



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Firesafe Council  
Special Board of Directors' Meeting  
June 9, 2021**

Directors Present: John Ahlman, Ted Adams, Kevin Varga, Nic Elmquist, Phil Seymour, Rob Hazard, Paul Van Leer, Supv Joan Hartmann, John Powell, Max Moritz, Ray Smith, Rolf Larsen

Directors Absent: None

Meeting has a quorum as identified in Article IV. Section 9 of the Bylaws

Call to Order

01:00 PM- J. Ahlman calls the meeting to order and confirms quorum

Minutes

Previous minutes approved over email and are available on the website under "Meetings"

Treasurers Report

NA

Follow Agenda:

New Business

1. Upcoming Board Elections

- Discussion around the importance of having a more inclusive Board.
- Recommendation to adjust meeting times to either over the lunch hour or towards the end of the day. Board will look at alternating General Meetings so they are outside of normal business hours to encourage additional participation.
- J. Hartmann recommends a review of the By-laws and consider being able to vote to elect Directors other than the annual meeting if they demonstrate significant interest and commitment to the organization.
- There is concern that potential Directors need to have a good understanding of the FSC and the goals of the Board which will take time as a member and meeting participation before becoming a Director.
- Consensus that we will table these points for a future meeting where we will review the By-laws and make appropriate changes if needed.
- R. Hazard points out that the Board is in a transition from a volunteer organization to one with paid staff. In the past, it attracted members who were often retired because they had the capacity to volunteer and the meetings were held in public facilities which were only available during normal business hours.
- The next Board will have the task of building a strategic plan and aligning the Board and staff to accomplish the identified objectives.
- After election we will look to schedule an in person "working meeting" to develop the strategic plan.

- J. Ahlman discusses his wish to step down as President and J. Hartmann nominates Paul Van Leer to take his position.
- Interested members who will be on the ballot for the June 24<sup>th</sup> elections:
  - Renee O’Neil
  - Victoria Cooper
  - Dan Fawcett
  - Scott Coffman

## 2. Community Domain Lead Position

- K. Varga explains the \$550,000 funding is for a total of 3-years which started November 2020, but we can likely get a no cost extension.
- Goal is to grow the organization through additional grant funding.
- M. Moritz clarifies that there are specific deliverables this position will be tasked with accomplishing.
- Introduces John Gunn who is the Director of Signal and is responsible for the overall management of the RWMP and Graham Wesolowski who was recently hired as the lead for the Landscape Domain portion of the RWMP. Also recently hired a lead for the Build Development portion.
- The current RWMP subcommittee will be responsible for overseeing the hiring of the Community Domain Lead (\*see motion).
- RWMP will make hiring recommendation to the Board who will make the final decision.
- For reference: \$50/hr for SBC Project Manager, \$80/hr for a consultant

### Motions:

1. Motion to empower RWMP subcommittee to finalize the Community Domain Lead outreach and start the job search and to contract with payroll service company to prepare new employee package, hiring and IIPP program documents, Worker’s Compensation Insurance (A. Powell motions, R. Hazard seconds, all in favor)

### Action Items:

1. Finalize the Community Lead Outreach (K. Varga)
2. Get second estimate for payroll/HR services (N. Elmquist)
3. Survey local non-profit organizations to get a comparable starting salary range (P. Seymour)

### Identified Subcommittees:

1. Gaviota CWPP – R. Hazard, J. Ahlman, N. Elmquist, P. Van Leer (P. Coffman as Project Manager)
2. Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program – M. Moritz, R. Hazard, K. Varga, P. Seymour
3. Membership Management – A. Powell, Supv. Hartmann

### Next Meeting Agenda Items:

1. Gaviota CWPP Update (R. Hazard)

### Future Meeting Schedule and Guest Speakers:

1. June 24<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting/Membership Meeting
  - Kurt Van Speybroeck, Emergency Response Specialist - Meteorology
2. July 1<sup>st</sup> – Board Meeting

3. August 26<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting/Membership Meeting
  - Guest Speaker – TBD
4. September 2<sup>nd</sup> – Board Meeting
5. October 28<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting/General Membership Meeting
6. November 4<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting
7. December – No Meeting

Board Adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted: Nic Elmquist