

SIERRA COUNTY FIRE SAFE & WATERSHED COUNCIL

Board Chair	Board Member	Board Secretary	Board Member	Board Member	Board Treasurer
Paul Cueto	Jim Turner	Sharon Dobija	Patricia Hall	Jeff Dowling	Paul Cueto

Executive Director: Rodd Rummel

Minutes of Board Meeting of December 8, 2022 Sierra City Community Hall 10: AM

1. **Roll Call:** Members present were Jeff Dowling, Paul Cueto, Patty Hall, Jim Turner and Sharon Dobija. Also attending was Danielle Bradfield and Rodd Rummel. Also present was Al Petri, Assistant, Matt Furtado of CalFire, Paul Roen and member of Sierra County Council, Sean Cameron.

II. Approval of Agenda & October Minutes: As to Agenda, it was requested that an item of “Old Business” be added to future agenda in order to recap any previous item occurring between meeting dates. Said Old Business item will be addressed along with Approval of Agenda item. Approval of Minutes & the addition of Old Business item was moved by Member Hall, Seconded by Member Turner. Unanimous.

III. Public Comment: Matt Furtado, CalFire, briefly reported of the shuttering of the North Region as of this date. Tahoe Truckee will have personnel year round; burn piles & emergency response will be ongoing. With the exception of the Mosquito Fire, fire season this year was overall pretty limited.

IV. Announcements: Rodd reported that we have applied for a CalFire (\$20k) grant for administrative costs/field work. Should hear in January and as an underserved County we are likely to get accepted.

V. Discussion/Action Items:

a: Google Workspace : Al reported on the potential for a Google workspace file sharing concept in order that the Board have a uniform and communal place to reach each other while keeping the other Board members in the know; a one stop spot for all communications, documents and project information so that upon a member leaving the Board, that person’s input is still available and historical information. If member access and access to previous information without having to go to a physical office etc. The Board would Most likely a charge of \$5.00 per person, per month is a usual cost for the space. Member Hall made a motion and seconded by Member Turner to approve a Google Workspace. **b: Debit Card:** After discussion it was

moved and approved that two members should have a debit card for immediate purchases as writing checks is not always convenient. It was moved and approved (Cueto/Turner) that a debit card be issued to both the Chair and the Executive Director. Limit to \$2,500 per purchase or the bank threshold. Unanimous.

c: Pictures for Website: To be initiated in the future.

d. Facebook Topics: Discussion of items for the FB page included all informational items such as updates on grants applied for, fuels reduction projects; information sharing, CalFire or other entity information and reports. One person (most likely the Executive Director), should approve content for the page. What it should **not** include is back and forth dialog from outside participants or a sharing of opinions in general.

e. Review/approval of Indian Valley Project: Non Feds Land money available for the project and after an update by Danielle and time being of the essence, it was moved & seconded (Hall/Cueto) to approve the Indian Valley project . Unanimous

f. ByLaws Review: There has been an ongoing discussion at meetings and subsequent emails that the current set of ByLaws need revisions; suggested changes, revisions and comments have been put forth by Board Members and a review and comments have been made by County Council. In an effort to revise some salient provisions of the ByLaws, the Board proceeded to discuss certain items of the current ByLaws with the intention of further revisions at a later meeting. Below is a list of the sections that were of immediate concern and it was suggested these be addressed at this December meeting.

The discussion that ensued, in capsule:

4.0 two signatories; any member can sign if Chair and ED are absent/vacant. 4.1 Minimum of five (5) members. 4.7 A thorough discussion of this issue with County Council after a member voiced concern over the appearance of a conflict if member(s) is hired as a contractor by FSSC. Due to the limited access a small County has to individuals with expertise and the value to the community of those individuals, and the purposeful benefit of having expertise on the FSSC board, it was concluded that as long as the individual member recused him or herself from the vote on the subject project/item, a perceived conflict could be defended. It was also noted that the Minutes of any meeting where a member did recuse, would reflect said step aside by that Member. Government Code Section as to the absence of a conflict applies to the FSSC Board. 5.0 Executive Director to set agenda. 5.1 and 5.2 affirmed. 5.3 electronic copy of ByLaws suffice. 6. Meetings are on Thursdays - replace the word Saturday. 7.3 and 9.0 Affirmed

Sharon Dobija, Secretary to FSSC

1. Section 4.0: Do we want to specify who can sign? Chair and Executive Director?
 - a. Possibly we should name three offices that can sign, that way if one position is vacant or unavailable, business can continue.
2. Section 4.7: Officers and Members of the Board may be hired as independent contractors for specific projects of the Council, based on their knowledge and expertise.
 - a. Mr. Cameron believes this to be a conflict of interest.
3. Section 5.0: Setting the agenda and who can sign checks and legal documents.
 - a. This ties directly back to 4.0 and should be consistent.
 - b. 5.1 and 5.2 state the treasure and Vice Chair shall have power to co-sign checks
4. Section 5.3: Does the Secretary need to have a copy of the current Bylaws on hand at each meeting?
 - a. Possibly having access to an electronic version at each meeting is good enough.
5. Section 6: States meeting are to be held on the 3rd Sat of each month and Annual meeting in October
 - a. We currently hold meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month
6. Section 7.3: In the event that the Chair resigns from and/or leaves office....
 - a. Possibly the Vice Chair assumes the role for the remainder of the term?
7. Section 9.0: The Bylaws Committee Chair shall act as "Parliamentarian" for the Council.
 - a. Are we sure that the Bylaws Committee Chair will be present at the Board meetings?
 - b. Possibly replace "The Bylaws Committee Chair" with "highest ranking Director present"
- 8.

