

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Glendale Fire Department Headquarters
January 24, 2005

Minutes

In Attendance: Bryant, Cowie, Dicus, Koepp, Nickles, Piirto (Chair), Todd (7)

Meeting called to order at 0910

Opening Comments:

Chair for 2005 Dr. Doug Piirto welcomed all in attendance and stated his appreciation to the Glendale Fire Department (GFD) for providing a place for us to meet. A motion was made that a letter of appreciation should be drafted to Glendale Fire Chief Chris Gray thanking him and his Department for continuing to support SoCal SAF. M/ Koepp, S/ Cowie, all in favor – Motion carried.

The Chair also thanked Craig Cowie and the Cleveland National Forest for use of USFS Conference Call system so the members of the Executive Committee could meet without having to leave their work sites and travel long distances.

Craig stated that Tina Terrel is the new Forest Supervisor of the Cleveland National Forest. A motion was that a letter should be sent to Ms. Terrel congratulating her on her new appointment and thanking her in advance for her continued support of SoCal SAF. M/ Koepp, S/ Nickles, all in favor – Motion carried.

The agenda for the day's meeting was approved and the notes taken during the Fall Meeting were reviewed and approved (with one minor correction).

Officer Reports:

Chair Report (Doug Piirto):

Doug provided a brief review of SoCal SAF's participation at the National Convention in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in October, 2004. Attending a joint SAF/CIF (Canadian Institute of Forestry) Convention was an interesting and unique experience. Several SoCal members were in attendance and five Cal Poly students were able to attend, in part, due to donations that had been made supporting student travel to this important event.

Doug reported that Cal Poly's Accreditation was renewed by SAF during the National Convention. Congratulations Cal Poly!

Doug reported that the House of Society Delegates Meeting (HSD) which immediately preceded the National Convention produced fifty (fifteen?) initiatives that will be considered by the SAF Council during 2005.

Webmaster Jeff Reimer recently contacted SoCal SAF and informed us that Cal Poly, due to security reasons, needs to host all websites that are on their servers. There was some discussion

about the possibility of SoCal SAF and Cal Poly jointly hosting the website but a motion was made suggesting that we would allow Cal Poly to host the website with the understanding that SoCal SAF could retain the web address if they provided Cal Poly with a thirty day notice. M/ Nickles, S/ Cowie, all in favor, Motion carried.

Chair-Elect Report (Fritz Koepp)

Fritz extended his appreciation to J. Lopez, John Todd, Tamara Hanna, Doug Piirto, and all others who endeavored to make the Fall Meeting at ESRI and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens the success that it was.

Fritz mentioned that during the HSD Meeting continued financial support from National SAF for the National Leadership Academy was considered. In addition, there was further discussion questioning the need for an annual Leadership Academy. As a recent attendee of the Leadership Academy, who felt that the training was of great value, Fritz spoke as a firm advocate for maintaining the required financial support to ensure that the Leadership Academy remains an annual event.

Secretary's Report (John Todd)

Reviewed the Executive Committee positions for 2005:

During the Fall Meeting it was decided that Chair Piirto and Chair-Elect Koepp would maintain their current positions for 2005.

Remaining Executive Committee positions for 2005 are as follows:

Past Chair – Craig Cowie
Secretary – John Todd
Treasurer – Tamara Hanna
Tellers – Tamara Hanna
Audit – J. Lopez
Membership – Tamara Hanna
Policy/Legislation – Fritz Koepp
Communications – J. Lopez, Jeff Reimer
Education – John Todd
Awards & Recognition – Tamara Hanna
Nominations – Craig Cowie
Programs – Fritz Koepp

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

Chapter Officers:

San Gabriel Chapter Chair – Michael Fleisher (?)
Los Padres Chapter Chair – Chris Dicus (?)
Cal Poly Student Chapter Chair – (?)

John reminded the EC that he is starting the second year of his multi-year term as an Associate Editor in the field of fire for the *Journal of Forestry* (JOF). Matthew Walls has replaced Fran Pflieger as the Managing Editor of the JOF and he has been sending out several articles that are in need of review.

Treasurer's Report (Tamara Hanna):

Tamara Hanna was attending training and was not available to provide a report. Although Tamara was not able to attend she has prepared a line item of summary of last year's starting and ending balances, a ledger of all expenses and revenues, a summary of the Fall Meeting expenditures and receipts, and a proposed budget for 2005. Tamara will forward these items to the members of the EC prior to our next meeting/conference call.

