

CAMBRIA FOREST COMMITTEE

TO CONSERVE AND MANAGE THE NATIVE FOREST OF CAMBRIA

Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2018, 6:30 PM

Cambria Rabobank, 1070 Main Street

A **Quorum** was established by the attendance of Crosby and Laura Swartz, JoEllen Butler, and Christine Heinrichs. Harry Farmer attended as CCSD representative, Nancy Anderson of Greenspace, and private citizen Brad Seek.

Public and Director Comments

The June meeting at which Dr. Matt Ritter spoke was well attended by over 80 people. An account of his talk is posted on the Forest Committee web site,

<http://cambriaforestcommittee.org/documents-2/californias-iconic-plants/>.

The **Minutes of the May Meeting** were approved with two corrections: The name Lynn Soborn in Pasadena, and the balance in the Treasurer's report, which should be \$1,457.60.

Treasurer's Report Laura Swartz: Current balance \$1,435.60. A check for \$100 was sent to Judy Martinez for her assistance on the Spanish translation of the iNaturalist Guide to Invasive Weeds. Attendees at the June meeting donated \$78.

Sub-Committee Reports

Education/Planting/Mitigation/Operations: Dr. Ritter's talk report.

Forest Management:

The County informed the Forest Committee of routine tree trimming, message follows. They do a good job and the Forest Committee is pleased to be included. We will maintain these contacts for future communication.

The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works will begin routine tree trimming and vegetation removal alongside County-maintained roads in Cambria. Work is scheduled to begin this week, by County road crews, and is expected to continue throughout the summer. No road closures are anticipated.

This routine trimming work is being done, in part, to support the County's scheduled surface treatment project in 2019, in addition to providing clearance for over-size vehicles such as delivery trucks, school busses, fire and emergency vehicles.

All trees and vegetation on County-maintained roads are being inspected for maintenance, in compliance with County Public Improvement Standards, M-5a. Trimming and removals are made on a case-by-case basis. All work will be done under the direction of an International

Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Master Arborist. County Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be followed, including measures to restrict the spread of pathogens.

For more information, please feel free to contact Mark Tabares at (805) 781-4354

Joshua Roberts

Transportation Division

Public Works, County of San Luis Obispo

Tel: (805) 788 - 2345 | *An APWA Accredited Agency*

Forest Manager Duties and Funding: The grant in which funding was included for a Forest Manager was not approved. We will continue to seek opportunities to create this position.

Draft Guidelines for Fuel Reduction:

Most of the existing guidelines for the 2018 Weed Abatement Program do not apply to Fern Canyon. As written, they could allow workers to weed-whack all vegetation. The CCSO web site has incorrect information posted. Weed Abatement should leave tree seedlings and ferns and cut the grass around them. Crosby drafted comments that describe more appropriate methods for Fern Canyon posted here. He has discussed with Fire Chief Bill Hollingsworth, who is amenable to the refinements.

Prescribed Burns: Cal Fire has discussed doing more prescribed burns. They add tons of CO2 and particulates to the air and damage the understory. The Forest Committee asks members and other interested residents to review the Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report,

http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_%28vtpeir%29/.

An organization critical of the EIR posts its alternative view at

<http://www.californiachaparral.com/threatstochaparral/helpcalfireeir.html>

The goal is to reduce catastrophic fires. Although no burns are planned locally, the Forest Committee should be knowledgeable about the report and prepared for future discussion.

Report from Fire Safe Focus Group: No Forest Committee members attended. The Fire Safe Focus Group's agenda is reduced and the group will meet only once a month in future.

New Business

Review New Permit Applications: The Forest Committee is still not receiving new permit applications. NCAC's Land Use Committee is good at reviewing them and sharing information with the Forest Committee.

Unfinished Business

Director Liability Insurance: Laura Swartz will contact Matt Clevenger, local agent

who works with nonprofit insurance. Macky and Macky 772-1799 ex 202 matt@mackey-insurance.com

Agenda Items and Speakers for Upcoming Meetings:

Crosby suggested that the Forest Committee could feature **short presentations** using his new projector at future meetings. All suggestions welcome.

Members are encouraged to propose projects suitable for **Cambria Community Council** grants.

The Cambrian hasn't posted local meeting dates recently. Christine Heinrichs will check on that and post meetings to social media.

Christine Heinrichs distributed copies of the Cary Institute on Ecosystem Studies **Tipsheet on Tree-Smart Trade**, to reduce importation of forest pests, <https://www.caryinstitute.org/science-program/research-projects/tree-smart-trade>

Public and Director Comments:

ECO-SLO is hosting upcoming networking events: "The goal of these networking gatherings is to provide a platform for leaders of environmentally-minded organizations to connect, network, and share ideas about collaboration."

The next event will be September 12, followed by November 14, 7:30-9am at French Hospital's Copeland Pavilion (3rd floor).

Free online RSVP: <https://bpt.me/3522449>. Please RSVP online. Your RSVP ensures enough breakfast treats & coffee.

Contact: Mary A. Ciesinski, Executive Director, ECOSLO - Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo, (805) 544-1777, cell (805) 550-2952, ecoslo.org.

Possible future speakers: Jenn Yost, director of Cal Poly's Robert F. Hoover Herbarium; Don Canestro of Rancho Marino; Miranda Canestro of Cuesta College; Rick Hawley of Greenspace.

Ralph Covell would like additional copies of **Tales of the Cambria Woods**. The publication is available as a free download on the Forest Committee website, <http://cambriaforestcommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/TalesCambriaWoods.pdf>. Greenspace has some copies.

Nancy Anderson has noticed **signs of pitch pine canker** on her pine trees. Lack of water weakens trees.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Next Meeting August 8, 2018