



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Executive Committee Meeting
August 2, 2023**

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

Executive Committee Directors Absent:

Others Present: Anne-Marie Parkinson, Kian Brouwer, Selden Edner

1. Finance

- Grazing

- Grantors have been behind on our request for advances which is affecting our expenses including our ability to do grazing at the scale we want. PMs will need to put more pressure on grantors to get reimbursements faster.
- R. Hazard is waiting for the 30 days after sending letters to Coastal tribes.
- EC agrees that we have to start our grazing projects, it would look poor if we didn't fulfill our grant objectives
- AMP will send an email to the two grazers to notify them that they have been selected. R. Hazard will set up an email with himself, J. Tobin, AMP, and grazers to discuss project implementation. He has a general idea of how to split up the project areas.

- Banks

- We currently use US bank but A. Parkinson recommends switching to Chase bank because USBank is not able to separate the SBCFSC business account from her personal accounts
- AMP is setting up a meeting with Chase bank to open account. AMP, K. Varga, and P. Van Leer will be signatories on the account.
- Once we have a Chase account AMP will apply for a credit card. We will keep USBank for about a month or two to make sure we have all the automatic payment accounts switched to Chase so there is no lapse in service.
- We will consider opening an additional account with a local bank, such as Montecito Bank and Trust since they provide grants to nonprofits and we should be

cautious of the FDIC insured \$250,000 limit when we get large advances. They will not be our main bank since they don't integrate well with Quickbooks.

- V. Cooper suggest meeting with the different banks to see what services they will provide us. Calls, account manager, etc.

- **General**

- We need to finalize our chipping reimbursement and then request an advance

- V. Cooper suggests we should start having reserves for staff funds once the funds come back in

- We will be having a larger finance meeting in person at County Fire HQ on Aug. 16th. Any BOD welcome

2. Plaque to commemorate service as SBCFSC BOD

- N. Elmquist talked with MFD PIO who suggested a local company to make these plaques. Santa Barbara Trophies

- K. Brouwer will look into this

3. TREX partnership

- K. Varga has been attending the TREX meetings and was asked to reach out to a few local organizations. After coordinating with these groups for TREX, he will loop in Kate to do County Coordinator tasks.

- The SBCFSC will be an official partner of the event

4. BOD Development Tasks

- Last meeting we discussed having the board become more involved

- AMP created a document of tasks we should complete. She believes the board should be doing these items.

- K. Varga suggests bringing this to the board at the next meeting to engage other members and set up an in-person meeting for the BOD's to discuss this and create an action plan. N. Elmquist will add this to August's BOD meeting agenda

5. Community Wildfire Defense Grants

- We should sit in on a meeting to see if we want to apply. Additionally, there are multiple cycles so we could see the success of the first few.

- We would need a match from a local organization

- AMP and EC think we are good with grant applications and work currently and should not apply this round, but consider applying for the 3rd of 4 rounds of funding.

Action Items:

- We need to start looking into private donations to supplement our grant funding.

Minutes submitted respectfully: Kian Brouwer