

SHASTA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
1525 Median Avenue, Shasta Lake, CA 96073
(and via Zoom)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024

OPEN (Public) SESSION

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:32am by Francis Berg, President

Mission of the Shasta County Fire Safe Council:

The primary Mission of this Corporation shall be focused within Shasta County to help protect the citizens, property, and natural resources from the effects of catastrophic wild land fires.

Present: Board Members and Guests were welcomed.

Introduction of **Officers:** President, Francis Berg
Secretary/Treasurer (Acting) – Frances Belden
Executive Director – Pamela Bates
Pamela A. Mainini, CPA – CFO

Introduction of **Directors:** Vice President – Dan Adam
Barbara Holder – Director
Steve Johnson – Director
Steve Fitch – Director
Jim Chapin - Director
Richard Kareem – Director

Absent:

Administrative Announcements & Agenda Additions and/or Deletions

Francis Berg has found another larger location to hold our SCFSC Board Meetings – it’s free! Redding Parks Dept has a large training room – we want to make sure it’s available and that it works for us.

Introduction of Guests & Visitors:

1. Jeremy Hayward, President Redding Rancheria Economic Development Corporation
2. Brandon Dethlefs – U.S. Forest Service, Redding, CA
3. Aaron Hathaway, Cal-Fire
4. John Livingston – Grant Writer/Consultant
5. Ronald Rusten – SCFSC: County Coordinator
6. Jim Barrett, Firewise, Dusty Oaks
7. Tuli Potts – Sierra Nevada Conservancy (via Zoom)
8. Maureen Teubert, Western Shasta RCD (via Zoom)
- 9.. Dan Doget – NVCSS – Emergency Preparedness Educator (via Zoom)
10. Trish Elste, Firewise, Whispering Woods, Shingletown

Agency Updates

Jeremy Hayward – President of the Redding Rancheria Economic Development Corporation

- Utility Line clearing
- Firesafe Council work in Napa and Lake County
- Caltrans work getting started on National Forests
- Working on Stewardship agreements - protect the people
- Met with Ron - we assist with grant writing and would like to assist SCFSC with grant writing and are ready to help
- Vegetation management and dealing with utilities – building a hydrogen facility in Red Bluff that will take all biomass and turn it into a green hydrogen with zero carbon output - captures all carbon by products of biochar bark into forest help grow forest back
- Trucking industry produces 40% of carbon in the U.S. and they are really opposed to electric vehicles -with hydrogen it will be green and clean
- Plant will be in Red Bluff - projecting it will take 18 months without hiccups - stations in Red Bluff and Yreka and northern, southern and central CA
- They plan to transport the biochar back out into the forest
- The distance from the facilities to ship biomass will be approximately 300 miles
- Right now diesel is being stolen and they are planning on converting trucks to hydrogen from gas - motors will be 99.99% cleaner with hydrogen and lighter as well
- Discussion about the safety of hydrogen – very volatile

Brandon Dethlefs – U.S. Forest Service

- A lot of pile burning - a couple hundred acres
- Silverthorn marina road - contact complete
- Salt Creek residents are piling
- 3 units up for bid in O'Brien and Salt Creek area
- Next several years looking for funding and resources for fuel break on Curl Ridge - SPI interested
- Project with Shasta Lake city fuel break project on 3M land and Forest Service land
- Discussion about burning windows and conditions
- Working on burn plans for next spring and fall
- Also working on burn plan for the next 5 years
- Discussion about burns - several in spring - Lakehead and Sugarloaf area - several next fall
- Taking alo to out Lassen - there are certain requirements and management prescription for different forest types - site prep being done to go back in and replant and build forests back

Jim Barrett, Firewise, Dusty Oaks, Bella Vista

- Just completed in December 2 days of chipper program - great crew and very efficient
- Bundy Tree Service did an excellent job in two days excavating and chipping

Aaron Hathaway – Cal-Fire

- Four projects starting this year, pile burning, underscoring burns - LLC property along Canyon Road 600-700 acres. Clear Creek a couple thousand acres. CEQA almost complete on PG&E settlement property - 6,000 acres
- Dump is done every year - 500 acres and the VA cemetery next door and all lower Gas Point
- Last year Northstate burned more intentionally than fires did! A first!
- In 2022 only burned 556 acres and this year less in the 300's. Usually Shasta Trinity averages in the 40,000 mark. Mostly because of rain and because Cal-Fire wasn't fighting fires elsewhere
- Happy Valley response was quick - jumping on fires quickly - air transport is around and they have extra contracts - Type 1 helicopter

- Ross Ranch, Allrigdge - 300 acres last year to Wind Road
- 100 acres in Montgomery Creek - on the Johnson Stackhouse property
- 273 to Texas Springs raw land - did some underscoring and pile burning
- Our unit - completed 9,000 acres manual treatment and 300 acres in VMP's

Tuli Potts – Sierra Nevada Conservancy

- The only update is that SNC is updating their 5-year plan - draft should be available and the end of the month. No other substantial updates.

