



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Executive Committee Meeting
October 11, 2023**

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

Executive Committee Directors Absent:

Others Present: T. Adams, G. Agredano, K. Furlong, J. Tobin, A. Parkinson

1. Wildfire Preparedness Exposition review

- This last event fulfilled our CalFire RWMP grant requirement of hosting 4 community events.
- Community outreach could have been better, more outreach should have been done in Spanish. But we also don't have the name recognition in North County, nor do a lot of people in Lompoc City think they have a fire issue. A future event here would be easier after the CWPP since we will have a lot more community connections.
- EC agrees no more large events in October. There are too many other events going on that month (eg, Carpinteria Avocado festival) and we are competing with soccer season.
- Should consider future events focusing on educating adults (like the home hardening and defensible space workshop we did in March) instead of focusing on kids, since our goal is to educate parents.
- Made great connections with the agencies and some residents for the upcoming CWPP. The agencies seem very eager to get out there more and engage with their residents.
- Going forward EC and staff recommend coordinating with the fire departments to have them take ownership of planning and hosting these events. They used to do similar events (eg, trucks and a BBQ) in the past before fire season. It was only possible for SBCFSC to put on these events because of the CalFire RWMP grant, but we cannot continue to host these without grant funds. Additionally, it takes too much staff time away from other programmatic work without an event planner or some other agency coordinating the efforts.
 - AMP is presenting at the Fire Chiefs meeting in January and will propose a partnership there with the fire PIOs taking the lead.
- Kate is working on the event report and budget, which will be ready for review at the October BOD meeting.



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2. AOP Applicants

- The soft deadline for full consideration closes on October 23, but we have some good candidates who we would like to interview next week before that deadline, but not make a decision until the 23rd.
- AMP and Paul are on the hiring committee.

3. PG&E report

- The WPE in Lompoc satisfied the requirements of the PG&E funds that were donated to us.
- EC doesn't think we have to do a formal report to PG&E unless they ask, but AMP will double check with Phil.

4. Finance

- The EC bylaws require the creation of an annual budget, which PMs, ED, and Kevin will work on in the coming months.
 - PMs will estimate and project funds for their grants throughout 2024. AMP will do the same for grants that do not have an assigned PM. AMP and Kevin will then coordinate to have a draft 2024 annual budget for Board review by the November 16th BOD meeting. AMP and Kevin will make any necessary adjustments for the BOD to formally approve the budget at the January in-person BOD retreat.
 - The annual budget will be accompanied by an annual workplan for each grant. Rob provided a sample from County Fire.
- Next EC finance meeting will be held in January 2024.

Motions: None

General Notes: EC and ED planning a half day in-person board and staff retreat in January. AMP will try not to get COVID this time.

Minutes submitted respectfully: Anne-Marie Parkinson