

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
January 16, 2004

Minutes

In Attendance: Cowie, Fleisher, Gubrud, Hanna, Helms, Lopez, Koepp, Nakamura, Nickles, Piirto (Chair), Sears, Todd (12)

Meeting called to order at 0908

Chair for 2004 Dr. Doug Piirto welcomed all in attendance and stated he was looking forward to a year of working together and an opportunity to “bring more into the field.”

Congratulations were offered to John Helms for being elected SAF Vice President and Gary Nakamura for being elected District VII Council Representative.

Tamara Hanna brought SAF business records and archives in several storage boxes. Storage of the boxes was discussed. Doug Piirto agreed to store the business records and Doug Nickles agreed to store the archives.

Officer Reports:

Past-Chair Report (Craig Cowie):

Craig thanked everyone for their assistance in 2003 and said a very busy year at work compromised his ability to accomplish all he would have liked to accomplish.

Due to the Southern California Fires Craig had to leave early during the National Convention. He was, however, able to attend the House of Society Delegates Meeting. Craig, having attended previous HSD meeting felt this was a more focused meeting. Delegates fought less over ideas and concepts and were more concerned with outcomes.

Craig signed and sent six letters related to resource issues to political office holders on behalf of SoCal SAF during 2003. The letter written supporting the Healthy Forest Initiative generated a response from Senator Feinstein’s office. Gary Nakamura suggested sending letters to more local congressional representatives for more local support. Doug Nickles pointed out that if the issue is not germane to the local congressional district the local representative may not be interested.

Craig stated he would follow up with SoCal SAF Historian Paul Rippens to determine if he wants to continue to serve in this role. Doug Nickles has volunteered to maintain the archives and is willing to serve as Historian after Craig has had a chance to follow up with Paul.

John Helms suggested that some form of formal recognition was in order for Policy Chair Fritz Koepp thanking him for his outstanding efforts in the field of forest policy over the past year. Tamara Hanna said she would work on a certificate and that she would discuss the specifics of the letter with Doug Piirto. M/ Sears, S/ Cowie, all in favor – Motion carried.

It was suggested that similar recognition for Mick Sears for all his efforts, from feeding us to balancing the books, is also in order. M/ Nickles, S/ Todd, all in favor – Motion carried.

Chair Report (Doug Piirto)

Reported on the National Convention last fall in Buffalo, NY. Really enjoyed the meeting and felt that it was exceptionally well run.

Looking forward to an eventful 2004. Currently the Chair-Elect position is vacant and we all need to consider viable candidates to fill the position. Mick Sears will transition the role of Treasurer to Tamara Hanna in 2004. John Todd will continue as Secretary for SoCal SAF.

Remaining Executive Committee positions for 2004:

Tellers Chair – Tamara Hanna
Auditing Chair – J. Lopez
Membership Chair – John Todd
Policy/Legislation Chair – Fritz Koepf
Communications Chair – J. Lopez, Doug Nickles, Jeff Reimer
Education Chair – John Todd
Awards & Recognition – Tamara Hanna, Mick Sears
Nominating Chair – Craig Cowie
Programs Chair – Vacant

Special Appointments are as follows:

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

Chapter Officers:

San Gabriel Chapter Chair – Michael Fleisher
Los Padres Chapter Chair – Chris Dicus
Cal Poly Student Chapter Chair – Wesley Cruzen

Doug wanted to know if we ever sent ‘Thank you’ letters to speakers and facilitators for our Fall Meeting. John Todd and Tamara Hanna will contact Doug Piirto and Doug Nickles to determine who should receive letters, then Tamara and John will work together to get letter to Doug Piirto for signature.

Secretary’s Report (John Todd):

Due to the fact that the majority of the Executive Committee meetings were held via conference call during 2003 we had several sets of notes to review. Notes from the meetings that took place on 2-3-03, 5-13-03 and 11-17-03 were distributed. The notes from the two planning meeting that were conducted in advance of the Fall Meeting were not distributed. All agreed accept the notes as presented with the understanding the EC members would review the minutes at their

convenience and forward any necessary corrections to the Secretary prior to final recordation. M/ Koepp, S/ Sears, all in favor – Motion carried.

Chair requested that the Secretary add “Action Items” at the end of each set of EC notes.

