

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Conference Call
January 9, 2006

Minutes

In Attendance: Hanna, Koepp (Chair), Lopez, Morrow, Nakamura, Nickles, Piirto, Todd (8)

Meeting called to order at 0907

Opening Comments:

Fritz Koepp welcomed everyone and Doug Piirto kicked off the meeting with a wish for Happy New Year!

Officer Reports:

Past-Chair Report (Doug Piirto):

Doug thanked everyone that was involved in the Fall Meeting. The meeting highlighted some things that we don't always see. New partnerships and collaboration is always exciting.

Doug reviewed the 2005 National Convention in Fort Worth, Texas and said it was an interesting experience. Doug and Fritz represented SoCal SAF at the House of Society Delegates (HSD). The main focus of the meeting was the Volunteer Organization Structure (VOS) Report. There was good debate regarding the many controversial aspects of the report. One thought was: "before we change who we are, should we figure out why people are backing away from SAF?" Key thought that Doug came away with: "Is it time for the identity of SAF to be re-cast?"

Doug also attended National Association of Forest Resource Programs (University) Meetings and recognized some parallel concerns.

A very good meeting, very well done, he would have liked to see additional field trip, however extended distance to complete field trips was a limiting factor.

Back on the local scene: Los Padres Chapter Chair Chris Dicus has arranged Monday meetings/classes with various movers and shakers in wildland fire. Guest speakers have included author Stephen Pyne (today) and, in the future, Kat Anderson, Jan Van Wagendonk, Mark Finney, and USFS Chief Dale Bosworth. These meetings will take place every other week through March 6.

Chair Report (Fritz Koepp)

Fritz thanked all the returning Executive Committee (EC) Members and welcomed Ron Morrow as Chair-Elect.

Fritz said that having an officer with Ron's background and experience in urban forestry is a good way to enhance our diversity. Fritz also congratulated Craig Cowie on his Field Forester Award and John Todd on achieving the Fellow designation.

During the National Convention, Fritz was only able to attend HSD, but he thought it was a good meeting.

Chair-Elect Report (Ron Morrow):

Ron Morrow introduced himself and was warmly received by the group. Ron is a long time member of SAF going back to his days in college. In his early years as a forester he was a Timber Forester in Pennsylvania. He also spent two years as a hotshot in Colorado. During his final two years with the USFS he was a Naturalist in Tucson, Arizona.

Ron then spent fourteen years as the Urban Forester for the city of Colorado Springs. Followed by three years as the Urban Forester for each Pasadena and Anaheim. Currently, Ron is a private consultant and the Urban Forestry Consultant for the city of Dana Point.

Gary asked if Ron has maintained his membership in SAF the entire time and if so – Why? Ron stated that his background in college and early experiences kept him involved in SAF. He did feel, however, that traditional foresters looked down on the practice of urban forestry.

Ron closed out his comments by saying that he is looking forward to being involved in SoCal SAF and that he will seek guidance from active general members and members of the EC.

Council Report (Gary Nakamura):

The majority of the VOS Report was rejected at the last Council Meeting. Gary said that some members who were members of both the SAF and the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) have been backing away from SAF because of they were not comfortable with the high priority given to the protection of the environment within the updated Code of Ethics. The group of discontents is small, however Council is considering re-examining the Code of Ethics. They will not wordsmith the current Code of Ethics. J. and Gary both made the point that the updated Code of Ethics was just approved by a large majority of members a short time ago.

Gary asked if SoCal SAF would like to be involved with the 2008 Convention in Reno. "Forest Restoration" may be a theme.

J. related his experience in being involved with the program committee for the 2000 Convention. The Executive Committee agreed it would be a great opportunity to get involved and gave a thumbs-up to Gary about being involved. J. will attend the upcoming NorCal Meeting to confirm our interest and see how SoCal SAF can assist.

A motion was made that SoCal SAF should explore involvement in the Program Committee for the National Convention in Reno during 2008.

M/ Piirto, S/ Lope, all in favor, no opposition, motion passes.

Several topics that could be explored were discussed:

- Gary suggested inviting all Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) graduates be invited so that they could continue their forestry educational experience.
- Tamara suggested diving in Lake Tahoe to see the forest that has been inundated by the rising lake level.
- Space exploration and how it affects forestry.
- Forest restoration.
- California forest practice regulation – process versus outcome based regulation.
- Urban forestry certification. This is currently being considered by SAF (Gary is a member of the committee that is exploring this). Doug Nickles stated that it is important for the SAF to get involved in further discussion regarding urban forestry or landscape architects and arboriculturists will likely define it.
- Forest management and water – Owens Valley, Lake Tahoe, Reno, etc.
- Doug N. suggested a topic could be how gaming in the state of California has affected natural resources management.

