



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Monthly Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021
Time: Regular Meeting 1:30PM

Zoom Link
<https://zoom.us/j/97239136920?pwd=aXBJcFdEMXpXK3FtVTcybIE2WEY3Zz09>

Dial By Location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 972 3913 6920
Passcode: 664676

Item	Time	Section Title	Agenda Item	Speaker	Attachment
1	1:30 PM	Call to Order		Dede Smullen	
2	1:31 PM	Board & Advisors Reports	SCCFD CAL FIRE President's Report Strategic Planning and Committee Board Reports	Jason Falarski Chief Ed Orre Dede Smullen All Groups	
3	1:50 PM	Consent Items	Approve February 2021 Meeting Minutes Accept February 2021 Financials		1 2
4	1:55 PM	Speaker(s)	Learn about the countywide evacuation planning and management project along with learnings from the CZU Complex fire. Charlie Crocker, Co-Founder, CEO Zonehaven Brian Glass, Asst. Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department	Charlie Crocker; Brian Glass	
5	2:15 PM	Activities Reports	CEO Report Financials Update Managing Director Report Hazardous Fuel Reduction Program Report Communications, Outreach and Education Report Grants Planning Program Report	Seth Schalet Chris Sommerfield Eugenia Rendler Written Report Only Carla Ruigh	3
6	2:35 PM	Round Robin		All	
7	3:00 PM	Adjourn General Meeting Next Meeting Date and Location	April 20, 2021 Zoom Only		
		Attachments			
		1	February 2021 Meeting Minutes		
		2	February 2021 Treasurer's Reports		
		3	Manager's Activities Reports		

2021 Meeting Schedule - Zoom

April 20, 2021	August 17, 2021
May 18, 2021	September 21, 2021
June 15, 2021	October 19, 2021
July 20, 2021	November 16, 2021
	December - TBD



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2	1:33 PM	Board & Advisors Reports			
			SCCFD	Jason Falarski	
			SCCFire involved with COVID/vaccine clinic at the fairgrounds. Had some test positive, but are now getting healthy. Fire Academy graduates-7. New Academy in April with 8-10 recruits. Recruitment done for new Wildland BEC. Will take over Jason's role. Offer has been made and will announce at next board meeting. Prep for 20/21 fire training.		
			CAL FIRE	Chief Ed Orre	
			No specific updates on grants, but CCI grant will be released soon. CEQA notice of exemptions. working with Eugenia and Autin consultants to get us ready for grant projects. CWPP support-County Fire initiated. They will support. Eugenia brought up County Roads and Airports redid a project that we worked on carefully and they made a mess. Winter projects 3 engines available to assist. Oakland Coliseum COVID vaccine helping for 14-30 days. Paul asked if they're doing training soon - maybe would like to simulate wildland demo. Dede asked if there is a library of CEQA exempt projects-past projects still valid.		
			President's Report	Dede Smullen	
			Dede reiterated our mission statement. Gretchen has resigned to pursue her business. Wants to recognize her when Gretchen can attend a meeting. We would not be here without her. Joan S has resigned. She was on the board for a year, but mentored Dede and helped with opinions on big decisions. Helped Dede with a lot of difficult times. Joe Simitian appointed Joan to LAH fire district board and it was a conflict to remain on our board.		
			Strategic Planning Implementation	All Groups	
			Item remains on the agenda as a placeholder		
3	1:50 PM	Consent Items			
			Approve January 2021 Meeting Minutes		1
			Accept January 2021 Financials		2
			Derek motioned to accept the consent items. Shan second the motion. Ayes: Erika, Shana, Derek, Kirk, Dede, Jim, Jesse 7/0 motion passed		
4	1:52 PM	Action Items			
			Election of Board of Directors and Officers names for a two year term on the Board ending January of	Joan Sherlock	
			Paul Hansen Joelle Hurlston Gregg Winovich Comittee		
			Discussion on 2 potential board members and term. This will still be a two year term ending Dec 2022 (corrected). Paul and Joelle gave some background on themselves then left the group during discussion of their experience and interest in the council. Jesse made motion to approve both through Dec 2022. Derek second the motion. Ayes: Erika, Jesse, Shana, Derek, Jim, Dede (6/0 (1 w/technical difficulty).		
			Election of Board Advisors for 2021		
			Maria Biggs		
			There were no Advisory board candidates at this time. Maria withdrew her interest due to availability at this time.		
5	2:05 PM	Speaker			
			Wildfire Research and Modeling at SJSU presented by: Craig B. Clements, Ph.D. Director Fire Weather Research Laboratory, Wildfire Interdisciplinary Research Center Department of Meteorology and Climate Science San José State University	Craig Clements, Director	

