

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Glendale Fire Department Headquarters
January 12, 2007

Minutes

In Attendance: Brown, Bryant, Gubrud, Hanna, Morrow (Chair), Nickles, Todd (7)

Opening Comments:

Doug Nickles welcomed everyone to the Glendale Fire Department (GFD) and provided the logistical layout of the facility.

Chair Ron Morrow welcomed everyone and thanked Doug and GFD for hosting the meeting.

The minutes from the December 11, 2006 conference call were reviewed and approved. Any further changes or comments e-mail to John T.

Officer Reports:

Chair Report (Ron Morrow):

Ron acknowledged Mary Ann Koepp's illness and he requested a moment of prayer and thought for both Fritz and Mary Ann.

Ron provided an overview of his method for running meetings and he asked for everyone to introduce themselves. Special guest, Caroline Brown of the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council, introduced herself to the Executive Committee (EC).

Ron reviewed the agenda provided by Doug and asked for additions.

Treasurer's Report (Tamara Hanna):

Tamara shared several handouts with the EC. One document was a comparison of the last three years proposed/actual budget looking at net gain/loss. She stressed that we need to look at the budget for our meetings and stick to our spending plans more closely. One area of overspending that has been identified is in the awards area. Perhaps consistently holding a raffle during the spring and fall meetings could offset some of the additional expenses for awards.

Ron and Doug maintained that meeting costs have stayed consistent but expenses have increased. Basically, we need to look at raising the registration fee for our meetings. Tamara reviewed the fall meeting summary. John T. pointed out that the vans were a new expense that put us in the red. We will need to charge more in the future if we are going to rent vehicles for a field tour. John Bryant says we could easily raise annual dues a couple of dollars and our dues could cover expenses. The EC reviewed the list of what other state societies charge. The amount varies from \$4 to \$25.

Tamara calculated our annual proposed operating expenses at about \$1900 with annual income at \$700. The EC concluded that raising the dues from \$6 to \$10 would assist in reducing the annual shortfall. Raising the dues will need to be approved by a vote of the membership. Membership can be polled during when the Chair-elect ballot is mailed. Doug suggested including a proposed budget with the ballot. Ron summarized the EC's proposal: raising dues \$4, include a raffle as line item in the budget, and have specific monetary goal for workshops. *A motion was made by John Bryant to approve the proposal, second Gubrud, motion approved, all in favor, none opposed.* Tamara to put together proposed budget and ballot with an assist from Doug and Ron.

Executive Committee Business Meeting

Ron talked about the importance of continuity for the Program Chair. Currently the Program Chair is an auxiliary duty of the Chair-elect and the position is held for only one year. Other EC positions can be held for several years at a time (Secretary, Treasurer) thereby assuring greater continuity. Ron feels that to assure the proper planning and to maintain quality programs the Program Chair also needs to serve for more than one year. The EC understands that the outgoing Program Chair must complete a fair amount of planning for the spring meeting. Should this fact receive greater emphasis or should the Program Chair position become a position that may be held for multiple years? Appointing a multi-year Program Chair this will require a change to the SoCal SAF By-laws. Ron and John T. agreed to review the By-laws and report back to the EC.

A discussion focused on recruitment and membership. John B. suggested that re-invigorating the chapters will assist in raising active participation at the state society levels. Ron stressed the need to draw in new members and officers.

Define Purpose and Role of SoCal SAF for 2007

The EC stated a goal of having four sit down meetings each year. One meeting will take place early in the year in the LA area and another will take place around the beginning of school in San Luis Obispo. There will also be EC meetings scheduled to coincide with both the spring and fall meetings. EC meetings can also be schedule as needed via Conference Calls.

Ron asked the question – do we need to have two overnight meetings annually? Should we have one overnight meeting and a one-day meeting? Should we look to include other fun and family oriented events, like a picnic or BBQ?

Doug suggested that the state society could set up the Friday meeting and the local chapter could be responsible for the Saturday field event and that this would be a more equitable means of sharing the responsibilities for planning and running a meeting. If state society and chapters were to work together on a meeting, revenue sharing would need to be negotiated with the involved chapters. The SoCal SAF State Society can continue to be responsible for providing the raffle.

The need to maintain adequate officers for chapters, who may eventually become officers on the state level, was again stressed.

Doug N. provided an update on the current policy statement from the Board of Forestry (BOF) regarding "The Practice of Forestry as it Relates to Other Professions." Proposed policy and discussion was shared as an FYI for SoCal SAF. We do not need to endorse or disagree with the

policy statements. Doug will keep us up to date as he receives correspondence. Forward comments to Doug N. via e-mail, he will summarize comments and forward to Eric Huff (Executive Officer of the BOF)

Doug N. states that the SoCal SAF newsletter, *The Sundial*, remains the face of our organization. The EC agreed that we all need to contribute and do our part to make sure that our newsletter is published. J. Lopez was on vacation and unable to attend the meeting. J. will continue in his roll as Communications Chair. He will be working with new *Sundial* editor Shawna Meyer during 2007.

The EC agreed that regular newsletters with some info are better than no newsletters. The editor needs to send out firm reminders for items that our missing for newsletters. The EC's goal is to publish three newsletters a year.

