



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Firesafe Council
Board of Directors' Meeting
June 27th, 2024**

Directors Present: Paul Van Leer, Scott Coffman, Mark Vontillow, Kevin Varga, Rob Hazard, Max Moritz, Nic Elmquist, Selden Edner, Liz Alves, Victoria Cooper, Joan Hartman

Directors Absent: Ted Adams, John Ahlman, Fred Tan

24 Attendees (Total)

Meeting has a quorum as identified in Article IV. Section 9 of the [Bylaws](#)

Call to Order

09:00 AM - P. Van Leer calls the meeting to order and confirms quorum

Minutes

Previous minutes approved over email and are available on the website: [Meetings | Santa Barbara Firesafe Council \(sbfiresafecouncil.org\)](#)

Meeting Follows Agenda:

1. Treasurer Update (K. Varga)
 - a. K. Varga discusses and reviews the FSC's current funding sources and status.
 - b. In the treasurer report the funding sources are ordered by which are set to expire first.
2. Executive Committee Update
 - a. P. Van Leer reviews all motions that the EC has agreed to bring to the Board.
 - i. Confidentiality Policy - all board members must sign it once approved.
 1. *Motion to approve the updates made to the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council confidentiality policy.*
 - a. *Director Edner firsts, Director Hazard seconds. All in favor*
 - ii. Conflict of Interest Policy - all board members must sign it once approved.
 1. *Motion to approve the updates made to the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council conflict of interest policy.*
 - a. *Director Hazard firsts, Director Vontillow seconds. All in favor.*
 - iii. Bylaws
 1. *Motion to approve the updates made to the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council bylaws.*
 - a. *Director Elmquist firsts, Director Hazard seconds. All in favor.*
 - iv. Employee Handbook
 1. *Motion to approve the updates made to the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council employee handbook.*
 - a. *Director Edner firsts, Director Alves seconds. All in favor.*



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Board of Directors' Meeting
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- v. Add a new member to the Executive Committee.
 - 1. *Motion to approve Director Alves to sit on the executive committee.*
 - a. *Director Cooper firsts, Director Coffman seconds. All in favor.*
 - vi. Hiring
 - 1. *Motion to approve the hiring of Monica Mathews as a project coordinator for the Defensible Space Assistance Program and Lompoc CWPP.*
 - a. *Director Cooper firsts, Director Alves seconds. All in favor.*
 - vii. Chipping at Hollister Ranch
 - 1. *Motion to approve adding an additional 7 days of chipping to the 2024 Hollister Ranch schedule.*
 - a. *Director Elmquist firsts, Director Vontillow seconds. All in favor. One abstention.*
3. Executive Director / Hiring / Grant Updates
- a. Hiring
 - i. M. Mathews will be hired as a projector coordinator for the Lompoc CWPP and Defensible Space Assistance Program
 - 1. She will be part time for the first month then transition to full time by August 12th.
 - 2. J. Tobin will act as her supervisor.
 - 3. K. Furlong, J. Tobin, and AMP will manage the grant budgets and reporting for the projects she will be coordinating.
 - ii. Within the past month the FSC has hired three seasonal employees that will work until the end of summer.
 - 1. All are part time.
 - 2. All will work on GIS mapping.
 - 3. AMP will be managing them.
 - b. Finance committee
 - i. This committee is currently working on creating a reserve fund policy.
4. Communication Coordinator Update
- a. Membership Committee
 - i. Purchased a CRM software (constituent relationship management) to help track all interactions with donors, members, and event attendees.
 - 1. The software of choice was Donorperfect.
 - ii. The membership committee has created a members only event set to take place in August.
 - 1. The event's name is 'Hikes & Hazys'.
 - 2. The FSC will invite members to come on a guided hike of the San Marcos Foothills preserve to see prescribed herbivory first hand.