Maureen Teubert, Western Shasta RCD

- Working with Forest Services on I-5 corridor units this year - will be looking for contractors
- China Gulch fuel break maintenance work - footprint area is expanding - environmental compliance should be completed soon
- Herbicide treatment in spring and continue to maintain very important fuel break in Happy Valley
- WSRCD finally got the contract for the update of the CWPT from the Forest Service so putting together our partnership agreement with SCFSC so we can work together on what we will put out to bid and how we can advertise that
- WSCRCD is supporting the Igo-Ono Communities Services District on tree removal - they got a FEMA grant for the Zogg Fire - Igo-Ono was really affected by the Zogg Fire

Dan Doget, NVCSS

- No major updates on his end, but wanted to sit in and listen to our meeting

County Coordinator Report - Ron Rusten

- Biggest update is working on Capacity Building with SNC - 3 productive meetings with cooperators who are very supportive of SCFSC. Building partnerships - very positive. Debrief with SNC on the 31st
- Discussion on the strategic plan
- Firewise communities looking for ways for better communication between us and them
- County wide fire prevention publication - a publication was started by Ron Harrington with Shasta Lake City - wanted to see if we wanted to move forward on it - yes - when can we get the funding? It's in the infancy stage estimate cost \$100,000 to get it out to the whole county before fire season. Discussion on county wide publication – big undertaking. Shasta Lake has set the template and their system for mailing it out. One stop shopping for information is gold. A hub for everyone.
- Discussion on comprehensive mapping on everything that is going on in the county

Education & Outreach Committee Report - Barbara Holder

- Setting date for President and County Coordinator to give a presentation to the County Board of Supervisors on accomplishments – making our presence known. We will have 8 minutes on February 27th. We must provide our summary of key points by the Friday before February 27th
- Aaron Hathaway and Barbara Holder working on topic for next Quarterly Firewise meeting – want to allow Firewise communities to share with one another
- An important topic is the WUI materials that have been researched by engineers and tested and are specifically for the Wildland Urban Interface – very few people know about them – covers everything such as windows, doors, double-payne windows, siding material
- Lowes and Home Depot have no info on WUI certified products – struggling to get this information out

- Scope of work for Whitmore project is tied directly with minimum quality standards – what is state-of-the-art now? And what is coming? Our project manager is going to local distributors and suppliers and letting them know we need these WUI materials. Working collaboratively
- Would like to put a link on the SCFSC website on where to get the WUI materials – approach the managers at Home Depot/Lowes/Meeks and provide the info to them
- Sign letter of support for the Forest Services to get Smokey the Bear education materials

Grants & Projects Committee Report – John Livingston:

- 3 grants submitted on time.
- 1) small grant – 299 Cal-Fire planning grant - \$189,000 – significant project because its such a visual corridor. It will run from Iron Mountain Road to the Visitor Center
- 2) medium grant is for 2 fuel breaks – 1 million dollars - Happy Valley – from Olinda Road to Canyon – big property owner. We need photo documentation on the 5-6 years we are we are running this – herbicide treatments on 3M but cattle grazing on the treated material in Happy Valley Demo site
- 3) Big block grant – 2.65 millions – 5-6 year life – will incentivize Firewise groups. We need them to help with bigger projects that homeowners can't do
- Ingress/Egress
- Home safety visits – changed name from inspection/assessment/evaluation to “home visits”
- Major insurance carriers have created collaborative that you have certification from new agency they developed basically higher than Cal-Fire inspections to have for insurance
- Website – wildfire prepared.org – insurance sponsored group
- All these grants put in Education and Outreach funds block grant and Cal-Fire entrusts to the council a large amount of funds to distribute out to which communities need the work/where are the priorities
- The goal is to make it as easy as possible for the work to be done on the ground
- Aaron Hathaway – 100 feet from home – CEQA is necessary
- Barb Holder would like field trips for the Firewise communities with leaders and Cal-Fire and Forester's on the field trips – would private owners get fined for work done on their land?
- Earth movement and equipment and sediments gets flushed down stream – shade controls temperature in streams
- Discussion about Firewise training and education and communication gap about why grants not funded - need system for feedback to Firewise communities – need as much input as possible from land owners - Quarterly Firewise newsletter discussed looking to get the first one out mid-March
- Francis Berg notes Administrative session is open to anyone – everyone is welcome

Public Comments – None

Public Dismissed – Break

Break/Lunch

Section II: Administrative Session

Discussion about minutes – minutes get posted to the SCFSC website. Remove “open” and “closed” on minutes – our Administrative session is not closed – Section II Administrative Session is reviewing SCFSC “business” and anyone can stay that is interested.

