



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Approved June 21, 2022

Topic: SCC FireSafe Council Monthly Board Meeting  
Time: May 17, 2022 01:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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Meeting ID: 856 2203 9433  
Passcode: 296504

Item	Time	Section Title	Agenda Item	Speaker	Attachment
1	1:30 PM	<b>Call to Order and Welcome</b>		Paul Hansen	
			Introductions Roll Call PRESENT: Paul Harmon, Jared Lewis, Dede Smullen, Derek Neumann, Joelle Hurlston ABSENT: Jim Wollbrinck, Shana Nelson, Erika Ameri Agenda Review		
3	1:35 PM	<b>Board Annoucements</b>		Paul Hansen	
4	1:40 PM	<b>Consent Calendar</b>		Paul Hansen	
			Approve April 2022 Meeting Minutes Accept April 2022 Financials Motion: Dede S. Second to Motion: Jared L. AYES: Paul Harmon, Jared Lewis, Dede Smullen, Derek Neumann, Joelle Hurlston NAYs: N/A Abstain: N/A. Motion passes 5/0		1 2
5	1:45 PM	<b>Board &amp; Advisors Reports</b>		Paul Hansen	
			Board Chair Report Had another CWPP management meeting. Excited to get started. CWPP not done yet, but sometime this month. Ready to move forward once we hear. Latest discussion on latest mapping. Partner SWCA excited about detail and what we're seeing. Need to get down to local levels - difficulty in getting to those communities and extend our voice. That will help us with community outreach. New technologies help. Putting together lists of collaborators, suppliers etc that we can work with. Will help in building new revenue stream for FireSafe Council. Struggling with a grant based business. Need more sustainable base. Ups and down hard to maintain. Looking for new business model for ongoing operations. Looking to the board to help us think out of the box for opportunities and new way of approaching business. We do have committees formed earlier this year. Hasn't moved forward on them yet (next on Paul's list) but good success with Finance Committee. Encouraged board members to attend. Would like board input on CWPP put under Future's Committee. Dede has driven current meetings very well. Agreement with Eugenia who will continue on that. Her role has been defined to prep/outreach/content. No administrative work. We'll handle that portion. Good to have collaboration on this.		
			Board Committee Report(s) CEO Report Real time update with attorney - we have reached agreement with County Parks for FHG all terms and conditions. Hope to have signed by Memorial Day. Mid Pen executed theirs already. SJ Water was first done. All FHG partners will be executed and can get boots on the ground. Seth was invited to be a part of a podcast with one of our vendors El Charo on AI. Recorded at Palo Alto Media Center and should be released later this week. AI in wildfire mitigation and trends in wildfire. Challenges with larger fires - went into depth our role with CWPP what County is doing and defensible space. Will send out as soon as we get it. New employee Nestor Valle reports to Irene. Part of LAH team and doing an outstanding job. Approved engagement letter to participate in employee tax credit. There is a range of money between \$40-80K we could get for unrestricted funds. Our challenges continue to be that we're grant driven, payments can take a while creating cash flow challenges. Ramping up search for new Eugenia role which has been revamped. That is a core priority with Seth. Seth is working closer with the Ops team for real time updates/tracking on project expenses. FHG is a prevailing wage contract which makes it more difficult but working with attorney for compliance reporting. Should have CalFire contract by end of the month based on his conversations with them. Will take 25% initial draw advance.	Paul Hansen Seth Schalet	3
			CALFIRE Report Fine scale mapping coming along nicely. Figuring out process and how to explain it to the public. Just heard folks who developed fire hazard severity zone map has update. Currently, Four pilot counties should be finishing this month then will roll out to the rest of the state then will review for a month of June. Should go public July 1. Fire activity is increasing so ramping up staffing. Paul asked about coordinating with San Mateo and Santa Cruz on CWPP. Ed said they are doing updates and their approach is they are doing themselves with CalFire staff as part of their regular jobs. Might take them longer. Will be one document.	Chief Ed Orre	
			SCCFD	Chief Mathiesen	

Busy - May 3 Board of Supervisors approved plan for wildfire resilience program including hiring of crew and specialist. Recruitment currently out with goal of having crew by July. Working on training program, facility, etc. Crew will be 6 with 2 supervisors teamed up with chipper. Possibly type 6 engine or pick up truck. Fireline qualified to assist then hope to go back to board to increase numbers in the next 2-3 years.

Other FDs Reports?

Chiefs

Steve Lindsey, Palo Alto - Foothills PA working on defensible space walking around homes providing recommendations. Weed abatement program to reduce fuel loads. Other efforts include collaboration with Open Space for camping and bbq as far as allowing open flames or not. Project on horizon is providing info to residents to reduce fuel load. Partnering with rangers in Arastradero reserve regarding eucalyptus trees removal. Approx 110 trees identified as target hazard. Waiting to hear from CALFIRE about reimbursement. Page Mill roadside weeds being worked on through Public Works and Urban Forestry. Recruiting inspectors for July. Eugenia reported thanks to FireSafe getting Altamont evac route project kicked off. Huge to keep that on track with COVID. Vegetation reduction management on burn preserve using goats. Ed followed up on goat issue herders having major challenges with recent legislation on herders getting overtime. Might be difficult to get bids until they wait to find out about this.

6 2:00 PM

**Special Topic Discussion - 1**

SCCFD's 2022 WUI Inspection toolkit

Peter Norton | GIS Analyst

Peter discussed County measures to move inspections forward citing issue with paper inspection forms. Management of paper with multiple triggers gets complicated. They've completed about 4K inspections this year. WUI is large about 9,000 parcels. With 10 stations and multiple follow ups with homeowners, digital is the way to go forward. Once the inspection is done, the information is available immediately. Reports are generated (done, scheduled, etc). Improves situational awareness. They've received a lot of good feedback and are very proud of it. They can even work offline in areas without good signal. Benefits to public include being able to complete more inspections and the info is available during emergencies. The requirements include GIS data, devices, Servers and personnel training.

Santa Clara County Fire Department

7 2:30PM

**Special Topic Discussion - 2**

FHG Update

Stephen Harrington

Stephen went through his slide presentation. They're on a tight schedule, but the project description is almost finalized. Will be holding bi-weekly meetings. Good news on the parks agreement. Just finished quarterly report. Will start creating monthly invoices. RFP for vegetation treatment contractor is next step after environmental xx. Jared recognized the great work the team has done. It's been seamless. Work on the ground will be late 2022.

8 2:45 PM

**Financial and Grants Report**

Chris Sommerfield and Pai Venegas

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Final audit will be done soon. Tax returns will be next. Seth spoke for Pai regarding grants and went through the highlights on the slide. Akilah will be doing the reports. They are soliciting local family foundations.

9 2:55 PM

**Open Discussion - Board, Advisors, Interested Public**

All

10 3:00 PM

**Adjournment**

Paul Hansen

**Next Meeting Date and Location**

June 21, 2022

**Attachments**

- 1 April 2022 Meeting Minutes
- 2 April 2022 Treasurer's Reports
- 3 CEO Report
- 4 Manager's Activities Reports

**2022 Meeting Schedule - Zoom**

- June 21, 2022 September 20, 2022
- July 19, 2022 October 18, 2022
- August - none November 15, 2022
- December - none