Craig is a Professor of Meteorology at SJSU. They set up a new center this fall for fire science and explained how it works. He had a slide presentation and explained they have new modeling tools that can create 3D weather model and predict fire spread. Enrolling a lot of meteorology students. They can scale and run for the region and state. Most advanced fire model.

6 2:37 PM **Activities Reports**

3

CEO Report Seth Schalet
 Thanks to Chris and Sara for supporting the PPP grant we received. We're preparing for the audit. Field work from auditors will be done with COVID restrictions. Thanks to Eugene Saratoga Fire District. Existing contract expires June 30. Will expedite and prepare budget for May. Thanks to Karol helping with fundraising side. Analysis of last 4 years. Will ask BOD to look at donors list to see who knows who. General fundraising email. Starting regular "asks". A/B testing. Improve response rates. Acknowledged Gretchen is moving on but she will stay for the FHG. We're taking the opportunity to reset that position. Wildfire awareness Week is May 1-8. Thanks to Craig for being our speaker this month. Next month will be Zonehaven (Charlie Crocker)/EMS system. Thanks to fire chiefs for reengaging CWPP. Thanks to LAH team. Contract renewed. Eugenia/J. Logan

Managing Director Report Eugenia Rendler
 Starting to get busy. HFR staffing change Jeff Beren is gone. HFR is working out top priorities and reaching out to see where projects touch. Completed mandatory COVID training. Seth LAH thanks to Denise/J. Logan; Ed team new flyers available. Mt Network news goat trail project. Great example of collaboration. Chipping applications open March 15. Questions will start coming in. Created zoom and hybrid versions of our presentations. Gained another firewise community.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Program Report

Included in Managing Director report

Grants Written Report Only
Planning Program Report Carla Ruigh

Green light for proposal to Saratoga. CCI moving forward, permissions needed now for access. FHG expecting opening in March. Direct awards instead of competitive. Cautiously optimistic. Biggest change overall management. Seth thanked Carla for all the hats she wears.

Communications, Outreach and Education Report Eugenia Rendler
 Included in Managing Director report

Financials Update Chris Sommerfield
 Financials were covered by Seth. Chris is prepping for audit. Seth will work on format for next month. Will start to look at budget to actual quarterly instead of monthly.

Round Robin moved to end

Jim Wollbrinck - Jared Lewis is the new Watershed Manager, SJ Water. SFPUC hazardous fuels programs. Will be working closely veg management/forest health partnering with us. Outreach meetings.
 Gene Zambetti - never seen so many hard workers. Have taken this to a level Santa Clara County needs. SJSU presentation was unbelievable. Wow.
 Sal Munoz - just saying hi. He enjoys participating. Wants his young people to start attending.
 Paige Russell - SCCo Fire/CWPP updates
 Ben C - LAH and countywide chipping. Mapping with Brad
 Jeff - CalTrans projects - should we canvass CalTrans for reps on SCCFSC? Sal said he can mention it to some CT people.

7 3:15 PM **Adjourn General Meeting**

Next Meeting Date and Location

March 16, 2021 Zoom Only

Attachments

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- 2 January 2021 Treasurer's Reports
- 3 Manager's Activities Reports

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SCFSC Meeting Attendance List (Roll Call)

Date: 02/16/2021

(Please initial to left of your name; for in-kind contribution of time for grant records.)

