

# SHASTA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

9444 Deschutes Road (at the Shasta Co. Farm Bureau), Palo Cedro, CA 96073  
(and via Zoom)

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2023

### OPEN (Public) SESSION

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Francis Berg, President/CEO.

#### **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/CEO - Francis Berg  
Vice President - Dan Adam  
Secretary/Treasurer - Frances Belden  
Executive Director - Pamela Bates  
CFO - Pam Mainini, CPA – Attended via Zoom

**Introduction of Directors:** Jim Chapin - Director  
Barbara Holder - Director  
Dennis Possehn - Director  
Steve Fitch - Director  
Richard Karem - Director  
Steve Johnson, Director

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

1. SNC Annual Conference Discussion during Closed Session – Jim Chapin
2. Discuss areas of Shasta County to be covered during Closed Session – Jim Chapin
3. Zogg Fire Proposed Award – Francis Berg reported on the funds being made available to 24 Community Groups as stated in the Record Searchlight. There was some discussion with Mary Rickert as to where funds are being granted and that the D.A. will make all the decisions. Mary Rickert shared that SCFSC is on the list.

#### **Introduction of Guests & Visitors:**

1. Brandon Dethlefs – U.S. Forest Service, Redding, CA
2. Dr. Eric Knapp – U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Redding, CA
3. Mary Rickert – Shasta County Board of Supervisors
4. John Livingston – Grant Writer/Consultant
5. Lora Dominick – O'Brien Mountain Firewise Community
6. James Tholcke – Shingletown - Retired CalFire – interested in Firewise
7. Marvin Sprague – Shingletown – interested in Firewise
8. Katie Komnenich – SCFSC: Project Assisant & Community Outreach Coordinator
9. Tess Pace – Old Station

10. Linda McGinnis – PCM Firewise Community
11. Kathleen Camplin – Media & Communications
12. Dee Stover – State Farm Insurance
13. T.J. Bar – Guest (via Zoom)
14. Debbie Mayer – Guest (via Zoom)
15. Cascade Resource Consultants, LLC (via Zoom)
16. Hana Eades – Guest
17. Douglas Joe Young – Shingletown - interested in Firewise
18. Ronald Rusten – SCFSC: County Coordinator

### **Insurance Coverage Changes in Rural California - Dee Stover, State Farm Insurance**

Dee Stover gave an in-depth and very detailed report of the status of the insurance availability and costs for homeowners in California. She also answered questions presented by those present.

### **Why Houses Burn - Introduction - Dr. Eric Knapp, Research Ecologist**

Dr. Knapp gave a very important presentation on three reasons he found, as to why houses burn. Many pictures were taken after the Carr Fire, the Camp Fire and the Paradise Fire, and after studying them, it became apparent that there were three types of fire exposures which are: 1) Direct flame contact from the wildland; 2) Embers; and one that is not often talked about and that is, 3) Radiant heat. There was some very good discussion and he welcomed questions.

Barbara Holder shared that Dr. Knapp's presentation will be recorded at the Firewise Meeting later this month and then will be available for individual Firewise Communities to show at their meetings.

### **Agency Updates – Brandon Dethlefs, U.S. Forest Service**

Brandon Dethlefs, USFS, shared that the Forest Service will be seeking a Letter of Support from the Shasta County Fire Safe Council for a project going on in Lakehead for a new Emergency Response Center to be built in Lakehead to replace Lakeshore Station which is inadequate. This project is in the planning stages at this time and letters of support will also be requested from other agencies and communities. There was discussion of what this project will provide and Brandon answered questions from those present.

### **Grants & Projects Committee Report:**

Dennis Possehn reported that a grant that was applied for from SNC for Bull Skin Ridge fuel break project was given to Shasta County Fire Safe Council. Jim Chapin gave the details and reported that the grant given SCFSC was for \$738,000, and that SPI is also working with us on their ownership part of this project. John Livingston reported that he also applied for a grant from SNC for the fuel break on Back Bone Ridge & Fender's Ferry Road which was given to SCFSC. He reported that 2 tribes are also involved: Pit River Tribe and the Redding Rancheria Wintu Tribe. \$711,000 is the amount applied for and SPI will be giving \$200,000 in-kind for their ownership. This application looks promising. Steve Fitch provided all the benefits which these fuel breaks give. The U.S. Forest Service and CalFire are also doing fuel break projects but not in the same areas. John Livingston gave a hearty "Thank You" to SPI for their help. Questions presented were answered.

**Education & Outreach Committee Report: Barbara Holder** - Barbara shared that projects are the best way to keep Firewise Communities interested, and with that in mind, a Field Trip is being planned for June 29, 2023, in Old Shasta. She then shared some details of what is being planned and what the objectives are. Carl Skinner will be doing a fire assessment of the community. Also Barbara shared who is planning to come to this Field Trip and that hopefully, proposals for projects will be written by some of the Firewise Community members. Barbara shared that the next Quarterly Firewise Community Leaders' Meeting is on July 28, 2023, in a secure facility, where ID's will be needed, so please let Katie Komnenich know if you will be attending so she can give the list ahead of time. Barbara reported that there are 9 recognized Firewise Communities and there are 6 in the wings. KIXE received a little grant and they have agreed to continue running the PSA's on forming Firewise Communities for us for free!

