



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
May 17, 2023**

**Executive Committee Directors Present:** Paul Van Leer, Victoria Cooper, Rob Hazard, Kevin Varga, Nic Elmquist,

**Executive Committee Directors Absent:**

**Others Present:** Kian Brouwer, Anne-Marie Parkinson, K. Furlong

**1. CFSC Defensible space grant**

- Cal Fire Safe Council has a grant open that assists communities with their defensible space. We could use this as an addition to our Community Chipping Program.
- Only 1 organization per county can apply for this grant, AMP will follow up with local departments to see if they plan on applying. Deadline is June 15th
- Have we identified enough properties/locations to spend this amount of money in two years. AMP says we can use our community contacts to find options. K. Furlong has identified a few while executing chipping program.
- We need to make sure we have enough capacity if we decide to take on this project
- This project could help us expand into the northern county
- AMP will bring this up at next weeks Board meeting

**2. Chipping Budget**

- K. Furlong has prepared the budget for the first year of the chipping program. It will likely end up being less than what she has estimated. She has created percentages of where we will be allocating these funds in the next two years. Can move these around as needed.
- Cost for the year is estimated at \$415,945. Total remaining budget will be around \$984,000
- V. Cooper says for next years program we should have more of notice to communities, and could use this as a method of getting Firewise communities involved, or more communities becoming firewise

- Paradise Rd Community is interested in being involved as they are technically included in the projects boundaries. Shouldnt be a problem with CAL Fire.
- K. Furlong is meeting with community members and is coordinating with Mike Scott (LP Forest) to ensure we don't overstep them

#### **K. Furlong exits the meeting**

### **3. Christina's Proposed Work Request**

- C. McGinnis has sent us what she wants to do and the budget to complete the home hardening portal. Total budget would be around \$4700.
- EC agrees to let C. McGinnis wrap up her edits, then we can take it over and do any modifications we see fit
- **N. Elmquist: Motion to extend C. McGinnis's contract to end of June 2023 to complete the portal. Total costs are not to exceed \$4700.**

### **4. Project Manager Applicants Discussion**

- EC has identified two candidates out of the interview pool. We will conduct second interviews in person to help our decision process. Will also ask for more references
- We could give the candidates a community or two (Rural/urban) and ask how they would go about creating a connection with the community, and how they would start/finish the firewise process

#### **General Notes:**

- EC thinks it would be a good idea to create a new staff strategy and coordination in the near future. Staff members would work cohesively to run projects, not specific per grant

#### **Motions:**

- **N. Elmquist: Motion to extend C. McGinnis's contract to end of June 2023 to complete the portal. Total costs are not to exceed \$4700.**

**Minutes submitted respectfully:** Kian Brouwer