**** Please INITIAL first column if present and complete or correct your contact information**

	<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>SCFSC Position</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
x	Ameri	Erika	Director	
x	Hansen	Paul	Director	Business Executive
x	Hurlston	Joelle	Director	Consultant
x	Katz	Jesse	Director	resident
x	Nelson	Shana	Director/Secretary	State Farm Insurance
x	Neumann	Derek	Director/Treasurer	SCV Open Space
x	Shearer	Kirk	Director/Second VP	PG&E
x	Smullen	Dede	Director/President	FireSafe Council
x	Wollbrinck	Jim	Director/First VP	San Jose Water Co.
	Bates	Jeff	Board of Advisors	Redwood Estates S. A.
	Bond	Jared	Board of Advisors	SCC Parks
	Bothelio	Crystal	Board of Advisors	City of Saratoga
x	DeLong	John	Board of Advisors	SSFSC
x	Falarski	Jason	Board of Advisors	SCC Fire Dept.
	Fields	Ray	Board of Advisors	SCVWD
x	Gluhan	Denise	Board of Advisors	
	Good	Dwight	Board of Advisors	
	Gorman	Michael	Board of Advisors	MROSD
x	Henrikson	James	Board of Advisors	PAFD
x	Orre	Ed	Board of Advisors	CAL FIRE DC, Forester
	Peterson	Sandy	Board of Advisors	LPRCS
	Serpa	Jerry	Board of Advisors	Spring Valley VFD
	Stasiewicz	Amanda	Board of Advisors	NEW
x	Winovich	Gregg	Board of Advisors	MT Hamilton
	Woodfin	Scott	Board of Advisors	City of Palo Alto
x	Zambetti	Gene	Board of Advisors	
x	Byrd	Topher		
x	Clements	Craig	Speaker	SJSU
x	Gallucci	Karol	Staff	
x	Gault	Yvette		
x	Hugg	Joshua		MROSD
	Logan	J.		
x	Moore	Stephanie		
x	Munoz	Sal		
x	Rendler	Eugenia	Staff	
x	Ruigh	Carla	Staff	
x	Russell	Paige		
x	Schalet	Seth	Staff	
x	Sommerfield	Chris	Staff	

**Seth Schalet SCCFSC CEO Report
March 16, 2021 Board Meeting Packet**

Budget & Finance & Opps:

- Confirmed with Abbott, Stringham & Lynch—our auditors the following high-level schedule:
 - Planning work by ASL – starting the week of 3/22
 - Fieldwork – starting week of 3/29
- Working with Eugenia to revamp org structure and workflow for greater efficiency and workflow. Current legacy org. structure sub-optimum for SCCCFSC's needs.

Grants/Fundraising:

- Conducted an analysis of SCCFSC individual donor history for the last 3 years-2018, 2019, 2020. Parsed donor records did our best to clean-up the data which isn't consistent (thank you Karol) so we can see how donated in each of the years, who are top individual donors are. Will work with fundraising committee to identify personal relationships or connections to donors for further engagement.
- Submitted the FEMA FP&S grant application with Cal Fire (Dwight Good & Dan Rabe) on February 26—it's a 2-year funding request to support potential expansion of services to south county. Includes COE for large animal evacuation—due 2/26. Thank you, Carla and Eugenia, for your efforts and support.
- Submitted grant report to Trina for the Saratoga Fire District funding from 7/9 through 12/21/20.
- Cliff Bar Family Foundation grant application for \$7,995 was submitted on 1/28/21 for chipping support—status waiting.
- 2021 PG&E – We submitted our proposal for \$100,000 for fuel reduction programs.
- Fundraising email using A/B subject line testing went out on 2/25 and then again on March 2nd Will follow-up with a report on donation history. Quick performance stats:
 - 2/25 Send Stats
 - Email A =830 sent
 - Email A Open Rate = 307 =37.3%
 - Click Rate = 11 = 3.6%
 - Email B =828 sent
 - Open Rate B = 369 = 44.6%
 - Click Rate = 21 =5.7%
- Forrest Health Grant—Received some positive news at last team meeting. Still on hold but had team call with Julie Howard-CalFire FHG Program Manager—she gave a status update and work with key stakeholders on application and strategy— Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, ARC – Auten Resource Consulting, San Jose Water, County of Santa Clara, Department of Parks and Recreation. We initial submitted a \$5 million grant and Cal Fire intents to consider a direct award for \$7.5 million. We will submit a revised one-page proposal to incorporate the additional acreage, the new “forest health oriented” services such as incorporating potential

sudden oak death treatment. This board update is written prior to the next scheduled team meeting to work on this.