Deadlines for newsletter submissions will be May 15, September 15, December 15, and February 15. Publishing dates will May 31 (summer) September 30 (fall) December 31 (winter) and Feb. 28 (spring – as needed). It remains important to separate meeting announcements and ballots from the newsletter – this has bogged down newsletter completion as the editor had to complete and/or create ballots, meeting announcements, and the newsletter.

Chapter Reports:

Los Padres Chapter: Chris Dicus is Chapter Chair with John Bryant serving as member at large and advisor.

San Gabriel Chapter: Doug Nickles will assume chapter chair. He was appointed by the EC. *Motion by John B., second by Tamara, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.* Kelly Kim has agreed to continue as treasurer for the chapter. Doug will try to set up 3 or 4 evening time or daytime meetings. John T. suggested meeting locations could include the newly re-constructed Pasadena City Hall and recently refurbished Griffith Observatory.

Cal Poly Students: Chapter Chair is Nikki Gross and the faculty adviser is Samantha Gill.

2007 Planning – Calendar, Meetings, and Activities

The EC asked the question how do we continue to interest new people and maintain our membership numbers at an acceptable level.

A discussion ensued of what SoCal SAF means to professionals in the natural resources community. The EC agreed that SoCal SAF needs to be a professional society that mirrors the broad, multi-discipline environment of today's work place.

When planning meetings we need to continue to look at securing continuing education units from other certifying organizations (International Society of Arboriculture and Pesticide Applicator's Professional Association) to draw other professionals to our activities that have common interests.

John Bryant suggested that a one-day EC meeting or the fall meeting could take place at Cal Poly, SLO. Topics could include Doug Piirto's experience in Finland, Rich Thompson's biomass

research, and we could talk about a new extension program at Cal Poly – a certificate program in Emergency Management. This may eventually become the first major of this type on the west coast.

Tamara has a contact at the biomass plant in Mecca (near the Salton Sea) that could be tied into the fall meeting or a future meeting. Eric Oldar can also provide contacts for a conversion plant in the Inland Empire and for the biomass plant in Mecca. Another topic for consideration could be methane gas recovery from old dairy lands that is currently happening in Chino.

The upcoming Cal Poly Advisory Council Meeting (last week in January) may provide an opportunity for Doug N. and John B. to approach Donn Zea about partnering up on a future forest products utilization meeting (could involve a visit to the Mecca co-gen plant).

2007 SoCal SAF Calendar

Spring meeting: April 20-21, 2007, Sierra Madre, CA
No Leadership Conference this year – held every other year
San Gabriel Chapter Activity in June, location and activity to be decided
Fall meeting: September 28-29, 2007 Cal Poly SLO
House of Society Delegates Meeting – Oct 21-22, 2007, Portland, OR
SAF National Convention – Oct 23-27, 2007 Portland, OR

Spring and Fall Meetings:

Spring Meeting:

The meeting will take place at Nature Friends Clubhouse facility above Sierra Madre
The charge to stay at Nature Friends Clubhouse is \$15 per person and \$10 per night.
Dinner can be prepared in the kitchen and breakfast can also be prepared on site.
Nature Friends only charges for members who attend. There is no minimum charge. SoCal SAF has already submitted a \$150 deposit and we have the facility reserved for the weekend.

Working Title: Forester's and Fire Safe Councils: Nature's Friends
Reserved Dates: April 20-21, 2007 (Friday/Saturday)

SoCal SAF would like to co-sponsor with the Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council (FSC). This will allow other members of other nearby FSCs will attend the meeting.

Proposed Agenda – Friday, April 20, 2007
0800 – 0930 Executive Committee Meeting
0930 Registration
1000 Meeting begins
1200 Lunch
1300 Meeting continues
1700 SoCal SAF EC Meeting adjourns
1800 Social Hour
1900 Spaghetti Dinner
2030 Evening Program – J. Lopez recent travels to Patagonia and New Zealand

Possible topics include:

- Sierra Madre FSC – Successes, challenges...
- Activities of other foothill FSCs.
- Urban Forestry

Program Committee: Marty, Tamara, John T.

Tentative proposed costs:

2 days - \$65

1 day - \$35

Golden Member, guests, and students: at cost

Martin and Tamara will use the SoCal SAF Leadership Manual to guide planning efforts and to analyze meeting expenses.

Next Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2007 at 0900 hours. John T. will provide call-in details prior to the conference call.

Fall Meeting:

Proposed dates: September 28 - 29, 2007 (Friday/Saturday)

Topic: Undecided

Location: Cal Poly SLO

Friday Program – SoCal SAF

Saturday Field Tour – Los Padres Chapter

Program Committee: Undecided

Assignments, Updates:

Doug can use the 12-11-07 EC notes to update the positions in the leadership manual.

John T. has sent updates to National to all elected and appointed officers.

John T. and Ron will review Bylaws and converse if they believe changes are needed. Any proposed changes will be presented to the EC at a later date.

Tamara will put together a budget with proposed numbers based on ideas and directions presented today. The proposed budget will be reviewed and, if possible, approved during the February 12, 2007 Conference Call.

Membership changes – All members of the EC need to review all documentation for proposed changes. Most of the EC in attendance agreed with the changes in concept, but we need to review new materials and provide further direction to the Chair during the next scheduled Conference Call. Tamara will forward new information received from Charlene that includes HSD input to the proposal.

Next Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2007 from 0900 – 1100 hours. John T. will forward conference call details as the date approaches.

Meeting adjourned at 1500 hours.

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

(c:\md\SoCal SAF EC 01.12.07)