

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Conference Call
January 30, 2006

Minutes

In Attendance: Cowie, Hanna, Lopez, Piirto, Todd (5)

Meeting called to order at 0912

Opening Comments:

Chair Fritz Koepp and Chair-Elect Ron Morrow were not available to be on the conference call so John Todd called the meeting to order and asked J. to provide a report on his trip to Reno last week where he attended the NorCal – InterMountain SAF Meeting

Report from Norcal – InterMountain Winter Meeting

Last week J. attended the NorCal - InterMountain SAF in Reno, Nevada.

The SAF National Convention in Reno, Nevada will take place November 7-11, 2008.

Locations of upcoming National Conventions

2006 Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

2007 Portland, Oregon

2008 Reno, Nevada

2009 Orlando, Florida

2010 Washington, D.C

Sometime after 2010 Southern California or San Diego?

Council Representative Gary Nakamura asked if SoCal SAF would like to participate in the planning of the 2008 Convention. Right now things are in the preliminary stage. SAF Executive Vice President Michael Goergen was in attendance and he provided an overview of needed activities and timeframes that will need to be met for 2008 Convention. The two societies did some preliminary brainstorming during the meeting.

J., who was a member of the program committee for the 2000 Convention in Washington, D. C., provided an overview of how planning for the convention works. The various committees that plan for the convention come up with ideas for technical sessions, field tours, leisure tours, and pre and post-convention activities. These activities are provided to the convention vendor who goes about arranging buses, food, and other needed logistics.

Current involvement will be limited. Right now we need to form a Multi-State Committee that will be providing potential names for three key positions: General Chair, Program Chair, and Arrangements Chair. In addition, the committee needs start coming up with ideas for pre and post-convention tours, technical sessions, field trips, and leisure tours. Regional issues will be considered but they must have an impact on a national level. Each state society will provide three names to participate in the Multi-State Committee. Right now the planning that will take place will be done via conference call and e-mail.

The group debated the pros and cons of getting involved. The consensus was it would be good to get involved, especially if a future convention may be coming to southern California. While we want to wait until our Chair and Chair-Elect could provide their opinions, J. and Tamara are interested in participating and expressed their interest in representing SoCal SAF on the Multi-State Committee

During the convention members will be able to volunteer to work Registration or the Forester's Fund Booth which will result in a discounted registration. Volunteers can work four hour blocks so they do not miss too much of the convention. Volunteering could also be advantageous for students who want to attend and are looking for discounted registration and hotel costs.

Once again the state societies are only in a brainstorming mode now. Doug P. expressed concern that we should be doing in depth planning now as it will take a couple of years to pull together such a large event. J. made the point that National SAF does not want to tie too many members to the Reno Convention right now as they may be need to assist with Pittsburg this year and Portland during 2007.

There will be funds provided to the state societies that get involved in the planning process. As much as \$10,000 will be distributed among the state societies. How the funds will be distributed has not yet been decided. J. pointed out that once a member formally joins a convention committee all travel, accommodations, food, and transportation are covered by National SAF.

Doug P. suggested that we have a formal vote of the EC before we commit to getting involved. He was concerned that we might be invading InterMountain SAF's jurisdiction. J. stated that InterMountain SAF has only 200 members and they are spread over a large geographic area so National SAF suggested co-sponsoring with NorCal. Gary N. thought this would be a great opportunity for SoCal SAF to get involved. J. spoke with the Chair of the InterMountain SAF and he welcomed SoCal SAF participation.

After Julie sends the notes to SoCal SAF we will need to get back to her about the people who are going to be involved. We need a response from other EC members before we decide to go further – we decided we should set a deadline for an e-mail response after we receive Julie's notes and have a chance to review them.

J. incurred some additional expenses for his trip to Reno. His airfare cost \$266. The EC previously approved \$200 to cover his travel expenses. Doug P. proposed a motion to cover J.'s additional expenses. M/ Piirto, S/Hanna, Discussion: Craig asked if this had already been approved. All in favor, no opposition, motion passes (even though the motion was made and passed, the EC Members on the phone would like to get input from other members before final approval of expenses).

