

**SHASTA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**  
**20055 Viking Way Bldg #4, Redding, CA 96003**  
**(and via Zoom)**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**February 21, 2024**

OPEN (Public) SESSION

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:37am 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 Mainini, CPA – CFO (via Zoom)

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

**Absent:**

**Administrative Announcements & Agenda Additions and/or Deletions**

Francis Belden announced Forest Land Owners meeting – Fran brought newsletters, information and application if anyone wants to join.

Barb Holder announced Quarterly Firewise meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Fire Marshal will be talking about WUI materials.

**Introduction of Guests & Visitors:**

1. Dee Stover, State Farm – Guest Speaker
2. Jesse Penland, US Forest Service, Shasta Lake Ranger District
3. Mary Rickert – Board of Supervisors
4. John Livingston – Grant Writer/Consultant
5. Kate Belleville – CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
6. Ronald Rusten – SCFSC: County Coordinator
7. Mike Bertell – A-1 Tree Service
8. Tess Pace – Old Sation Fire – President of the Fire Board – trying to get Firewise certified
9. Yvonne Bennett – Firewise (*via Zoom*)
10. Dan Dogert – NVCSS – Emergency Preparedness Educator (*via Zoom*)
11. Jane Barnes – Old Shasta Firewise (*via Zoom*)
12. Debbie Mayer – Fall River Valley Fire Safe Council (*via Zoom*)

13. Desiree La Maggiore – Lakehead Fire Safe Council (*via Zoom*)
14. Mike Allen – BLM (*via Zoom*)
15. Kat Camplin – Social Media Consultant for SCFSC (*via Zoom*)
16. Kofford Land Mgmt – Gabe Kofford – Contractor in Shasta County (*via Zoom*)
17. Quezada-A (*via Zoom*)
18. Grind Fire Defense (*via Zoom*)
19. Lora Dominick (*via Zoom*)
20. iPhone (2) Lori (*via Zoom*)
21. Mohan Mahal (*via Zoom*)

## **Agency Updates**

### Dee Stover, State Farm – Guest Speaker

- Dee Stover brought a roadmap of California’s Home Insurance Crisis with 6 points:
  - \* Rapidly growing catastrophe exposure
  - \* Historic increases in construction costs outpacing inflation
  - \* Inability to use forward-looking catastrophe modeling when setting rates
  - \* Lengthy rate approval process constrained by California’s regulatory system
  - \* Challenging reinsurance market and an inability to factor into rate
  - \* Continued growth and risk exposure of the FAIR Plan posing significant liability
- State Farm has implemented a re-inspection process for their existing customers
- Customers must upkeep and maintain their own properties which includes heavy brush that needs trimming, hanging branches, dry rot, hanging eaves, stacks of wood/fuel 15 feet distance away from home – not on porches
- State Farm does not pass down cost of inspections to customers
- State Farm looks for photos – underwriting looks for specific concerns and use aerial photos
- Proper maintenance and upkeep of the property structure/roof/brush surrounding structures and over structures – the volume has been turned up on inspections and re-inspections
- Inspectors go out to survey and take photos and the owner is given a “honey do list” and given one year to complete. Now they have until their next renewal
- Go to [wildprepared.org](http://wildprepared.org)
- State Farm has 20% of the market – they don’t want more - CA is a high risk state
- Insurance companies have pulled out and so competitive market space is lost. CA Fair Plan has become inundated and starts taking on increased exposure at a rapid pace without the resources behind it to make good on it
- Insurance companies are at great risk to stay in California and do business
- Insurance companies buy their own insurance – it’s called re-insurance. Re-insurance rate costs have gone up 50%. CA is not allowed to factor this re-insurance into the rates
- Discussion about the different requirements from different agencies as far as clearance. Insurance companies are adopting this, but there is confusion as to which is correct. Need to get the message out that homeowners need to work on this
- It may come to breaking out fire insurance like earthquake insurance
- CA Fair Plan has taken on more than they can handle. The price has to match the risk otherwise insurance companies won’t go back into these areas
- Properties have wildfire scores and the bottom line is we will pay more to live up here in northern CA

### Jesse Penland – U.S. Forest Service

- I-5 project – large scale fuel reduction North of Pit River Bridge – started 1st phase – 200 acres of hand pile above Salt Creek Road – key ridge – between residences and I-5
- 800-900 acres in 2nd phase – hand piles – will start soon and take a year to complete

