

OFSC Minutes Final Approved for February 21, 2024

Attending

Elizabeth Stage, Ken Benson, Joelle Fraser, Doug Mosher, Jen Grimm, Michael Hunt, Ed Orre, Dale Ridsen, Martin Matarrese, Robert Myers, Louise Comfort, Sue Duncan, Peter Reed, Nate Stalnaker, Peter Seidel, and Jerry Kent

Meeting called to order 7:03pm

Chair asked if there were any changes to the Draft Agenda and mentioned that we would have Michael Hunt for City of Oakland and that he would be on early to allow for another meeting he had to also attend. No changes were made from the participants and time would be allowed to have Michael present early and then leave as needed.

1. Minutes

Moved by Doug Mosher and seconded by Joelle Fraser, the minutes were approved with minor edits as submitted.

2. Treasurer's Report

Bank Balance on February 20th was \$18,109 which was an increase over prior month and unencumbered was \$11,881 with \$6,278 encumbered within the MOU fund. Chair mentioned that Treasurer was continuing to work with Olga Crowe and City of Oakland EMSD on the \$12,000 still outstanding from our October invoicing and in updating City of Oakland paperwork to receive the \$6,000 for City of Oakland MOU participation. The report was received and accepted as reported through the chair for the Treasurer.

3. Old Business

a. Oakland – City update – Michael Hunt

Joe DeVries and the Fire Department have met with Finance and Brad Johnson working on the budget and options for potential November 2024 new Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) only in the Oakland Hills and not Citywide. He mentioned that Joe would likely have more information for the March OFSC Meeting. Chair and Secretary both commented that the new WPAD was tied to completion of the City of Oakland's Vegetation Management Plan and that OFSC would support if the new WPAD had better citizen oversight and accountability than the prior WPAD. The City of Oakland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CalFire for their work and assistance in brush removal and fuel load reduction at Joaquin Miller Park and the work is now set to begin. Work will be over the next several months and CalFire crew will consist of National Guard Reservists. Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) will soon be coming back to City Council for Final presentation and approval. No updates yet on the City submitted Grant Application to CalFire for additional Emergency Corridor vegetation clearance work along Skyline and evacuation corridors.

b. EMSD Report – No update from prior OFSC Meeting

City and EMSD will likely have an update at the next OFSC meeting.

c. Community Preparedness and Neighborhood Organizing – Jen Grimm, Joelle Fraser, and Doug Mosher

OFSC Outreach and Preparedness team working with Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson's Office in planning for a Preparedness Day scheduled for October 5th, 2024 and noted that this will also be our recognition of our Ten Year Anniversary. It will be in Berkeley at the Ed Roberts Campus near the BART Station and there will be more details as Preparedness Day working with Supervisor Carson's office planning continues. Joelle reported that Kaiser Neighborhood received Firewise Certification and that she continues working with Adam Ball the City of Oakland Vegetation Management Supervisor on two more potential Firewise neighborhoods.

d. OWLS update – Dale Ridsen

Dale Ridsen of FOJMP commented that the City of Oakland had reached the agreement with CalFire and it was completed and that they are looking forward to working with them to reduce the fuel loads further.

Chair reported that City Council District 4 held an appreciation event for OWLS at the Joaquin Miller Center on 2/3/24 and that Councilperson Ramachandran was highly effective and very appreciative of the OWLS and OFSC at her meeting for recognition of Council District 4 champions.

e. Goat Grazing Contract – Martin Matarrese

The updated Goat Grazing contract with the City of Oakland has gone to the City Council for approval and should be finalized shortly. In the contract, the Goat Contractor and Martin will work with the OWLS and with Oakland Fire Department Adam Ball Vegetation Management Supervisor on grazing per site and what native plant species may need to be protected and how long the goats graze at each site with Fire Prevention as the highest priority. Martin will be training someone on his duties and processes so that there will be a smooth transition if and when he retires.

f. Neighboring Firesafecouncil updates – no new updates.

g. Regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) update – As read by the Chair

Lisa Jacobs emailed to the Chair and then it was reported:

The MOU has now been ratified by:

Alameda County

Contra Costa County

Berkeley

Oakland

Richmond

Plus, El Cerrito, Hayward, Pinole, the Rodeo-Hercules Fire District and perhaps Union City are expected to ratify in March.

Other jurisdictions are welcome to join but with this group we are scheduling the first meeting of the Wildfire Prevention Coordinating group (defined in the MOU) likely in the second half of March or early April.

It will be a public meeting to be held at the PlaceWorks office in Berkeley - a neutral location. We will announce date and logistics as soon as they are confirmed.

h. Initiative on Climate Change – UC Study Group Update – Louise Comfort – Zoom problems and would submit update later via email to the Chair.

The study has moved on to the Digital Twin and the study's website is up and available at <https://geomechanics.berkeley.edu/scc/> and she and the UC Study Group has and continues to thank OFSC for participation and support.

4. New Business

Chair recognized Peter Reed and Doug Mosher to discuss the work that Peter has been leading with Councilperson Ramachandran's staff to get a letter from the Councilperson to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Peter reported:

Doug and I met with Janani on the topic of resilient cell phone service during disasters.

The FCC's Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative (MDRI) was created without consideration of PSPS events. We hope to have the CPUC include PSPS to MDRI for California. Janani was receptive to the idea of her office sending the attached letter to the CPUC.

Chair recognized Peter for his work on this and asked that OFSC be kept apprised of any CPUC reaction and or response.

5. Open Forum

Next meeting March 20, 2024, 7pm on Zoom

Meeting adjourned by President/Chair Elizabeth Stage at 8:36pm