**Public Comments:** A question was asked regarding a neighbor on Manard Road who likes to shoot powerful guns and she was worried about what they might do on July 4<sup>th</sup>. She was advised to contact the Sheriff's Department and CalFire, who will send out their Prevention Officer.

**Public Dismissed**

**Break/Lunch**

**Administrative (Closed) Session**

**Approval of Minutes: Motion**

Dennis Possehn moved, and Jim Chapin seconded, to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2023, Shasta County Fire Safe Council Board of Directors Meeting, as amended. Motion carried.

Votes in Favor: 9  
Votes in Opposition: 0  
Abstain from Vote: 0  
Directors Absent: 0

**Executive Director Report: Pam Bates** - Pam shared that Michael Lalor, could not make the meeting today. Pam then gave a brief presentation of the "Board Portal Demo" followed by discussion about the Board Portal compared to Google Docs. A proper Demo will be rescheduled.

**Committee Meetings on July 7, 2023: Barbara Holder & Dennis Possehn**

Barbara shared that the Education & Outreach Committee Meeting will be on July 7<sup>th</sup> right after the Grants & Projects Committee Meeting which is also on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Media & Communications: Kathleen Camplin via Zoom**

Kathleen was introduced by Pam Bates who shared that Kathleen is very accomplished in Media and Communications for organizations. Kathleen is very "techie" and is familiar with doing Podcasts and Social Media. She shared that she could help increase the number of followers for SCFSC on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Reels. There was a hearty discussion about what could be done. Ronald Rusten shared how this will help getting

information out about SCFSC. Kathleen will also be able to record the presentation of Dr. Eric Knapp, to making reels, to get Carl Skinner's presentations on YouTube, etc.

**Motion:**

Richard Karem moved, and Dan Adam seconded, to spend \$1,500.00 for the first month to hire Kathleen Camplin to work on getting SCFSC information on Social Media.

Motion carried.

Votes in Favor: 9

Votes in Opposition: 0

Abstain from Vote: 0

Directors Absent: 0

**Chief Financial Officer's Report:** The Financial Reports were distributed to the Board and were reviewed by the members present. Pamela answered questions from Board members. Also, Pamela shared that Payroll is coming in-house and that she has been working with Pam Bates to get the needed information from Staff. Quick Books online is a work-in-progress for Pamela because it is different than the Desktop version. She also offered information on how the Grants are being tracked. Dan Adam gave an update on Shingletown Fire Safe Council.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** Frances J. Belden, Secretary/Treasurer, prepared the Treasurer's Report. It was reviewed by the Board members present, and approved for filing as submitted. There were some questions about how staff is being paid by 02 Staffing and for what work. Pam Bates answered these questions to the Board's satisfaction.

**Invoice from Dennis Possehn:**

There was a request from Dennis Possehn to have his Invoice approved by the Board. There was some discussion about spending one's own money, get the approval to do so in order to be reimbursed. Some of the costs questioned were making color copies.

**Motion:**

Steve Johnson moved, and Richard Karem seconded, to reimburse Dennis Possehn for his costs incurred in performing duties as Chair of the Grants & Projects Committee in the amount of \$319.16. Motion carried.

Votes in Favor: 9

Votes in Opposition: 0

Abstain from Vote: 0

Directors Absent: 0

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Annual Meeting – Jim Chapin**

Jim Chapin shared his experience in Chester, CA, when he attended their Annual Conference. Their Board has 13 people and the meeting was from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm 15 Grants have been awarded to various agencies. Jim shared that they have three different categories. We are in

the “Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Program” and that we aren’t thinking big enough! Some of the grants that have been given are in the millions of dollars and Jim listed a couple. There was some discussion.

### **Discussion of Drop-Off Locations**

There was some discussion on chipping drop-off locations and how it could best be accomplished. Insurance is a big consideration when it comes to Firewise Community volunteers.

### **Zogg Fire Settlement Agreement**

Steven Johnson will call Stephanie, Shasta County DA, regarding the Zogg Fire funds and how they are being distributed. There was lots of discussion on this topic. Shasta County Fire Safe Council is scheduled to received \$500,000.00.

### **Lassen County Discussion**

Jim Chapin brought up he idea of how we can go forward when it comes to Lassen County working with us in Shasta County and Shingletown. There was some discussion and it was the consensus to contact them and meet to discuss the future going forward.

### **Meetings to be Set**

#### **A. Standing Committee Meetings**

- Grants & Projects: Wednesday, July 7, 2023, at 10:30 am - In-Person Meeting in the Palo Cedro Office
- Education & Outreach: Wednesday, July 7, 2023, at 11:30 am - In-Person Meeting in the Palo Cedro Office

#### **B. Other Meetings to be Set**

- **July, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 9:30 am at 9444 Deschutes Road (Shasta Farm Bureau), Palo Cedro, CA 96073**

### **Adjournment: Motion**

Jim Chapin moved, and Richard Karem seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 pm. Motion carried.

Votes in Favor: 9  
Votes in Opposition: 0  
Abstain from Vote: 0  
Directors Absent: 0

### **Submitted by:**

*Frances J. Belden*

Frances J. Belden

Secretary-Treasurer