Committee Reports:

Awards and Recognition Chair Report (Tamara Hanna):

Although Tamara was not able to attend a discussion was held on nominations for the Field Forester Award and SAF Fellow. Craig Cowie was nominated for the Field Forester Award and Doug Nickles and John Todd were nominated to receive SAF Fellow nominations. There was some discussion regarding the fact that it may not be feasible to nominate two SoCal SAF members to Fellow because SoCal SAF is currently at the threshold where 5% of the membership has received this award. After our meeting, Fritz Koepp contacted Lori Gardner at the National Office and she stated that because SoCal SAF has reached the 5% threshold that we should only nominate one member for the Fellow designation this year. Subsequently, Doug Nickles, who received the Field Forester Award in 2003, declined his nomination. Fritz will take the lead on preparing the necessary paperwork to nominate Craig and John for these awards.

Communications Chair Report (J. Lopez):

Newsletter Editor J. Lopez was not on vacation and was not able to attend the meeting. Last year only a spring edition of the *Sundial* was produced. Doug P. has been discussing the *Sundial* with J. and the fall edition of the Newsletter will need to be issued with a date of winter, 2005.

When J. returns he will need to work with the EC to determine if he is going to release a spring meeting announcement separately, or if it will be included in the winter edition of the *Sundial*.

Policy Chair Report (Fritz Koepp):

Fritz briefed the EC and he prepared the following summary of the letters that were sent to during 2004.

September 15, 2004. Letter to the Governor Schwarzenegger urging veto of Senate Bill 1648 which would have severely restricted scientific forest management within Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

August 23, 2004. Comment letter to USFS regarding the DEIS and revised land management plans for the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino National Forests.

July 23, 2004. Comment letter to California Wildlife Conservation Board urging approval of improved public access to Soquel Demonstration State Forest.

July 7, 2004. Comment letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein urging removal of language in the 2005 Interior Appropriations Bill which would cancel funding for the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP).

June 16, 2004. Letter to Congressman George Miller urging opposition to an amendment to the FY 2005 Interior Appropriations which would prohibit the USFS from using funds in 2005 to complete revisions or implement the new NFMA forest planning regulations, and halt the revision process begun in 2002. Phone calls were made to six key congressional representatives supporting this position.

June 7, 2004. Comment letter to Congressman Charles Taylor requesting the Interior Subcommittee on Appropriations strike language that cancels funding for Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP).

May 4, 2004. Letter to George Gentry, CDF, urging that current staffing levels at Soquel Demonstration State Forest be maintained.

February 29, 2004. Letter to the Governor Schwarzenegger urging his support for the revised USFS amendment to the Sierra Nevada Framework decision.

Doug Piirto also provided comments to a Bay Area Newspaper regarding the Heritage Bill.

A discussion took place regarding the California Performance Review and the potential elimination/re-structuring of the Board of Forestry (BOF). As the BOF effects all forest management that takes place on private land in California a motion was made that a letter should be written to Governor Schwarzenegger, with a cc to Resources Director Chrisman, supporting the BOF as an independent overseer of forestry activities and also that CDF Fire/Forestry should remain united and not be divided into two agencies. M/Bryant, S/Cowie, all in favor, Motion carried.

A discussion ensued on the proposed closure of the CDF Nursery at Davis. The Chair mentioned that perhaps not enough was said when the Ben Lomond Nursery was closed. SoCal SAF decided that the current course of action should be to keep abreast of the situation and if a letter is to be written it should advocate: 1. Maintenance of an adequate seed source to restore forests with locally adapted seed, and 2. Concern regarding the maintenance of all seed stock in one location. It was suggested that a letter should be drafted listing our concerns, but that our response should be coordinated with other players before being sent.

Appeals of the final decisions on the Sequoia National Monument and the Sierra Nevada Framework have been denied.

Now that SB 1648 has failed Jackson State Demonstration Forest is preparing for additional legislation that will direct the management of the State Forest Program.

Membership Chair Report (John Todd):

John stated that as of December 31, 2004 SoCal SAF Membership remains at nearly 150 members. An annual pattern has emerged where numbers drop in June, after the annual membership purge for non-payment of dues, and then they increase again as members renew their memberships and an influx of Cal Poly students join SAF when the school year starts.