J. also met with NorCal Chair Jim Ostrowski to discuss the details of the Reno Convention. Jim was very recently appointed to the State Board of Forestry by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Spring and Fall Meetings:

Spring Meeting:

Meeting will take place in northern San Diego County – in the Rancho Santa Fe area on Friday and on Palomar Mountain on Saturday.

Proposed dates: March 31 – April 1, 2006 (Friday/Saturday)

Big fire meeting in Buellton the previous week that is why we went to the back-up dates

Title: “Designing Communities to Live with Fire – Shelter in Place”

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

Main topics include: Fire Management in Rancho Santa Fe, Cedar Fire recovery on the Cleveland National Forest (CNF) within areas of San Diego County (focusing primarily on Palomar Mountain), close out with a visit and tour (?) of the Palomar Mountain Observatory.

J. has been in contact with SAF Member and Rancho Santa Fe Urban Fire Forester Mike Scott. The activities for Friday are set. We will be meeting at a remote Rancho Santa Fe Fire Station and we will need to have a catered lunch and possibly dinner (BBQ?). They have an open area with a fire pit if we want to have dinner at the site. Another option would be to set up a dinner for the group at a restaurant in Escondido.

For Friday the plan is to have two speakers in the am, two speakers in the pm, and then a field tour of the Rancho Santa Fe area.

Mike Scott will provide a list of hotels in the north San Diego County/Escondido area.

Previously we discussed dedicating an hour or two of our Spring Meeting for leadership training and updating the Leadership Manual. If we do not have enough time, we may need to eliminate this activity.

Doug suggested that we provide an article for the JOF after the meeting to show the rest of the nation what we are doing. At the very least our after action article should appear in *The Forestry Source*.

On Saturday we could end the day at the Palomar Mountain Observatory where there is a picnic area where we could have lunch and then break up. The Saturday activity will continue to be promoted as a good opportunity to bring family members along.

Craig and Fritz will take lead on organizing Saturday’s activities. Doug suggested that we arrange for a bus to tour on Saturday instead of traveling in several cars and the parking problems that can be associated with that. Also, the leader of the trip can speak to the group between sites while on the bus. Being in the same vehicle also builds the camaraderie of the group.

We discussed CNF Supervisor Tina Terrell and the suggestion was made that we should see if she is available to join us at any point during the meeting. Craig will check on her availability. Ideally, we would like to give her an hour on Friday afternoon to present the issues that the CNF is currently facing, then she could stay and join us for dinner and maybe even on the field tour the next day. We may also want to invite local politicians who were involved during the Cedar Fire, the post-fire recovery, and are interested or are working on funding for future fire prevention activities. We may also want to invite a representative from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Apparently, the Acting State Fire Marshal is a local (SoCal) person.

J. will continue to work with Mike Scott for Friday’s arrangements
Craig and Fritz will need to work on the details for Saturday

Tamara will work on food, a bus, and other necessary logistics (Tamara: if we can assist you, please let us know)

Tamara made the point that we need to get the announcement for the meeting into *The Forestry Source*. John said he can do this on-line via the National SAF website. The group approved the title for the meeting. John will follow up later this week today with the on-line entry to SAF National website to insure that the meeting announcement appears in *The Forestry Source* and in the on-line SAF Education Calendar.

Fall Meeting:

Primary dates: September 29-30, 2006

Secondary dates: October 7-8, 2006

J. talked to NorCal Chair Jim Ostrowski about holding another California Forestry Summit. Fritz and Ron need to talk to Jim about this.

A California Forestry Summit (Joint Meeting of SoCal/NorCal) could be held at either Swanton Pacific Ranch or at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Other Announcements:

Dr. Dicus' wildland fire speaker series is going well at Cal Poly. Another speaker is visiting Cal Poly today.

Doug P. put a 50 year membership certificate in the mail to Fritz. Tamara would like this so she can do the framing for the 50 year member. Doug will see if it has been mailed yet and if it hasn't he will re-route it to Tamara.

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, February 27, 2006

Monday, June 12, 2006

Monday, August 21, 2006

Next Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2006. Craig will forward conference call details as the date approaches.

Meeting adjourned at 1111 hours.

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