Chief Financial Officer's Report – Pamela Mainini, CPA

- Review of Balance Sheet/Statement of Activity/Donor reports – discussion with the Board of how they would like it presented – total from award minus what was spent leaves balance – 3 columns – one spreadsheet with an updated narrative by grant

Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Fran Belden/Barb March

- Monthly expense report handed out for review - covering the period of 12/07/23 - 01/16/24
- Barb March is training to input into Quickbooks and attach receipts for every expense entered
- Email all reports in this Board meeting to all Board members

Dan Adams – update on Shingletown Fire Safe Council

- Shingletown Fire Safe Council close to being dissolved
- Sold grinder to Ritchie Bros. for \$36,000 – won't get funds until sale is complete – approx. 3 weeks
- Only one program left the chipping program – Lassen will be completing it – need letter from LFSC stating they will complete the program and release Shingletown
- Once this is complete, weather permitting, approximately \$66,000 will be left in the Shingletown account – all grant funded money
- \$20,000 is left in the Shingletown general account – need clarification that these funds can be used locally – the Board is suggesting these funds that were raised locally/donations goes to Shingletown
- Discussion about making a \$10,000 donation to SCFSC now to be used to purchase the software for the SCFSC chipping program
- Discussion about Shingletown's chipping program – should SCFSC put flyers and information on the SCFSC website or is Shingletown running their own chipper program? Dan says to run chipper program through SCFSC and if it's in the Shingletown area then SCFSC should invoice Lassen and Lassen pays out of their grant which they still have 2 years of grant funds left
- SCFSC will administer and require a 10% administration cost
- Need written agreement from Lassen for chipping and dropoff programs. There is a ingress/egress route in the Shingletown area that needs attention – it's up to Lassen/Kyle to decide where funds can be used

Executive Director's Report - Pam Bates

- SCFSC has received the chipping program funding so we can now move forward
- Second advance for the County Coordinator grant has not been received – no update as to when it might come in
- Ron Rusten can switch gears to assist in getting chipping program started
- Decision to let Katie Kommenich go – she was the last of the O2 Staffing employees – she is open to returning as a contractor if needed
- Bullskin – boundaries are marked – should be putting out contract for bids in early March. Work won't start until weather improves and bids finalized – looking at April or May
- PG&E 30K grant has ended and been zero'd out
- CAL-OES – received \$2.3 million dollar check – working on first home – first bid received – discussion about Whitmore project and defensible space contractors and job walks
- Discussion about Whitmore Fire Safe Council – we have no contact with them at all
- Shasta County grant 901 – first half of the year \$15,000 spent on grant writing
- Very hopeful the SNC capacity building grant will come through

Last Discussions

- Policy and Procedures – need to get in writing – audit in 6 months and they will ask for these – need to invest in getting these done. The policies can be the same for the Board and Staff, but obviously there are specific to each
- Discussion about Governance and Nominating committees
- Nominating committee – there is 1 vacancy – Dennis Possehn resigned and 1 anticipated vacancy for Fran Belden’s position. Discussion about how to recruit – put up on our Facebook page and website – talk to Mary Rickert – send emails out to Firewise leader to recruit
- Mapping – going to run out of funding in the next couple of months – would the Board entertain allowing funds for mapping to come from the Shasta County grant to keep it going? Approved by the Board. Shasta College has a small grant and has offered his students to help with the mapping. Ron Rusten can help with outreach for mapping to get data

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Dan Adams moved, and Steve Fitch seconded, to approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2023, Shasta County Fire Safe Council Board of Directors Meeting, as amended. Motion carried.

Votes in Favor: 8
Votes in Opposition: 0
Abstain from Vote: 0
Directors Absent: 0

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report: Barbara March, Executive Assistant prepared the Treasurer’s Report. It was reviewed by the Board members present, and approved for filing as submitted.

Motion: It was moved by Barbara Holder and seconded by Dan Adam to approve the Treasurer’s Reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Votes in Favor: 8
Votes in Opposition: 0
Abstain from Vote: 0
Directors Absent: 0

Mapping Funding: Motion to allocate up to \$5,000 for mapping out of the Shasta County grant.

Motion: It was moved by Francis Berg and seconded by Jim Chapin to approve \$5,000 from the Shasta County grant to be used for mapping. Motion carried.

Votes in Favor: 8
Votes in Opposition: 0
Abstain from Vote: 0
Directors Absent: 0

Meetings coming up:

Grants & Projects:

(Every 1st Weds. of each month)

Wednesday, March 7, 2024

9:30am – 11:00am

In-Person Meeting in the SCFSC Office at 1181 Hilltop Drive, Redding

Education & Outreach:

(Every 1st Weds. of each month)

Wednesday, March 7, 2024

11:00am – 12:00pm

In-Person Meeting in the SCFSC Office at 1181 Hilltop Drive, Redding

Board of Directors Meeting:

(Every 3rd Weds. of each month)

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

9:30am – 2:00pm

1525 Median Avenue, Shasta Lake, CA 96019

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm

Submitted by:

Barbara March
Executive Assistant