Current numbers, as of November 30, 2004 (no December Report was received), are as follows:

SoCal SAF (no chapter declared):	42
San Gabriel Chapter:	42
Los Padres Chapter:	37
Cal Poly Student Chapter:	25
SoCal SAF Total Members:	148

John also stated that this is his last year as Membership Chair. He mentioned that he would ask Tamara Hanna if she would be interested in taking on this responsibility. Subsequent to the meeting, Tamara Hanna agreed to take on the role of Membership Chair.

Education Chair Report (John Todd):

SAF has created an easy way to submit CFE credits – in just minutes – through an online CFE database. This system allows you to submit continuing education credits directly into your membership or Certified Forester record at any time. You no longer need to fax, mail, or e-mail CFE forms or agendas to the national office to log on your hours.

To use the system, log onto SAF's meetings websites at <http://www.safnet.org/events/cfe/> and enter your username and password. (Your username is your membership number ID number or Certified Forester number, and your password is your last name.) Then select the meetings that you attended from the online education calendar. If the meeting is not there, the system allows you to enter the meeting and other continuing education categories before you submit the information. At the end of the process, you can print out the hours you submitted and keep the record in your files.

Historian (Doug Nickles):

Doug reported that he had many family and work obligations that limited his ability to participate in SAF during 2004. He stated that he is looking forward to being more involved again in 2005.

He also reported that Glendale Fire Department has continued to benefit from his participation in SAF. Recent successes, due in part to participation in SAF, included the installation of a Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) in the foothills of Glendale, and the City's participation in the National Firewise Communities Program.

Doug asked that if you have photos from previous SAF meetings or events that you send them to Jeff Reimer for posting on the SoCal SAF website

Chapter Reports:

Los Padres Chapter: Dr. Dicus reported that the Los Padres Chapter held a joint meeting with Native Plant Society where the topic of discussion was Sudden Oak Death. Forty people were in attendance. Chris is looking for a new chapter chair to take over the management of the chapter.

San Gabriel Chapter: Past-Chair Michael Fleisher was not in attendance. John said he would follow up with Michael for an update.

SAF Strategic Plan:

The EC discussed progress on the SAF Strategic Plan that was unveiled in 2004. During the first EC meeting of 2004 SoCal SAF adopted several of the points from the National Strategic Plan that we felt would be most advantageous for the members of SoCal SAF. The tenets of the Strategic Plan that were adopted are presented in *italics* below. The actions SoCal SAF took to meet these goals are listed in **bold** after each item.

- #1 *Develop tactics and programs aimed at invigorating less-active chapters and working groups (42)*
-The Fall Meeting was held in Redlands in an effort to encourage participation from members of the Inland Empire.
- #2 *Effectively engage and advocate in all important forestry related public policy issues at the national, state, and local levels. (37)*
- Refer to efforts made in the field of forest policy.
- #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)*
-Refer to efforts made in the field of forest policy.
- #4 *Provide leadership training for local SAF members. (27)*
-Chair-Elect attended the National Leadership Academy.
-SoCal SAF sponsorship of Cal Poly students at the SAF National Convention.
-Leadership Training for SoCal SAF at the first EC Meeting of 2004.
- #5 *Develop and maintain personal relations with editorial staff of local newspapers. (18)*
-Some feedback was received from local media.
- #6 (tie) *Discuss with employers the benefits of SAF membership and attendance at SAF sponsored workshops and conferences. (10)*
-Value to the City of Glendale, National Forests, and local government continues
- #6 (tie) *Conduct fund raising at state meetings. (10)*
-Fund raising (via raffles) were conducted at both the Spring and Fall Meeting.

The EC discussed others ideas that could help SoCal SAF continue its Strategic Plan goals for 2005. They included:

- All members of the EC should try to bring a guest and/or a potential new member to a meeting and at the same time look at ways to get them involved.
- New leadership is needed at the Chapter level. The goal is to provide a lot of assistance to the new leaders with the intention of grooming them for leadership positions on the state society level. Craig asked that we forward new names to him as he is the Nominating Chair.

- Possible candidates include: New Cleveland NF Supervisor Tina Terrel, Former Cleveland NF Supervisor Anne Fege, Chris Childers of Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Mike Scott of Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department, Chris Hipkin and John Melvin of CDF.