- Burning driftwood around Shasta Lake
- Weaverville burning
- Hayfork – piles throughout the forest
- Gregory Creek Road – where Salt Fire came through – cut 300 feet on both sides of the road
- Put in 2 micro grants - \$3,500 – to go towards prevention educational material and give away prizes for Fire Safety Day – looking at projection date of June 8<sup>th</sup> and hopes SCFSC will participate
- Mt. Shasta County Fire Prevention Officers Association – a multi-agency group with Cal Fire, US Forest Service, City of Redding, City of Anderson, Shasta Lake City – big school program each year to reach as many kids as possible
- Salt Creek summer home track discussion – defensible space is needed – ingress/egress. Do hold track clean-up – hard to get in and out with fire equipment – each cabin owner is trying to keep road in front of each cabin clear

#### Michael Allen - BLM

- Continuing burn piles – halfway through Shasta County piles in Cloverdale area
- Currently in Swayze – over 70 acres of 100 completed
- Moving to west side of Slat Creek Road – about 80 acres
- Moving forward with Keswick Basin – 550 acres – still in the process of surveys
- Project in Keswick shooting area – 20 acres – completing burns frequently
- Future projects - Old Shasta and Shingletown – mastication and fuels reduction
- Steve Fitch brought up the necessity to get policy makers to change the rules on seasonal perennial streams – when they dry up they burn and it's a real problem – they need to be treated and need to work with fishery groups

#### Mary Rickert – Board of Supervisors

- Wants to pitch an idea about working with Shasta County to put on a workshop possibly at the Board of Supervisors chambers – about insurance and how to harden homes and make defensible space a priority – she is happy to work with SCFSC to make this happen
- Discussion about County Roads – interim director is now full time – SCFSC would like to get a grant and work with County to get County roads cleared – make a priority list of order of roads
- Zogg fire footprint – big controversial issue – changed the boundaries
- Work with Angela Avery – Director of SNC – she can give you an overview of where boundaries are

#### Kate Belleville – CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

- Discussion about fuel projects on private land and streams – a lot of restrictions on doing fuel reduction on the streams – the fires come up the stream zones and burn the neighborhoods
- Class 1 streams are fish bearing – Class 2 streams are Aquatic life – frogs/invertebrate – Class 3 streams are run off streams – they don't support life and usually go dry
- Kate reviews projects – she just started – she wants to treat streams. Discussion about getting hand crews in to be able to do more – she would like to work together with different agencies on streams
- Discussion about McConnell and Vestra and excluded areas on projects that include seasonal streams – ones that were excluded and where do they stand now? A lot of areas are excluded on paper automatically before contractors are picked
- Discussion about if SCFSC is proposing a fuel break project that includes a watercourse can SCFSC come in and talk to you so a decision can be made to if we want to put it in or not? Yes, the earlier SCFSC can communicate, the better

### **County Coordinator Report - Ron Rusten**

- Had interview debriefing with SNC over the capacity building grant – it went very well
- Meeting with Maureen Teubert at WSRCD this afternoon and we should have our proposal in this week - \$250,000 for 2 years – 2 parts – capacity building and project pipeline
- Discussed capacity and what SCFSC wants to build as an organization and what plans do we have in place to continue sustaining what we are building
- Consensus is they are looking at SCFSC as the “hub” to gather information and being the center to disseminate the information – received a lot of support from our cooperators and partners to continue doing what we are doing – very positive
- Rich asked that we request from WSRCD the projects they have in their pipeline
- Chipping program – currently building the program framework – as far as timing – shooting for the spring to get it up and running

### **Education & Outreach Committee Report - Barbara Holder**

- SCFSC video is finalized – two minute video – will share at the County Supervisor’s meeting with six minutes of highlights to follow – will possibly be asked about the Zogg fire funds and should be prepared to give explanation
- We have 15 Firewise communities now – we are continuing to support them with quarterly meetings – hope to video topics/speakers that can be posted on You Tube or Facebook to be more widely distributed
- Firewise community field trips will be scheduled to prioritize emergency projects
- Will follow-up with Mary Rickert on fire season preparedness workshop – may want to combine next quarterly meeting with Mary’s workshop
- Events – need to start scheduling events that we should have a presence at – Jane Anderson could possibly take this on
- Fisherman’s Breakfast in Old Station would like SCFSC to come up and talk about Firewise – it is the opening weekend of fishing season – first time they are having it since before covid
- Next quarterly Firewise meeting is Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> – Jeff Powell, Fire Marshal is guest speaker and Bob Wilson SCFSC contractor will talk about WUI materials
- Requesting our Firewise communities to rank county administered routes for ingress and egress to see how they overlap. Set up field trips – define list of roads – see if Troy with Cal Fire can share their concerned areas and GIS data

