an improvement of the McCloud. He would like to develop a partnership with CFSC and said that if we would reference and provide a link to his sales site on our website, he would donate 10% back to the fire safe councils that purchase his equipment. The tool would be priced at \$94. Matt thanked the Board and left some samples of the tool to try out. (See attached flyer) Stephen Gort will confer with Matt and report back to the Board about his offer.

Executive Director's Topics

Stephen Gort, Executive Director, reported:

2018 Forest Service Application –

- 18 FSA
- Submitted on time
- Two minor date corrections
- FS staff otherwise happy with application
- FS re-stated the SFA program is still on “earmarks”
- New administration uncertainty

Hiring

- Done – Reviewed 10 candidates, had phone interviews with 7, conducted 5 in-person interviews(Diane, Stephen, Jerry)
- Have working agreement with accountant on duties
- New AA to spend 3-4 weeks in Glendora with Diane and Norm
- Establish/publish business cycle calendar
- Document processes
- First look at Records Retention – go through boxes and move to electronic?
- Report to Sacramento office

Typical Grant Issues

- Capacity – Dave Shew thinks CA is reaching its capacity for grants and resources are a big problem
- Multiple grants and cost distribution
- Sub-grantee lethargy and/or overconfidence
- At any given time 10-12 in process
- Occasionally pull at pre-award level and move down hold list – recently due to conflict of interest/competition and applicant IDC
- Have implemented a weekly conference call “huddle”
- Have implemented a “Current Issues Board”

Facilities – (Just Looking)

- Better alternatives to what we have(financially, technically and productively)

- Referring to a basic pleasant, positive surroundings for the Board, staff and stakeholders, not luxury. What we have is poor in several respects
- Phone systems –VOIP?
- Video conferencing for meetings, education, webinars, etc. - \$1200 per site
- Alternatives – Bricks & mortar, full facility leasing, business competency(all inclusive) centers

SRA Grant – Status

- Grant was not awarded – we don't know the reason – is highly competitive
- Was new outreach program(12 new FSC's over 2 years)
- Jerry and Stephen working with State Farm(6 new FSC's over 2 years)

Spring/Summer

- Board Planning Meeting in February or March –Strategic Business Plan
- Possible Board further planning sessions(Jerry)
- Possible SFO Venue, other suggestions?
- Possible Governance facilitation sessions after planning work – have had preliminary discussion with Governance expert by J. Lopez
- Everyone to commit to one or two dates before everyone leaves today

Other Board Member Topics

Pat Kidder asked about past board members such as Bruce Turbeville, Frank Stewart and Jay Quentin. Jerry said that he received no response from Bruce and that Frank is sounding good but his wife has health problems. David Horne reviewed the December 13, 2016 CFSC Financial Report. It was noted that some areas of expense such as contract labor, events and travel seemed to increase dramatically. A major reason the indirect cost rate increased was the total lack of funds received from the Forest Service for the entire first quarter of 2016. It was also affected by the pre-audit preparation and audit work required from the accountant, the hiring of a new ED and training for new staff. Since there were no other questions, David asked for a motion to approve the financial report. Pat Kidder made a motion to approve the financial report. Pat Frost seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously and the December 13, 2016 CFSC Financial Report was approved.**

The public session of the CFSC Board of Directors Meeting was adjourned at 12:07.

Lunch Break and then Executive Session to begin at 13:00.

Minutes submitted by Bethany Perez
2-9-17