- Continuing recruitment efforts for Gretchen's replacement as Grant Manager. Interviews continue.
- Wildfire Awareness Week May 1-8. Want to develop a series of events/activities to target corporate employees on CSR and awareness opportunities, perhaps a webinar and board community engagement activity that week along, possible project tours with media/County Supervisors/Mayors, etc. with a fundraising ask campaign. Will engage the SCCFSC fundraising committee on leading this effort.

Partner Engagement/Outreach:

- Have attended all board meetings in the past month for South Skyline FireSafe Council, San Mateo FireSafe Council, Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District, Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD), Saratoga Fire District
- Attended Oakland FireSafe's February 25th webinar- Session #2: "Remember the Ember: Practical Steps to Strengthen Your Home Against Fire
- Attended the Virtual State of Santa Clara County Address on 2/22 with Mike Wasserman
- Attended the Wildfire Risk Index Kick-Off Meeting 2/25.
- Attended Virtual Biochar Demonstration webinar on 3/10

Board Engagement:

- Working with Dede to revamp board committee structure for more effective engagement
- Working with Dede to develop initial board orientation/training session to be held on a TBD date in April.

Managing Director, COE & HFR Report

For Meeting: March 16th, 2021

To: Board of Directors
SCC FireSafe Council

From: Eugenia Rendler
:

Managing Director informational report for mid-February to Mid-March 2021.

Managing Director

Highlights

- Healthy staff, another month!

Managing Director Activities

- 2021 Chipping Season Plan rolling out: budget, schedule, communication with partners
- Supported 2021 FEMA FP&S grant application
- Participate in Grant Manager interviews
- Attend partners meetings
- 2021 Workplan- HFR portion complete, still creating COE and Planning.
- Program management meetings with Planning Program Mgr and HFR Program Mgr
- Minor grant modifications to accommodate continuing COVID restrictions against gatherings.

Staff Updates:

- None.

Full Staff Training:

- Staff meeting March 9th.

City Partners

Los Alto Hills- 2021 chipping program is proceeding. In COE, a new defensible space flyer was produced. A WEW was delivered virtually.

Saratoga- Pilot Program for dead tree rebates continues.

Palo Alto- resume discussion for Foothills Park vegetation management

COE Program updates

Education

Article for Skylines and Mountain Network News submitted for March publication.
Shelter-in-Yard flyers continue, next one usages for chips.

Firewise Support Program

- Video editing continues to finalize our recorded presentations.

Some activity highlights:

- Aldercroft Hts, Los Gatos-evacuation exercise planned for wildfire awareness week, May8th. Planning meetings have just begun.

CURRENT PROJECTS & COE staff activities

CWPP

County Fire and CALFIRE reengaging on a 2021 document update. SCCFSC supporting project with historical information and liaison activities.

Los Gatos Watershed Collaboration FHG application outreach

- Grant application opens March 10th.
- Next Collaborator meeting scheduled for 3-18-21.
- www.lgwatershedhealth.com is temporarily offline.

SCCFiresafe.org

- Tara continuing updates, maintenance and troubleshooting to <https://sccfiresafe.org/>
 - Chipping page with an FAQ is open
 - Project pages for Mt Madonna and Page Mill are open

Social Media & Print Media

- Emily continues to push partners messaging on our platforms
- Initial test roll out for fundraising activities lead by CEO

COE Staff Trainings:

- 3-10-21 Defensible Space train the trainers for COE staff-ready to shadow next then lead own events

Education Events completed in 2021 calendar year

- 2-18-21 South Bay Firewise Leaders-quarterly forum-LS
- 2-20-21 Why Go Firewise? steering committee edition-LS
- 2-23-21 LAH WEW-ER
- 3-14-21 WEW for SSFSC-LS

Upcoming EVENTS (scheduled and confirmed)

- 3-25-21 WEW Aldercroft Hts
- 4-11-21 RESA Annual meeting update-ER
- 5-8-21 Aldercroft Hts Evac Exercise-BH/ER

Upcoming EVENTS (requested but unscheduled)

LAH-Why Go Firewise?