Gary is a member of the SAF accreditation of urban forestry curricula, programs, majors, and degrees. He is on the Education Policy Review Committee that is looking at this issue this year. Gary thinks that SoCal SAF could become involved and our comments are important given Cal Poly SLO's urban forestry program. In addition, Gary stated that all of California's forests can be considered urban forests in that there is a direct, geographic relationship between trees and forests and the urban environment, and there is an indirect, policy/regulation connection between the rural, extensively managed forests and the urban state laws and regulations applied to their management. Gary will send the charter for this committee and background information on this issue to SoCal EC.

Cal Poly SLO lecture series on fire: Doug P. and Chris Dicus will send schedule to Gary for posting on Natural Resources Calendar and promotion among NorCal SAF members. Space seems to be an issue, so advertising beyond Cal Poly should take this into consideration. Perhaps clearance with Dr. Dicus before someone comes from a great distance or outside Cal Poly SLO community.

To assist SoCal SAF in addressing chapter inactivity and leadership development Gary will send us the NorCal 2003 membership survey that was sent to both members and non-members so we can gauge what resource professionals want or expect of SAF. He will also send us a flyer for the NorCal Winter Meeting in Reno, NV, January 27-28, 2006.

SAF Fellows – John Todd, 2005 SAF Fellow, will send Gary a draft letter for John's Department Head, regarding the SAF Fellow award, what it means, how professional society activities and participation aides John in achieving his organization's mission and goals. Gary will prepare and send a letter and get National SAF to complete a similar letter. Gary will share the idea of notifying supervisors of Fellow recipients of their award with Council (perhaps others in Council do this as a matter of course).

SoCal SAF sends out letters of welcome to new SAF members. Gary will see if NorCal SAF also sends out letters.

The way Fellows are being elected is changing because the number of Fellows has exceeded the 5% guideline. With the new method a nominating committee made up of Council members will nominate worthy members. Then a regional five-member group of Fellows will review the

nominees and complete confirmation. The newly created Fellow Committee could also look at Field Forester nominations.

Secretary's Report (John Todd)

John thanked everyone for the efforts to elect him as Fellow and said that he was thrilled to receive the letter from National SAF stating that he had achieved the Fellow designation.

The Executive Committee positions for 2006 were reviewed and they are as follows:

Chair – Fritz Koepf
Chair-Elect – Ron Morrow
Past Chair – Doug Piirto
Secretary – John Todd
Treasurer – Tamara Hanna
Tellers – Tamara Hanna
Audit – J. Lopez
Membership – Tamara Hanna
Policy/Legislation – Fritz Koepf
Communications – J. Lopez, Jeff Reimer
Education – John Todd
Awards & Recognition – Tamara Hanna
Nominations – Doug Piirto
Programs – Fritz Koepf

Special appointments are as follows:

Forest Science Coordinator – Doug Piirto
Newsletter Editor – J. Lopez
Historian – Doug Nickles
San Diego Member at Large – Craig Cowie
Los Padres Member at Large – John Bryant
Inland Empire Member at Large – Vacant

Current Chapter Officers are as follows:

San Gabriel Chapter Chair – Michael Fleisher
Los Padres Chapter Chair – Chris Dicus
Cal Poly Student Chapter Chair – Doug P. will provide this info.

Chris Dicus remains the faculty advisor for SAF at Cal Poly SLO..

John said he would send the updated position roster for 2006 to National SAF. Also, he will send it to J. so he can update the newsletter and Jeff Reimer so he can update the SoCal SAF website.

John expressed his concern for the need to re-energize the San Gabriel Chapter and the Los Padres Chapter with possible new Officers. Doug P. mentioned that continuity might have been lost – the Chair teaching the new Chair-Elect and so on. Doug N. stated that we need to serve as mentors to the chapters to assist them in regaining momentum. As an aside, Doug N. mentioned that backpacking in Patagonia would be a good topic (alluding to J.'s recent trip to the southern hemisphere).

Gary commented on chapter inactivity as they have this problem in NorCal with one-third to one-half of the chapters. NorCal SAF completed a survey of members to see what they are interested in. Perhaps a survey could be included with spring newsletter. John asked Gary for a copy of the survey. Gary suggested that we might also want to send the survey to non-members.

A joint meeting with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) was mentioned as a way we could benefit both SAF and ISA. Ron mentioned that tying in ISA and PCA credits for our meetings would enhance interest and attendance.