Treasurer’s Report (Mick Sears):

Mr. Sears reported that it was a very good year financially for SoCal SAF. We did particularly well at the Fall Meeting because of a good turnout and low overhead costs.

Mick shared a comparison of the 2002 and the 2003 budgets. This comparison illuminated the importance of picking locations to hold meetings. Our budget took a big hit in 2002 to cover the expense of the meeting location at the Doral Resort in Palm Springs.

SoCal SAF insurance for field activities expired at the end of 2003. If we are planning any field activities for this year we will need to renew the policy. Most years SoCal SAF had had some type of field activity so this should be an anticipated annual expense from now on.

Brief discussion about SoCal SAF members in the local newspapers. Chris Dicus was widely quoted in an article in the *LA Daily News* on backfiring and Jim Asher was featured in an article in the *LA Times* about replanting the forest of the San Bernardino Mountain with Sequoia trees. Newsletter Editor J. Lopez will seek permission to reprint these articles in the *Sundial*.

Committee Reports:

Awards and Recognition (Tamara Hanna):

Golden Member (50 years) was awarded to SoCal SAF member Sam Alfano. Tamara framed the certificate, back to back, with the letter of congratulations from the National Office. It will be presented to Sam at an appropriate time and place.

Past Chair Award is being engraved and will be presented at the Spring Meeting.

Craig Cowie presented the National SAF Field Forester Award to Glendale Urban Fire Forester Douglas V. Nickles.

Communications Chair (J. Lopez):

Newsletter Editor J. Lopez reported that he sent out a Spring and Fall *Sundial* during 2003. He is still receiving requests from individual members to send them a hard copy of the newsletter. Last year the *Sundial* was distributed both via electronically and via US mail. Discussion about whether or not hard copies still need to be mailed to all members followed. At this time, it was decided that those members who feel comfortable with receiving it electronically could let J. know while the remaining members will continue to receive a hard copy via the mail.

Discussion about whether or not SoCal SAF should continue with the inclusion of color photos in the newsletter. Doug Nickles pointed out that maintaining and printing color newsletters is expensive. J. mentioned that most state society newsletters he receives are in black and white. We agreed to continue with color pictures in our newsletter as long as the Glendale Fire Department is providing reproduction.

The deadlines for input in to the Spring edition of the *Sundial* are March 1. Publication is scheduled for March 15. The deadline for input into the Fall edition of the *Sundial* is September 1, with publication scheduled for September 15.

Policy Chair Report (Fritz Koepp):

Fritz reported that last year SoCal SAF sent six letters regarding resource issues. Three letters were sent to the USFS on various issues. Other letters that were sent detailed SoCal SAF concerns and thoughts regarding the Healthy Forest Initiative, the Giant Sequoia Monument, and the Southern California Forest Plan Review.

Gary Nakamura suggested that SoCal SAF needs to mesh better on policy issues with NorCal SAF.

Membership Chair Report (John Todd):

John gave a brief rundown of the membership categories within SoCal SAF. Membership numbers have stabilized at about 150 members. John agreed to continue in this role during 2004.

Current numbers, as of December 31, 2003, are as follows:

SoCal SAF (no chapter declared):	43
San Gabriel Chapter:	46
Los Padres Chapter:	38
Cal Poly Student Chapter:	21
SoCal SAF Total Members:	148

Education Chair Report (John Todd):

John mentioned that towards the end of 2003 National SAF Science and Education Coordinator Michelle Mauthe-Harvey sent an e-mail looking for feedback regarding the Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) program. Some have been feeling that with the advent of the Certified Forester (CF) classification and the fact that most Continuing Education (CE) would be taken to remain qualified as a CF that interest in the present style of CFE may be waning. Shortly after that, Michelle informed us that she was leaving SAF to start her own business so for at least the immediate time being, the CFE program will be continued.

Mick Sears asked if CFE units would be available for the day's EC Meeting. John said he would evaluate the meeting, put together the CFE notice, and forward it to all members in attendance.

SAF Strategic Plan:

SAF Vice President John Helms provided an overview of the National SAF Strategic Plan. State Societies, Divisions, and Chapters are being encouraged to adopt, or adapt, parts of the Strategic Plan that will best serve its membership, the surrounding community, and at the same time, will remain in alignment with the goals of SAF as an organization.

