



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Executive Committee Meeting
March 6th, 2024**

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

Executive Committee Directors Absent:

Others Present: A. Parkinson, C. Harris, J. Tobin

1. Interview Update

- a. The Education Project Manager position was offered to a candidate with exceptional experience. Our standard terms of employment were offered (eg, \$104,000 salary, 3 weeks PTO, etc.). She counter-offered asking for a higher salary and more PTO. EC felt strongly to stay firm at 3 weeks of PTO so all staff receive the same benefits, but counter-offered a salary of \$114,000 to compensate for the additional skills and experience she brings to the position. Board will of course get the final say in all employment terms.
- b. Another candidate, Dana Link-Herrera, was interviewed for the CWPP/Dspace position. She currently works for Dudek as a planner and has worked on several CWPPs and other local projects with FSC Board members. She had the CWPP, soft skills, and fire experience we have desired for this position.
- c. *Motion to offer the Lompoc CWPP/Defensible Space Project Manager position to Dana Link-Herrera.*
 - i. *Director Hazard firsts, Director Varga seconds. All in favor.*

2. Contractor Payment - Ali Cortez

- a. The FSC has now been waiting months for Ali Cortez to send over her invoice, but has yet to hear back from her.
- b. The funds that will be used to pay Ali need to be spent by mid March because the grant they are coming out of is expiring.
- c. The FSC will need to make its own estimate on the amount to pay Ali without waiting for her invoice as confirmation.
- d. *Motion to pay Ali the remainder of her contracted amount without waiting on her invoice for confirmation.*
 - i. *Director Varga firsts, Director Elmquist seconds. All in favor.*



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3. Grazing Update

- a. J. Tobin requests a cost increase to the grazing budget.
 - i. The Cuyama Lamb owners are disappointed with the lack of acres that the FSC has allotted to them because original estimates were much higher.
 1. They have increased their herd and hired part time staff based off of the FSC's initial acreage estimate.
 - ii. J. Tobin and R. Hazard have added about 20 additional acres in the Montecito area for Cuyama Lamb to graze.
 1. This translates to an estimated 30,000 dollar increase in the budget.
- b. *Add additional acreage in Montecito which translates to a 35,000 dollar increase in the grazing budget.*
 - i. *Director Hazard firsts, Director Varga seconds. All in favor.*
- c. There are funds within the SCE grant for grazing. They can be utilized to add acreage in the Arroyo Hondo area if needed.

4. Earth Day Participation

- a. The Santa Barbara Earth Day festival is coming up and it would be a good idea for the FSC to have an informational booth there.
- b. Not all of the board members, but at least some, should participate in this event to help the staff.
- c. A 10ft x 10ft booth spot is \$240 for the weekend. (cheaper than the Lemon Festival)
- d. If the FSC tables at the Earth Day event it will be beneficial to compare it with the Lemon Festival to see which one has more engagement.

5. Accountability Plus

- a. The FSC accountant, Crystal, is moving on from Accountability Plus to start her own firm.
 - i. She has invited the FSC to come with her.
 - ii. The EC thinks it is a good idea to stay with Crystal because she is the only person at Accountability Plus who is familiar with all of the FSC funding and how it works.
- b. There would be a month's lapse from when Crystal leaves Accountability Plus and starts her own firm.
 - i. During this interim time the FSC would need a different Accountability Plus accountant to take over the account.



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- c. AMP has reached out and asked Crystal to send us an estimate/proposal on what her firm will be able to offer and what it will cost.
- d. If the FSC does leave Accountability Plus to go with Crystal it is important that she does not pass us off to a different accountant at her new firm.
 - i. The FSC would only leave for her personal services.

General Notes: The Executive Committee meeting for next week has been moved to Thursday 03/14/2024 at 10am.

Motions:

- *Offer the Lompoc CWPP/Defensible Space Project Manager position to Dana Link-Herrera.*
 - *Director Hazard firsts, Director Varga seconds. All in favor.*
- *Pay Ali the remainder of her contracted amount without waiting on her invoice for confirmation.*
 - *Director Varga firsts, Director Elmquist seconds. All in favor.*
- *Add additional acreage in Montecito which translates to a 35,000 dollar increase in the grazing budget.*
 - *Director Hazard firsts, Director Varga seconds. All in favor.*

Minutes Submitted Respectfully: Charles Harris