HFR Program updates

2021 Chipping Program

- Schedule posted on website, MNN article submitted

- SCCFD to send flyers
- Live, new interactive map developed for areas- the public can now search their address to determine their chipping area's schedule

Parker Ranch Trail

- Supported scope of work for phase 2

Mid Page Mill Project

- Initial project planning in progress
- Mapping, flagging and APN identification started
- Permissions planned

Aldercroft Heights Evac Route

- site visits for Aldercroft Heights Rd. and Wright Station Rd to evaluate HFR management needs

SJWC/Chemeketa Park

- Defensible space plan submitted to SJW

Hwy 35/Alpine

- CEQA verified.
- Met with SSFSC and CALFIRE to determine a collaborative work plan.
- Permissions planning

Croy Road

- CEQA submitted
- Permissions scheduled

Mt Madonna/Uvas Evac Route

- CEQA in draft-update meeting 3/18
- Mapping, flagging and APN identification started

Program wide updates

- Continue to hold manager meetings

AGENDA ITEM-

Meeting

March 16, 2021

To: Board of Directors SCCFSC

From: C. Ruigh

Prepared by: C. Ruigh

SUBJECT: Planning Division Project report

Saratoga Dead Tree and HFR program

- Recommendations for program modifications sent to City of Saratoga
- 1 additional project may be processed under prior program
- Total rebates issued is \$4,627.50 of the \$10,000 budgeted.

CCI projects:

- Assisting with project planning and implementation

Forest Health Grant:

- State is proposing a 7.5 million direct award for our FHG project!
- Recent data from ARC indicated need to increase budget for environmental work
- It has been resolved that all environmental clearance will be accomplished under the umbrella of the state vegetation management plan (VMP). No NOE's or ERRFs will be required.
- Staff is developing a revised project budget which reflects the decision for the FSC to assume the contracting for the HFR work and also to expand the project as possible by the additional 2.5 million. Additional staff resources to be funded by the grant will be necessary for project implementation.

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Acronyms and Abbreviations

17SFA	Federal Grant via CA FSC, 2018 Countywide HFR	PL566	Area of fuel breaks in Sierra Azul, Croy, Llagas, Uvas areas
18SFA	Federal Grant via CA FSC, 2019 Countywide HFR	RCD	Resource Conservation District
18PGE	2018 PG&E Grant – Evacuation Route Clearance Projects	RESA	Redwood Estates Service Association
BLM	US Bureau of Land Management (Dept. of the Interior)	SCCFD	Santa Clara County Fire Department
CA FSC	California Fire Safe Council	SCCFSC	Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
CAL FIRE	California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection	SCFSC	Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
CaR	Community at Risk	SCVOSA	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
CDF	CAL FIRE	SCU	Santa Clara Unit of CAL FIRE (Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa Co's)
CCI	California Carbon Initiative	SCVWD	Santa Clara Valley Water District
COE	Community Outreach and Education	SFB	Shaded Fuel Break
CoPA	City of Palo Alto	SFD	Saratoga Fire Department
CoSar	City of Saratoga	SJFD	San Jose Fire Department
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plans	SNAP	Special Needs Assistance Program (subsidy for low income)
CZU	Santa Cruz Unity of CAL FIRE (Santa Cruz, San Mateo Counties)	SoCo	South County (Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Croy, Uvas, etc)
DS	Defensible Space	SOD	Sudden Oak Death
FB	Fuel Break	SSCCFD	South Santa Clara County Fire Department
FHG	Forest Health Grant	SSFSC	South Skyline FireSafe Council
FR	Fundraising	SST	Smokey Story Time
EWS	Early Warning Camera System	Sust	Sustainability account (savings)
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	USDA	US Dept of Agriculture
HFAS	Hazardous Fuel Assessment and Strategy	USFS	US Forest Service (Part of USDA)
HFR	Hazardous Fuel Reduction (e.g., Defensible Space Chipping Programs)	VFA/VFD	Volunteer Fire Association/Department
LE100	CAL FIRE's Defensible Space Inspection Program	VHFSZ	Very High Fire Severity Zone
LH	Lexington Hills	WERT	Watershed Emergency Response Team
Match	Matching Funds for Federal Grants	WEW	Wildfire Evacuation Workshop
MROSD	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	WSFA	Western States Forestry Association
OSA	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	WUI	Wildland Urban Interface Zone
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company		