



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Executive Committee Meeting
February 13th, 2024**

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

Executive Committee Directors Absent:

Others Present: A. Parkinson, C. Harris, J. Tobin, S. Edner, K. Furlong

1. Review of Chipping Contracts

- a. Director Seymour, while absent from this EC meeting, has already reviewed the contracts and gave the green light to approve them.
- b. Director Edner makes a point that the Montecito Tree Care chipper and truck cost is much more than SB Tree Care's chipper and truck cost.
 - i. Other Directors of the EC explain that Montecito Tree Care may cost more, but they provide a higher value to their customers. The owner of the company actually works on the tree crew and has 30+ years of wildfire experience.
- c. *Motion to approve the Chipping Contracts for 2024. Director Cooper firsts, Director Edner seconds. All in favor.*

2. Cal Fire NFWF Budget

- a. FSC has a surplus in event contractor funds.
 - i. AMP plans on moving these funds into the staff and employee benefits category.
- b. FSC has zeroed out the remaining video funds for contractor E. Turpin.
- c. AMP and K. Furlong have been reaching out for months to the contractor A. Cortes (focus group facilitator), but she has yet to respond and has not sent in her invoices.
- d. FSC has a surplus of event/educational supply funds.
 - i. K. Furlong & G. Agredano plan to purchase more educational material by this week.
 - ii. FSC will be needing to purchase three new Ipads in order to use FireAside software for home evaluations.
 1. The software only works on Apple products.



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- e. Surpluses that are not spent by the deadline will be moved into the category of employee benefits and staff time
- f. Director Elmquist recommends reaching out to Cal Fire for a 6 month extension.

3. CWPP Interviews

- a. 4 interviews were scheduled, but only two were conducted.
 - i. Interviewee #1
 - 1. Great soft skills
 - a. Interviewee was a planner
 - b. Good at public speaking
 - c. Good at coordination
 - 2. Does not have the technical skills FSC is looking for
 - 3. Does not know about wildfire
 - a. Interview would need an extensive crash course in wildland fire and FSC programs
 - 4. Interviewee #1 could not start until mid-late march
 - ii. Interviewee #2
 - 1. Great hands on experience with wildfire and is familiar with FSC programs
 - 2. Does not have the soft skills required for the position
 - a. No grant management / writing
 - b. Public speaking skills not great
 - c. Excel skills not great
- b. There is potential to find a candidate that can run both the Lompoc CWPP and Education Program
- c. There is the possibility to hire Interviewee #2 as a part time employee to help G. Agredano with the defensible space program.
- d. EC has a preference for Interviewee #1, but will wait to make a decision as a 5th candidate has been chosen for an interview.

4. Retirement Plans

- a. EC wants to select a retirement plan that has matching as an option.
 - i. Simple IRA plan
 - 1. Option 1: Every year the FSC will match up to 2% of an employee's paycheck.



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2. Option 2: Every year the FSC will match a range of 1-3% of an employee's paycheck. The FSC will decide how much to match on any given year.
 - a. The FSC can only do a 1% match for 2 years out of every 5 years. The other 3 years must be between 2-3%.
 - b. If employees do not contribute to their IRA accounts then the FSC does contribute, hence "matching".
 - c. The Board of Directors will vote on choosing a retirement plan at the next BOD meeting on Feb 22.

5. February BOD Meeting Agenda

- a. Agenda
 - i. 0900-0905: Establish Quorum (P. Van Leer)
 - ii. 0905-0915: Treasurer Update (K. Varga)
 - iii. 0915-0925: Executive Committee Update (P. Van Leer)
 - iv. 0925-0940: Executive Director / Hiring / Grant Updates (AMP) 2024 Budget Approval
 - v. 0940-0950: Communication Coordinator Update (C. Harris)
 - vi. 0950-1005: Grazing, Chipping, Defensible Space Project Update (J. Tobbin – Project Manager)
 - vii. 1005-1020: Firewise/Community Domain Update (K. Furlong – Project Manager)
 - viii. 1020-1030: RWMP Presentation (AMP, R. Hazard, M. Moritz)
 - ix. 1030-1035: Agency Updates
 - x. 1035-1100: Community Updates / Round-Table
- b. EC approves the BOD agenda.

Motions:

- *Motion to approve the Chipping Contracts for 2024. Director Cooper firsts, Director Edner seconds. All in favor.*

Minutes Submitted Respectfully: Charles Harris