Ron asked about the number of students that attended the National Convention. Nearly one-third of the attendees were students. Gary stated that attracting students remains an important goal for the future of SAF.

John was asked to send out the notes from last 2005 EC meeting so that they can be reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Tamara Hanna):

Tamara e-mailed out the Proposed 2006 Annual Budget.

Treasurer's Report for the Fall Meeting was sent out on November 16.

The last minute approval of covering dinner significantly decreased profits from the Fall Meeting. Some questioned how this vote was made – Doug P. confirmed that a quorum was achieved to make this decision. Some people paid for their own dinner and their money was accepted as a cash donation to SoCal SAF. Doug N. stated that we need to make sure that we budget for this type of expenditure ahead of time so that our actions will not negatively affect the state society budget. Doug P. stated that we did have the needed info to consider the request and that the action was legitimate.

Tamara has not completed the 2005 year-end report as she is waiting for the final banking statement for 2005.

Tamara stated that the balance as of December 28, 2005 was \$5209.35. Total bank balance has not gone down. We are a little bit over where we were this time last year.

Total number of members is currently at 144 members. Income from 2005 meeting was less than \$300 – far short of the annual goal of \$1000 for 2005. For National Convention in 2004 and 2005 the only one that claimed National Convention stipend was Fritz. Money for 2005 convention travel has not been distributed to the Cal Poly students. Doug P. will check with the student chapter to see if the Cal Poly students need the money and if so, he will let Tamara know.

Ron asked if other universities are entitled to receive funds from SoCal SAF for National Convention travel. Fritz said this may be tied to a university having a student chapter. J. pointed out that we supported Pierce College student travel in the past even though they did not have a student chapter.

Fritz asked if we could make a motion that the money that was for chair expenses at Ft. Worth could be re-allocated for J. Lopez to travel to the upcoming meeting in Reno. A motion was made to approve \$200 for J.'s travel to Reno. Discussion: this allotment would just be seed

money for the first trip. Additional expenses can be considered for approval if needed. Also, if a SoCal SAF is involved there may be monies forthcoming from NorCal to support a SoCal representative's travel. M/Nickles, S/Piirto, all in favor, no opposition, motion passed.

Tamara went over the remaining proposed budget for 2006.

Motion to approve the proposed SoCal SAF budget for 2006 with line item amendment for J. to travel to the Reno meeting. M/Piirto, S/Lopez, all in favor, no opposition, motion passed

Committee Reports:

Awards and Recognition Chair Report (Tamara Hanna):

Tamara to work on Past Chair award for Doug P.

Need to locate the perpetual Chair award – probably in ‘the box’ that Fritz received from Doug P. Tamara needs to get the award back so she can update the perpetual plaque.

Craig Cowie received his Field Forester Award at the Fall Meeting.

Fellow award for John Todd is being passed around via mail. It will be presented to him at an upcoming meeting.

Communications Chair Report (J. Lopez):

Spotlight article for the spring *Sundial* will be Craig Cowie. Also, it would be nice to include a paragraph or two about our new members. Fritz's article will include a brief introduction of Chair-Elect Ron Morrow and then Ron can provide his own thoughts in the Chair-Elect section.

Doug N. will complete an article for the Fall Meeting that we will be in *The Sundial*. It will also be sent to *The Forestry Source* for possible publication. J. asked if there was a picture taken of Craig Cowie receiving the Field Forester Award Gary said he will forward the photo to J. for inclusion in the Member Spotlight Section of *The Sundial*.

The deadline for articles to include in *The Sundial* is February 10, 2006.

Membership Chair Report (Tamara Hanna):

Currently there are 144 members in SoCal SAF. Two new members joined after the Fall Meeting.

Tamara will send out letters welcoming the new members. She will carbon copy the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary so that all are aware of new members and the correspondence that has been sent out.

Historian (Doug Nickles):

Doug gave an overview of a recent oral history video-interview that was completed by Doug, John, and J. at the home of David Waite. It was a fun and informative evening and they will be going back for a second session to explore some topics in greater depth. Doug stated that SoCal SAF may want to continue doing other oral histories with other long-term members. Doug inquired about additional funds to edit and polish this type of oral history interviews. Gary suggested the Forester Fund could be a vehicle for securing additional funds.

Doug is reviewing the remaining Archives for putting together an additional article for *The Sundial*.

Doug was asked to provide the appropriate updates to the SoCal SAF Leadership Manual

Audit (Lopez):

J., along with Tellers Committee Chair, Tamara Hanna, certified the SoCal SAF election results that resulted in Ron Morrow being elected Chair-Elect.