A discussion ensued on the Report to the SAF Council titled "Volunteer Organizational Structure Task Force." This report focuses on many changes that are being suggested to keep SAF relevant and prominent. It includes such items as decreasing the number of Council Members from nine to seven, and developing Regional House of Society Delegate (HSD) meetings that may be more responsive to the regional needs of members. The report will be reviewed for comment throughout 2005 (it may be the focus of our Fall Meeting); implementation is slated to begin in 2006.

To review the report, go to: <http://www.safnet.org/who/VOS1204.pdf>

The SoCal Leadership Notebook was reviewed and updated where needed.

Spring and Fall Meetings:

Spring Meeting:

Proposed dates: March 18 - 19, 2005 (Friday/Saturday)

Title: Undecided

Location: Riverside/San Bernardino/Arcadia

Dr. Piirto has been asked to speak at the San Bernardino Natural History Museum on Friday, March 18, where the California Forest Products Commission's display, "A Walk in the Woods," will be set up. The EC decided that this would be a good date to hold the Spring Meeting and that we could spend the afternoon at the Riverside Forest Fire Lab, receiving an update on current projects and programs, then we could adjourn to the San Bernardino Natural History Museum, where we could view the display, support the CFPC and Dr. Piirto.

On Saturday, we will spend the meeting at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia, where families will be invited and encouraged to attend.

Fritz agreed to follow-up with contacts at the Riverside Fire Lab and John agreed to follow-up with the staff at the Arboretum.

Fall Meeting:

Proposed dates: September 30 – October 1, 2005 (Friday/Saturday)

Back-up dates: October 7 - 8, 2005

Topic: Volunteer Organization Structure Task Force Report/Tour of Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in La Canada-Flintridge

Location: LA County Fire Camp 2, La Canada-Flintridge

Program Committee: Koeppe (Chair), Lopez and Todd (Co-Chairs)

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

Future Executive Committee Meeting Dates:

Scheduled dates for Executive Committee Meetings or Conference Calls for 2005 are as follows. All meetings are scheduled for 0900 – 1200 hours.

Monday, February 28, 2005

Monday, June 13, 2005

Monday, August 22, 2005

Announcements:

2005 is the Centennial Celebration of the Forest Service. A feature length film is being completed that will celebrate the 100th birthday of the agency. Cal Poly will screen this on campus during 2005. How will SoCal SAF celebrate this significant milestone?

Northern California SAF's Forest Conservation Days (FCD) are scheduled to take place March 14-20, 2005 at Sanborn Park in Saratoga, CA. If you would like to assist, please contact Thomas Catchpole, High Sierra Chapter SAF Education Chair and FCD Coordinator, at (559) 855-2194 or at treecookies@psnw.com

More information can be found on the NorCal SAF website at <http://www.norcalsaf.org/>

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.

All Executive Committee Members: Review and prepare to comment on the Report to the SAF Council titled "Volunteer Organizational Structure Task Force."

All Executive Committee Members: Send your articles to J. Lopez so he can publish another superb version of the *Sundial*.

Dicus: Secure new leadership for the Los Padres Chapter.

Fleisher: Secure new leadership for the San Gabriel Chapter.

Hanna: Prepare a line item of summary of last year's starting and ending balances, a ledger of all expenses and revenues, a summary of the Fall Meeting expenditures and receipts, and a proposed budget for 2005.

Koopp: Initiate Field Forester nomination for Craig Cowie and Fellow Nominations for John Todd.

Koopp: Draft a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, with a cc to Resources Director Chrisman, supporting the BOF as an independent overseer of forestry activities and advocating that CDF Fire/Forestry should remain united and not be divided into two separate agencies

Lopez: Publish the spring meeting announcement and/or the *Sundial*.

Reimer: Migrate the SoCal SAF website from the UFEI server to the required Cal Poly server.

Todd: Draft a letter of appreciation to Glendale Fire Chief Chris Gray thanking both him and his Department for continuing to support SoCal SAF.

Todd: Draft a letter to the new Forest Supervisor of the Cleveland National, Tina Terrel, congratulating her on her new appointment and thanking her in advance for her continued support of the SAF.

Next Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2005. Craig will forward conference call details as the date approaches.

Meeting adjourned at 1415 hours.

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

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