



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Executive Committee Meeting
June 14, 2023**

Executive Committee Directors Present: Rob Hazard, Kevin Varga, Victoria Cooper, Nic Elmquist

Executive Committee Directors Absent: Paul Van Leer

Others Present: Anne-Marie Parkinson, Phil Seymour, Kim Pananides

1. CFSC Defensible Space draft grant application and budget review

- We are asking for the max award (\$500,000) as it was advised by the CFSC that they are primarily looking to award 8 \$500,000 grants.
- EC reviewed the eligibility criteria, which is based on fire hazard (very high, high, and moderate; those in low fire hazard zone we will not consider eligible) and vulnerability (e.g., fixed income, disabled, living in a mobile home, low English proficiency, etc.) and prioritization criteria (fire hazard, flame length, and meeting multiple vulnerability criteria).
- The SBCFSC aims to help 200 people complete defensible space on their private property, as per the grant guidelines through the use of free volunteers, stipend based volunteers, and subcontractors. We will also create educational material like bilingual videos about defensible space and host 24 educational workshops on defensible space, along with some other educational resources.
- It is anticipated that we will utilize current staff to complete the grant objectives, but will reevaluate once we get the grant.

2. Review of VRFSC meeting

- AMP and Kevin met with the ED and Financial Assistant at VRFSC last Thursday for 4 hours to share the administration and finances of both organizations so we can learn from each other.
- VRFSC shared some resources like their retirement plan research and employee handbook, which was very generous as AMP won't have to start all that from scratch.
- We will use that we learned to help our organization, especially as we get more into financial planning.

3. Motion: approve Ethan's portal budget

- No comments. See motion below

4. Trace doing focus group analysis

- AMP has not received any interest in an outsider who is interested in conducting the social science work needed to analyze the focus groups. Trace is able to postpone working on the Firewise research and instead work on the focus group analysis for the near future. Funds for her time to work on this task will come from our RWMP partners and not from any of our budgets.

Motions:

- Unanimous approval for the grant writing committee, Anne-Marie and Kate, to submit the CFSC Defensible Space grant asking for \$500,000 to help vulnerable residents complete their defensible space.
- Unanimous approval for Ethan's \$9,890 budget to assist with additional portal tasks.

Minutes submitted respectfully: Anne-Marie Parkinson