Chapter Reports:

Los Padres Chapter: Chris D. was not in attendance. Chris is still chair. They had one meeting with the Native Plant Society last year.

San Gabriel Chapter: Past-Chair Michael Fleisher was not in attendance. J. said that additional support for Mike is needed. Maybe a joint meeting with a local Fire Safe Council could provide some initial momentum to re-energize the chapter.

Cal Poly Students: Six students from Cal Poly attended the National Convention in Ft. Worth. Doug P. will ask the student members to provide a report that could be included in the NorCal and SoCal newsletters. Gary asked that they make sure to include additional details on what the convention meant to each of them on a personal level.

Spring and Fall Meetings:

Spring Meeting:

The group suggested that an hour or two during our Spring Meeting for Leadership Training and updates to the Leadership Training Manual be reserved.

Gary and J. said that continuing to involve a family component on the Saturdays during the meetings has been very beneficial to both family members and SoCal SAF.

Proposed dates: March 24 - 25, 2006 (Friday/Saturday)

Back-up dates : March 31 – April 1, 2006 (Friday/Saturday)

Title: Undecided

Possible topics include: Arborist outlook on 100' defensible space, Fire Management in Rancho Santa Margarita, Cedar Fire recovery on the Cleveland National Forest within areas of San Diego County (Palomar Mountain).

Location: Friday – Rancho Santa Margarita with local fire official Mike Scott, Mt. Palomar
Saturday – Palomar Mountain

Program Committee: Ron, J., Fritz, John, and Tamara

Next planning meeting – Conference call scheduled for January 30, 2006

Fall Meeting:

Proposed dates: September 29 - 30, 2006 (Friday/Saturday)

Back-up dates: October 7 - 8, 2006

Topic: Undecided

Location: Cal Poly SLO (very tentative)

Program Committee: Undecided

Craig Cowie will continue to coordinate conference calls both for the Executive Committee and the Program Committee.

Future Executive Committee Meeting Dates:

Scheduled dates for Executive Committee Meetings or Conference Calls for 2006 are as follows. All meetings are scheduled for 0900 – 1200 hours.

Monday, January 30, 2006 (Planning for the spring meeting)

Monday, February 27, 2006

Monday, June 12, 2006

Monday, August 21, 2006

Action Items:

All Executive Committee Members

- If you have photos from previous SAF meetings or events, send them to Jeff Reimer for posting on the SoCal SAF website.
- Send your articles to J. Lopez so he can publish another outstanding version of *The Sundial*.

Chris Dicus:

- Secure future leadership for the Los Padres Chapter.
- Chris and Doug P. will send schedule for Cal Poly SLO lecture series on fire to Gary for posting on Natural Resources Calendar and promotion among NorCal SAF members.

- Chris will provide the name of the Cal Poly Student Chapter Chair.

Michael Fleisher:

- Secure future leadership for the San Gabriel Chapter.

Tamara Hanna:

- Past chair award for Doug P.
- Need to locate the perpetual Chair award – probably in ‘the box’ that Fritz received from Doug P. Tamara needs to get the award back so she can update the perpetual plaque.
- Fellow award for John Todd is being passed around via mail. It will be presented to him at an upcoming meeting.
- Tamara will send out letters welcoming the new members. She will carbon copy the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary so that all are aware of new members and the correspondence that has been sent out.

J. Lopez:

- Publish the spring meeting announcement and *The Sundial*.

Doug Piirto:

- Doug P. will check with the student chapter to see if the Cal Poly students need their 2005 National Convention allotment and if so, he will let Tamara know.
- Doug P. will ask the student members to provide a report on the National Convention that could be included in the NorCal and SoCal newsletters.

Doug Nickles:

- Doug N. will complete an article for the fall meeting that we will be in *The Sundial*. It will also be sent to *The Forestry Source* for possible publication.

John Todd:

- John will send the updated position roster for 2006 to National SAF. Also, he will send it to J. so he can update the newsletter, Jeff Reimer so he can update the SoCal SAF website, and Doug N. so he can update the Leadership Manual.
- John will send out the notes from the last 2005 EC meeting so that they can be reviewed and approved.
- John will send Gary a draft letter for his Department Head, regarding the SAF Fellow award, what it means, how professional society activities and participation aides in John’s achieving his organization’s mission and goals. Gary will prepare and send a letter and get National SAF to complete a similar letter.

Next Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, January 30, 2006.
Craig will forward conference call details as the date approaches.

Meeting adjourned at 1235 hours.

Respectfully submitted by John R. Todd
Secretary, Southern California SAF

(c:\md\SoCal SAF EC 01.09.06)