



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Executive Committee Meeting
January 17th, 2024**

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

Executive Committee Directors Absent: Paul Van Leer

Others Present: A. Parkinson, C. Harris, T. Adams, J. Tobin, S. Edner

1. Reschedule EC Meeting for 01/24/2024

- a. EC suggests Jessie Tobin send out an email regarding contractor updates instead of giving them in the EC meeting
- b. EC is in agreement to cancel the EC meeting
- c. C. Harris will cancel calendar invites

2. BOD Self Reflection Survey Results

- a. The BOD has a good grasp on the current programs of the FSC
- b. There seems to be hesitation within the board towards developing, educating, and promoting evacuation policy within the communities around the county.
 - i. Members of the EC express concern there is not much room for an organization like the FSC to be growing, educating, and implementing evacuation policies. The development and promotion of evacuation policy is a governmental responsibility, not a responsibility that falls to the FSC.
 - ii. The EC is aware the community is expressing a desire to have more educational material regarding evacuation.
 1. The EC suggests that instead of developing and promoting policy it would be a better use of FSC time and resources to educate communities on how to behave, make judgements, and follow directions during the event of an evacuation.
 2. EC decides to discuss this topic in more depth at the BOD retreat.
- c. EC discusses how to fit the survey results into the agenda for the BOD retreat.
 - i. Present data via graphs.
 - ii. Do not open the data up to discussion, keep the survey as a presentation only.



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3. Moore Foundation Grant Application

- a. EC discusses the draft budget for the application.
 - i. There is going to be a surplus of funds from this grant.
 1. With the additional funding the EC discusses the potential to hire an additional person onto the FSC staff. The position would be best used to help Gustavo with home evaluations.
 - ii. The EC agrees the FSC should use this funding to fill personnel gaps/needs within the FSC rather than subawarding out to third party organizations.

4. Fireside Software

- a. 1 year contract
- b. \$5,000 one-time start up costs (includes training) and annual \$2,500 minimum cost which includes 100 home evaluations. After 100 home evaluations, there's a \$17.50 charge per home evaluation.
- c. Total minimum cost for year 1 = \$7,500
- d. Fulcrum cost = \$432/person/year (excludes the like 2k we spent on a custom report)
- e. *Motion to approve using Fireside license for home evaluations.*
 - i. *Director Hazard firsts, Director Cooper seconds. All in favor.*

5. San Ysidro Creek Vegetation Management Project

- a. EC agrees to not move forward with the suggested plan from Law Office of Mark Chytilo.
 - i. Entering into a new contract to do this project does not make sense in regards to FSC time or resources.
 - ii. EC agrees it would be easier to prioritize this project within an already existing program of the FSC.

Motions:

- *Motion to approve using Fireside license for home evaluations. Director Hazard firsts, Director Cooper seconds. All in favor.*

Minutes Submitted Respectfully: Charles Harris