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3. The FSC has partnered with Cuyama Lamb and Channel Islands Restoration to help lead this hike.
4. Upon completion of the hike the FSC will meet members at Brass Bear on Las Positas road to buy them a first round and keep the good conversation flowing.
5. Grazing, Chipping, Defensible Space Project Update
 - a. Defensible space program
 - i. Work has been completed for 9 out of the 11 applicants on Paradise Road.
 1. The two parcels that have yet to be worked on is because the Forest Service has asked the FSC to hold off on those parcels until bird nesting season is over.
 - b. Grazing
 - i. There has been trouble with sheep and goat not eating shrubbery that is found at many of the grazing sites. The sheep and goat easily eat the grasses found at the project sites, but for whatever reason are finding the shrubbery to not be palatable.
6. Firewise/Community Domain Update
 - a. The Eucalyptus Knolls HOA recently became Firewise certified.
 - b. The community of Cima Linda is interested in becoming Firewise.
 - c. G. Agredano took the lead on coordinating Dspace work out on Paradise Road and did a fantastic job.
 - d. To date the FSC has 16 firewise communities with 1 more application submitted and two more communities in the pipeline.
 - e. T. Sykes has ended work with the FSC
 - i. working with CEC to prioritize focus group work
 - f. The extension for the County Coordinator grant was officially approved through the end of December.
 - g. K. Furlong received word from Cal Fire that the RWMP grant has officially been closed out.
 - h. There is a firewise community meeting this afternoon.
 - i. S. Coffman will be presenting on how to host and develop community evacuation training.
7. Agency Updates
 - a. Forest Service (M. Scott)
 - i. The Forest is still continuing to fix storm damage from the winter.
 - ii. There will be at least 3-4 weeks of work being done on the 154 until it is open again.
 - iii. The gate is still closed out on East Camino Cielo down to Pendola because of damage.
 - iv. The gate on West Camino Cielo is now open for travel through to Refugio.
 - v. Fire activity is high and the grass crop is burning.



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1. The Forest Service is sending out many resources to new fires around the state.
- b. Montecito Fire (N. Elmquist)
 - i. Almost done with their chipping program. They are on the 9th out of 10 neighborhoods to be chipped.
 - ii. Grazing is about to wrap up.
 - iii. They are working and coordinating with Socal Edison to fix roads and access issues in the Santa Barbara front country.
- c. Santa Barbara City Fire (M. Vontillow)
 - i. The fuels vegetation management crew is laid off until fall.
 1. They completed a lot of dspace work around the City this spring.
 - ii. Parma Park road is now grated.
 - iii. The roads in Arroyo Hondo have also been grated.
 - iv. There was a huge public turnout at the Douglas Family Preserve on how to clean up and fix many of the ongoing issues there.
 - v. City Fire is now getting ready to hold a different public meeting at Elings Park to discuss plans for vegetation management there.
8. Community Updates
 - a. Mountain Communities
 - i. Concerned about highway 154 access and what impact that would have on evacuation.
 - ii. Concerned about grasses and other fuels along the roadways that are not being trimmed.
 1. R. Hazard stresses the importance of constantly following up with County Fire and the Public Works department in order to spur action.
 2. There is not a formal allocation amongst the county, the fire departments, or the public works department regarding who does what roadside clearance.
 - a. There is the potential for the FSC to become more involved with road side clearance.



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Motions:

- *Motion to approve the updates made to the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council confidentiality policy.*
 - *Director Edner firsts, Director Hazard seconds. All in favor*
- *Motion to approve the updates made to the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council conflict of interest policy.*
 - *Director Hazard firsts, Director Vontillow seconds. All in favor.*
- *Motion to approve the updates made to the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council bylaws.*
 - *Director Elmquist firsts, Director Hazard seconds. All in favor.*
- *Motion to approve the updates made to the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council employee handbook.*
 - *Director Edner firsts, Director Alves seconds. All in favor.*
- *Motion to approve Director Alves to sit on the executive committee.*
 - *Director Cooper firsts, Director Coffman seconds. All in favor.*
- *Motion to approve the hiring of Monica Mathews as a project coordinator for the Defensible Space Assistance Program and Lompoc CWPP.*
 - *Director Cooper firsts, Director Alves seconds. All in favor.*
- *Motion to approve adding an additional 7 days of chipping to the 2024 Hollister Ranch schedule.*
 - *Director Elmquist firsts, Director Vontillow seconds. All in favor. One abstention.*

Board Adjourned at 10:50 am

Future Meeting Schedule and Guest Speakers:

1. July 25th – Board and General Membership Meeting
 - Brent Woodsworth will present on Community Brigades
2. August 22nd – Board Meeting
3. September 26th – Board and General Membership Meeting
 - Guest speaker tbd
4. October 24th – Board Meeting
5. November 21st – Board and General Membership Meeting
 - Guest speaker tbd

Minutes respectfully submitted: Charles Harris (6.27.24)