Craig Cowie suggested SoCal SAF should narrow down our desired outcomes to approximately a half dozen bullets that could be presented to SoCal SAF membership. At the same time the EC could identify where our desired outcomes fit within the National Strategic Plan Outcomes.

At this point members of the EC went through an exercise where twelve suggested outcomes and priorities were identified. Each member then picked six outcomes, ranking them from most important to least important. The outcomes, rankings, and votes received were as follows:

TOP SIX

- #1 *Develop tactics and programs aimed at invigorating less-active chapters and working groups (42)*
- #2 *Effectively engage and advocate in all important forestry related public policy issues at the national, state, and local levels. (37)*
- #3 *Identify current and emerging forest science, management policy, and conservation issues for which position statements or white papers are needed or which could form the basis for local or regional conferences or workshops. (33)*
- #4 *Provide leadership training for local SAF members. (27)*
- #5 *Develop and maintain personal relations with editorial staff of local newspapers. (18)*
- #6 (tie) *Discuss with employers the benefits of SAF membership and attendance at SAF sponsored workshops and conferences. (10)*
- #6 (tie) *Conduct fund raising at state meetings. (10)*

THE REST

- #8 *Develop and present teacher training programs. (8)*
- #9 (tie) *Summarize and communicate information on Best Management Practices and forest practice regulation (7)*
- #9 (tie) *Secure funding for, and membership participation in, the Leadership Academy. (7)*
- #11 *Develop specific tactics to address membership recruitment and retention needs. (4)*
- #12 *Analyze support needs to enhance programs (0)*

Leadership Workshop Review:

Doug Nickles provided an update to the Leadership Notebook that was provided during the 2002 Southern California Leadership Workshop. Handouts included organizational charts, Chapter officers, the SoCal SAF Calendar, a list of SoCal SAF Materials and Supplies, and an updated contact list. Doug gave committee members a list of remaining materials that need to be included to make the notebook current.

The SoCal SAF Organization Chart was reviewed. J. Lopez accepted the role as Auditing Chair. Craig Cowie agreed to take on the role of Nominating Chair. It was agreed that Nominating Chair would be a new role that the Past Chair would be responsible for. Craig also agreed to represent San Diego County as a Member at Large. J. Lopez said he would contact Jim Asher to determine if he wanted to continue in a Member at large for the Inland Empire.

Doug asked if it would be possible to move our e-mail address, on-line calendar and on-line photo album from Yahoo to the SoCal SAF website. Will need to check with Webmaster Jeff Reimer.

Spring and Fall Meetings:

Spring Meeting:

Proposed dates: April 23 - 24, 2004 (Friday/Saturday)

Back-up dates: April 30 – May 1, 2004

Topic: Implications of the Healthy Forest Initiative

Location: To be determined

Program Committee: Cowie (Chair), Nickels, Nakamura, Hanna, Gubrud, Koeppe

The suggestion was made that it would a good idea to invite the NorCal Executive Committee for a joint Executive Committee Meeting during this years Spring Meeting followed by a joint meeting of NorCal and SoCal SAF in Spring 2005.

Fall Meeting:

Proposed dates: October 22 - 23, 2004 (Friday/Saturday)

Back-up dates: October 29 - 30, 2004

Topic: Science Symposium and Management of Natural Landscapes

Location: To be determined

Program Committee: Nickles, Lopez, Nakamura

Craig Cowie will continue coordinating Conference Calls both for the Executive Committee and the Program Committees.

2004 Budget:

Tamara Hanna told us that she went to the bank that our account is kept at, Washington Mutual, to try to transfer the account from Mick Sears to herself. She was told that for them to make the change they would need to see it written in the notes and that the notes would need to be signed by the Chair, the former Treasurer and the incoming Treasurer.

It was agreed that the account should remain at Washington Mutual. After the account change is made new checks will need to be ordered with the Treasurer's address on it. Bank statements will also be mailed directly to the Treasurer's address.

After a short discussion a motion was made to process the necessary paperwork to list Tamara as Treasurer, change the address on the account, and order new checks. M/Nickles, S/Koeppe, all in favor – Motion carried.

