



California Fire Safe Council
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
March 30, 2022, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM (PST)

Board Present: Bob Roper, J. Lopez, Steve Hawks, David Shew, Laura Blaul, Pat Frost, Pat Kidder

Staff Present: Hedi Jalon, Michaela Martinez, Jamie Mach, Richard Abrusci, Nina Evans, Stephanie Slagel

1. WELCOME

A. Agenda Review

Officer Recognition was stricken from record as an agenda item for the March 30, 2022, meeting.

B. New Board Member

Introduction of Chris Ochoa, who is representing the California Building Industry Association, to the Board of Directors meeting and as a potential board member.

Six-month search for this position and Chris rose to the top of the selection process and has been brought forward for CFSC Board of Directors consideration.

Motion to accept Chris Ochoa as a formal member of the CFSC Board of Directors by David Shew, second by Laura Blaul, unanimous approval.

2. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – OPEN SESSION

February 2, 2022, Open Session Minutes

Motion to approve the February 2, 2022, Open Session Minutes by Pat Frost, seconded by J. Lopez, unanimous approval

3. INFORMATION AGENDA

A. Legislative Platform & Positions

Chris Ochoa provided the Board a run down of the 2022 Legislative Wildfire Report for March 2022.

- AB 2705 (Quirk-Silva) - CBIA sponsored. CBIA as seen over the last few years increased legislation from Senators Stern and McGuire that are now starting to introduce bans on residential and commercial construction in WUI zones. CBIA developed a Wildfire Committee and drafted AB2705.
- SB 12 (McGuire) – bill is ongoing and in the second year of two years.
- SB 1292 (Stern) - pulled before it went to its first Policy Committee, but this was just a reinvention of last years Senate Bill 55 banning construction in the WUI zones.

- AB 2672 (Flora) - bill has good intentions and good points but has some hurdles that need to be overcome. Assemblyman Flora, sponsors of the bill and the State Fire Marshal to come together and discuss specifically those hurdles to make sure it rolls out well.

- DB 896 (DOD) - big focus over the last few years on defensible space legislation. CBIA has not yet put a formal position on.

Still several bills under watch positions to either move to support or potentially oppose.

Much smaller number of Wildfire bills than seen over the last few years. The big push is now focused on climate change.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA** – no items

5. **OPEN SESSION**

A. Executive Director's Report

\$13.8 CAL FIRE Grant

CFSC has received the countersigned agreement. This grant is comprised of three projects through its continuation for the current D-Space, County Coordinators, and Evac grants.

Line of Credit – Firefighters First Credit Union

Approved and accepted a \$250,000 line of credit. First action step is to secure credit cards for to organization and then allocating credit limits and assigning to staff.

CFSC will continue its relationship with Wells Fargo.

Paradise Workshop

- CFSC team doing peer to peer networking
- Offering technical and vocational guidance on Communications and Outreach
- Rachel Grady giving GIS awareness talk
- PR and media outreach

With such great feedback around the networking and educational experiences from peers CFSC will be regularly hosting more workshops.

PG&E Subgrantee – as part of the grant secured a great deal of media coverage for El Dorado Fire Safe Council who was featured on KCRA and Fox News.

Continued work to provide custom media coverage for PG&E subgrantees through on the ground workshops.

Annual Report – organizational annual report in its final stages and to be released soon and will begin working on the next annual report directly afterwards and on a regular schedule from here on out.

Live Dashboard – on CFSC website that Rachael our GIS Specialist put together to track grant dollars awarded, active projects, in process projects by activity. We will continue to build on this site.

Quarterly Newsletter – coming out soon.

May 5th Press Event – centered around Wildfire Awareness Week. Like last year's event we will be targeting our partners and highlighting our impactful work across the state.

More will be shared as we get closer to the date and have a location and speakers list.

October 4th & 5th Event – will be held at the Sheraton Grant in downtown Sacramento. Fundraising & development component added to this year’s event with options for sponsorship levels. More details to come.

CRM – customer relationship management platform which will allow us to create a donate page, use it as an advocacy and communications tool, event management, and options for surveys.

CFSC Video – general video that showcases our work and our mission with lots of great success stories we have produced which will be a great visual aide.

CFSC Staffing/Recruitment – Michaela last day with CFSC is April 1st and Richard has transitioned into an independent contractor role for the next two months as the search for a replacement for the Business Officer position. The new \$13.8 million CAL FIRE grant award will allow for new positions.