### **Grants & Projects Committee Report – Rich Karem**

- Working on strategic planning and ranking grants to prioritize.
- John Livingston gave update on three pending grants:
  - Planning grant 299E West Corridor – a lot of agencies are working on this corridor and want to tie it all together
  - Cal Fire Block grant- similar to our CWDG – this is to help Firewise community group projects
  - Fuel Break grant for two strategic fuel breaks – one in Happy Valley and 3M property between Mountain gate and the City of Shasta Lake
- John Livingston wanted to remind SCFSC that Jeremy Hayward with REDCO offered us to use their grant writing resources to aid SCFSC and to take him up on it! Walk through the process with them – they will help us at no cost. Whether we write and submit as us or we can be a sub to them if they submit. They can check boxes that we can’t as of yet.
- Chipper program – we need to gear up so there is no delay in starting
- Bullskin Ridge update – Jim Chapin is writing specifications for the contract work – hope to put out request for proposals in late March and start in May/June. All contract work

- Whitmore – we have very first home – contractor has been selected and defensible space contractor has been chosen. There are still contract/legal issues being resolved. Five homes require subject matter expert review – flagged for various reasons – a lot of biological concerns
- Mapping help through Shasta College – Jason Snider is helping with this – working on map for website for the public, but will also have a private map. It seems agencies are afraid to give out mapping info on “proposed” projects. We need this to see and coordinate and not overlap projects.
- Rich wants to acknowledge all of the work that Dennis did - he did so much. Dennis will be attending the quarterly Firewise meeting. Work on recognizing a Firewise group annually.

**Public Comments – None**

**Public Dismissed – Break**

**Break/Lunch**

## **Section II: Administrative Session**

### **Chief Financial Officer’s Report – Pamela Mainini, CPA**

- Review of Balance Sheet/Statement of Activity/Donor reports

### **Secretary/Treasurer’s Report – Barb March**

- Monthly expense report handed out for review - covering the period of 01/18/24 – 02/20/24
- Researched awards to present people – showed two options – a wood tree trivet and a more standard award made out of bamboo – also would like to have a letter created for the award that everyone can sign or have their names on
- Board picked the tree trivet award and will have one created by the next quarterly Firewise meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Discussion regarding checks over 5K that need two signatures

### **Jim Chapin – Introduction of Tim Livingston – a potential new Board Member**

- Jim Chapin introduced a interested new board member, Tim Livingston
- Board introduced themselves to Tim Livingston
- Tim is a RPF – he has been in Shasta County most of his life – retired last April from Sierra Pacific where he worked for 37 years – he was a pole manager for the last 21 years – he has been a District Forester and wrote harvest plans – and a reforestation Forester and dealt with burns. He was with CDF a couple years and has done some consulting. He is a licensed Forester since 1988. He and his wife own Redtail Publishing which creates children’s books. And they raise golden retrievers and sell them worldwide
- Francis summed up what SCFSC is for Tim – trying to get resources out through SCFSC or through contractors and get it into the hands of our communities and Firewise communities so they can better protect themselves from wildfires
- Discussion with Tim regarding SCFSC’s projects and grants and work that is gearing up. Discussion about the different committees within SCFSC

### **Legal Counsel Discussion – Steve Johnson**

**Approval of New Board Member:**

**Motion:** Francis Berg moved, and Jim Chapin seconded, to approve new Board Member, Tim Livingston. Motion carried.

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:** Dan Adams moved, and Jim Chapin seconded, to approve the Minutes of the January 17, 2024, Shasta County Fire Safe Council Board of Directors Meeting. 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

**Meetings coming up:**

Grants & Projects:  
(Every 1<sup>st</sup> Weds. of each month)  
**Wednesday, March 7, 2024**  
**9:30am – 11:00am**  
In-person meeting at SCFSC Office at 1181 Hilltop Drive, Redding

Education & Outreach:  
(Every 1<sup>st</sup> Weds. of each month)  
**Wednesday, March 7, 2024**  
**11:00am – 12:00pm**  
In-person meeting at SCFSC Office at 1181 Hilltop Drive, Redding

Board of Directors Meeting:  
(Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds. of each month)

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

**9:30am – 2:00pm**

In-person meeting at 20055 Viking Way Bldg #4, Redding, CA 96003

*(also via Zoom)*

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm

**Submitted by:**

***Barbara March***

Executive Assistant