

SHASTA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2020

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am at Ed Stewart's residence: 35099 Lenwood Way, Shingletown, California 96088-9745

Present: The Board members and guests were welcomed. Roger Jaegal, John Urias, Richard Sealana, Barbara Holder, Jim Chapin, Ed Stewart and Frances Belden were present.

Absent: Garrett Costello.

Guests: Mindy Graves and Tania Greenwood (Prospective Board Member)

It was moved by Richard Sealana and seconded by Roger Jaegel to approve Tania Greenwood for the Board of Directors of SCFSC. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: The Board Meeting Minutes for July 17, 2020, were read.

It was moved by Roger Jaegel and seconded by John Urias to approve the Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report: Jim reported that SCFSC received a grant from Shasta County on July 27, 2020, for the SCFSC to apply for the IRS 501(c)3 status and to develop our organization. See copy of agreement with Shasta County. The agreement requires the Fire Safe Council to maintain a liability insurance policy of 2 million dollars. We have opened a checking account with Chase Bank with the \$10,000.00 and careful accounting of what we spend the funds for will be done to show the county that the taxpayer's money is well spent. Jim shared that he will look for insurance and several ideas were shared by the members. Jim stated that the billing is to be sent to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to be reimbursed to SCFSC from the grant they have set aside for us.

It was moved by Roger Jaegel and seconded by John Urias to spend \$1,500.00 to the IRS for our 501 (c) 3 non-profit tax identification. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

1. The Title III grant from Shasta County for the Shingletown Risk Assessment Workshop is approved. Lassen Fire Safe Council has the funding and we will be a cooperator. However, the Workshop is cancelled until the Summer of 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

2. Website Development was discussed. Jim stated that he have two proposals for website development and maintenance for the organization:
 - a. Symbiotic Restoration Group - Garrett Costello's cost proposal is \$1,229.95.
 - b. Maureen Teubert, WSRCDC - Cost proposal is \$3,823.40.

It was moved by Richard Sealana and seconded by Barbara Holder to hire Symbiotic Restoration Group to develop our Website at a cost of \$1,229.95. Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Director then asked for two volunteers to be a Website Committee to work with Garrett Costello to provide the information and material as required to develop and maintain the Website. Tania Greenwood and Richard Sealana stepped up and volunteered. Thank you!

3. Jim Chapin acknowledged that, at this point in our organizational development, a Chairman and Vice Chairman are needed for a 2-year term. The Chairman would help plan the meetings, run the meetings, follow up on items that need to be accomplished, and help the Executive Director prepare for the upcoming meeting location and agenda. Going forward, the Chairman will be plan and run the meetings in the future. John Urias said he would be willing to be Chairman of the Board and Roger Jaegel said he was willing to be the Vice Chairman for a 2-year term.

It was moved by Ed Stewart and seconded by Richard Sealana to approve the appointments of John Urias as Chairman and Roger Jaegel as Vice Chairman of SCFSC Board of Directors for a 2-year term. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Grants: Cal Fire Grants for which we can apply for this fall:
 - a. Forest Health Grants: due October 30th
 - b. Fire Prevention Grants: due October 30th
 - c. CFIP Grants: For forest improvement projects on individual private landowners 20 acres or more. These applications are due quarterly.
 - d. CCI Grants: These are larger landscape projects. We need to get more information on how to apply. Lassen Fire Safe Council has been successful to get these grants. Ed Stewart and Jim Chapin will get more information on how to apply from Cal Fire and Lassen Fire Safe Council.
 - e. Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant: Kristy Hoffman (SNC) contacted Jim Chapin to apply for a Forest Health and Watershed Grant for up to \$300,000. The concept proposal is due by December 1, 2020. We are a priority for a grant between \$200,000 and \$300,000 for fuel reduction projects as a new Fire Safe Ed Stewart and Jim Chapin have developed a grant proposal for the Thatcher Project north of Lake McCumber. The cost estimate is between \$280,000 to \$300,000for Phase I of the project.

- f. Whitmore Fire Department Request: Barbara Holder made a request representing this Fire Department for \$15,000.00 new fire hydrant construction. SCFSC promised to work on some grants for this purpose.

- g. Grant Writing: There was discussion regarding applying for at least two grants before the end of the year. One of the points made was that an experienced grant writer is valuable to prepare grants that meet the agency criteria. Barbara Holder has contacted Larry Alexander in Siskiyou County who may be able to help us. Larry's background includes grant writing, Workers Training Plan-1995, Region 5 - National Fire Plan and has served on several Fire Safe Councils. He called in to our meeting at 11:00 am and made himself available to answer questions. He gave us his telephone number (530-468-4139) and agreed to meet on October 22, 2020, at his home in Fort Jones with the following Board members: Barbara Holder, Jim Chapin, John Urias, Roger Jaegel and Bruce Courtright (not a Board member). Also, Garrett Costello (Board Member) and his partner are experienced grant writers and have successfully prepared grants for Pit RCD. Ed Stewart and Jim Chapin, as RPF's, stated they can develop project descriptions and costs, while Garrett and/or Larry can add the necessary information required to have a successful grant applications. What's needed now is for the Board members identify fuel reduction, or healthy forest projects, so they can be reviewed in the field and two or three can be picked for grant proposals. In the next month, Jim stated he plans to connect with many of the community Fire Safe Councils in the county and attend their meetings to get their input for projects and let them know that we exist and wish to include them in our plans going forward. Resources were discussed and Nick Wallingford with Cal Fire, who was identified a a good resource for risk management. John Urias offered to contact the new Fire Chief in Redding to inquire who the contact is for "Defensible Space." Also, Roger Jaegel said he would make a list of resources and send it to the Board members.

- h. Shingletown Ridge Planning area: Ed Stewart stated that he has met with Tom Esgate of Lassen Fire Safe Council, to discuss development of a landscape wide planning proposal for the Shingletown Ridge Planning area. Ed then explained the process and said that he and Jim Chapin will work on this.

It was moved by John Urias and seconded by Roger Jaegel to approve applying for a grant for this project. Motion carried unanimously.

6. The By-Laws and Mission Statement for Shasta County Fire Safe Council are the priorities identified as most important. Ed Stewart has a draft of By-Laws that can be reviewed and fine tuned. Jim Chapin and Barbara Holder will be meeting with several

agencies discuss wording for the By-Laws and Mission Statement that will be appropriate for SCFSC.

7. Guest, Mindy Graves, with NRCS and is an TSP, shared information about federal grants; cost share programs; is a Technical Service Provider to write Forest Management Plans for NRCS; grants pay between 50% - 80% up to \$300,000; land owners can group together to plan a project. Co-ordination of County Agencies was discussed and a proposal to apply for a grant can be worked on by Tania Greenwood and Roger Jaegel based on priorities established.

8. **Next Meeting:** Richard Sealana offered to plan our next meeting in Lakehead Lions Club at 10:00 am on Friday, December 11, 2020. Thank you!

9. **Adjourn Meeting:** It was moved by Barbara Holder and seconded by John Urias to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.