Clearinghouse Update

- Dan Lang - retiring we will have a farewell at the CFSC office. More details to come.
- Forest Service - \$1.4M next grant opportunity.
- Edison – final report submitted and working with Caitlin on a proposal for the next round of funding.
- RFFC - adjusted narrative and budget and have proposed and will offer capacity building micro grants to organizations throughout the state.
- \$13.8 CAL FIRE - grant is in the planning stages with projects queued up.
- 22SFA – now open application.
- Assessment Survey – gather and analyzing data as CFSC looks for funding sources and to target future additional funding for project needs.

Outreach Report

- Listos Funding – submitted research funding opportunity through Cal OES to continue the trailer program. More information to be shared.
- SCE – will be submitting proposal for the next round of funding.
- RFFC - continue to submit weekly updates to keep them abreast of what we are doing with the program.
- PG&E - continues planning reporting with the five sub grantees that were awarded with the focus on metrics to create and finalize a communications outreach plan.
- VLC – Virtual Learning Center hopefully available in May and will continue to be built out to add more resources as they become available.
- Continue to build and strategize around more partnerships with Fire Safe Councils, volunteer and relief organization and work in tandem to provide support as needed.

B. Financial Report

Pat Kidder gave the overview of the Finance Committee March 21, 2022, Status Report

Motion to approve the Finance Committee March 21, 2022, report by Laura Blaul, seconded by Pat Frost, unanimous approval

C. New Agenda Packet Format

J. Lopez provided a handout of the new agenda format which he will now be taking the lead on the preparation of the agendas as well as distributing all corresponding documents prior to each Board meeting.

D. Board Development Report

- Refine what the CFSC Board of Directors is looking for in board members:
 - Define specific categories of interest.
 - Board members being at large members.
 - Giving discretion to the existing board to select who they think would best suit the needs of the organization.
 - With the one exception of continuing to have organizational representatives essentially selected by their organizations.

- Develop CFSC Board recruitment of local Fire Safe Council representatives:
 - The three members who currently reside on the board would represent one of the two slots for the North, Central and Southern regions.
 - Put an “ask” out to the three regions thru the CFSC Regional Coordinators to solicit interested representatives of those regions.
 - The North, Central and Southern regions would then be asked to come up with two or three candidates from each of their regions that the CFSC board would ultimately select individuals from.

The Board created one or two at large positions that will allow the Nominating Committees to have the discretion when there is a vacancy to recruit and bring an individual to fit and emerging need.

E. Committee Assignments

With the election of new Board officers, the current list of committees needed review to determine any changes to the current committee titles and the members that reside on each one of those committees.

- Audit Committee Members: David Horne, Troy Whitman, Pat Kidder
- Finance Committee Members: David Horne, Troy Whitman, Pat Kidder, Kate Dargan
- Personnel Committee: Pat Frost, Ed Mertens, David Shew

Changes to existing *Advisory Standing Committees* will be amended in the Bylaws and reflected as follows:

1. Merge Governance and Nominating into one Committee
 - New Title – “Board Development Committee”
 - Board Members: Bob Roper, J. Lopez, Pat Frost, Kate Dargan, Laura Blaul, Steve Hawks

2. Policy Committee new title – “Standing Committee”
 - Board Members: Bob Roper, J. Lopez, Pat Frost, Kate Dargan, Laura Blaul, Dave Shew, Chris Ochoa

3. Advancement Committee – to be stricken from record as a committee

F. Corporate Donation/Cause Marketing Policy

Policy Committee reviewed both the Draft Corporate Donation & Draft Cause Marketing policies at their last meeting.

The committee determined that these two policies were too restrictive and should allow for broader guidance rather than restrictive guidance when accepting corporate donations.

Policy Committee recommended the approval of both policies.

The Board was given the policies in both clean versions and tracked changes versions.

Motion to approve the Corporate Donation and the Cause Marketing Policies by Pat Kidder, seconded by David Shew, unanimous approval

G. Strategic Plan Refresh

Initiatives were reviewed to determine which are still considered short, medium, and long term, with inclusion of the letter O for ongoing work that the CFSC staff has completed. CFSC Board reviewed each one of the initiatives and determined those that needed to be changed and those that needed to remain as is.

Through a brainstorming session for CFSC's future the Board came up with some ideas which Laura will summarize and provide to the full Board.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- Strategic Plan
- Bylaws

7. CLOSED SESSION

Motion to Close Open Session and Open Closed Session by Pat Frost, seconded by J. Lopez, unanimous approval

8. WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn the March 30, 2022, Board Meeting at 4:30 PM by Pat Kidder, seconded by Pat Frost, unanimous approval

April 20, 2022, Meeting – CANCELED
Next meeting May 25, 2022, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM - VIRTUAL