Mick said he would continue to reimburse necessary expenses for now until account change has been made. Current outstanding expense is \$16 for framing of Sam Alfano Golden Member Award. M/Todd, S/Sears, all in favor – Motion carried.

Tamara asks if she had approval to proceed with the expenditure for engraving the plaque for the Past-Chair. M/ Lopez, S/Nickles, all in favor – Motion carried.

Tamara reviewed the proposed 2004 budget. She asks if someone could locate in the past notes where it authorized the annual expenses for travel for various members to the National Convention. Doug Nickles and John Todd agreed to help her find this in the old EC meeting notes.

Due to insurance costs the annual budget is currently not balanced. If the insurance cost was taken out it could just be put in when needed for budgeting for one of the annual meetings. It was pointed out that we need to factor in insurance cost even for meetings that don't require it so we can have enough to offset the costs of insurance for meetings that require it.

Nickles suggested that we drop the insurance cost in the budget to \$600 so that it would remain in the budget but the budget will be balanced. M/Nickles, S/Lopez, all in favor – Motion carried.

It was pointed out that the Treasurer should remind the Chapters to submit an annual report to the Treasurer that details meeting and raffle income. Meeting and raffle income needs to be separated on both the State and Chapter level.

Gary Nakamura suggested that the details and decisions made during the budget discussion should be added to the Leadership Notebook under the Summary of Officer Responsibilities.

Future Executive Committee Meeting Dates:

Scheduled dates for Executive Committee Meetings or Conference Calls for 2004 are as follows:

Monday, March 8, 2004
Tuesday, June 8, 2004
Wednesday, September 8, 2004
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Announcements:

Michael Fleisher reported that the LA County Oak Tree Ordinance is currently being revised. The diameter requirements for protected trees will be lowered from eight inches to six inches. At one time, the oak tree ordinance was going to be expanded to include other native tree species, now it has been decided that, for the time being, oak species will remain the sole focus of this ordinance.

J. Lopez announced that Donn Zea of the California Forest Product Commission had contacted him and asked him to speak at their workshop, which will be held at Hans Kramer Camp in Malibu on April 30 – May 2, 2004.

J. also announced that Richard Dresser of NorCal SAF had contacted him and he said he would like to reactivate the Forest Pest Management Committee. The group felt that this might be a duplication of efforts of the California Forest Pests Council. If a member would like to participate, it was suggested that they contact Richard Dresser.

John Todd announced that has taken over the role of Contributing Editor to the *Journal of Forestry* in the area of Fire. John said he would look forward to calling on all Executive Committee members to assist, within their area of expertise, to assist with peer review of articles proposed for the Journal. The EC suggested that this should be announced in a short article in the *Sundial*. Gary Nakamura said he would assist John with linking up with Cooperative Extension Scientists.

Doug Piirto announced that the Coast Redwood Symposium will be held on March 15-17, 2004. Cost is \$275. Doug said to look at the UC website for further details.

Doug Piirto announced that the Giant Sequoia Monument EIS was coming out in the Federal Register today. More info to follow.

Action Items:

Hanna: Treasurer account change over, order new checks, follow-up on awards, work with Secretary on letters of recognition and certificates for Fritz and Mick, work with Secretary to draft 'Thank You' to speakers and facilitators for the Fall Meeting.

Todd: Write up Fall Meeting synopsis, write up short article announcing *Journal of Forestry* editorial position, and write a short synopsis of SoCal SAF's version of the Strategic Plan referencing the National SAF Strategic Plan, work with Nickles to find notes from previous meetings that authorized National Convention travel expenses.

Cowie: Contact Rippens to determine if he wants to continue in the role as SoCal SAF Historian.

Piirto: Provide info on speakers and facilitators at the Fall Meeting so Hanna and Todd can draft letters for Chair's signature.

Nickles: Provide info on speakers and facilitators at the Fall Meeting so Hanna and Todd can draft letters for Chair's signature, work with Todd to find notes from previous meetings that authorized National Convention travel expenses, follow up with Jeff Reimer to determine if SoCal on line items can be moved from Yahoo to the SoCal SAF website.

Lopez: Follow up with Jim Asher to determine if he wants to remain Member at Large for the Inland Empire area.

Next Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2004. Craig will forward conference call details as the date approaches.

Meeting adjourned at 1622 hours.

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