

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Conference Call
February 3, 2003

Minutes

In Attendance: Bryant, Cowie (Chair), Dicus, Fleisher, Hanna, Koepp, Nickles, Piirto (Chair-Elect), Reimer, Todd (10)

Meeting called to order at 0935

Minutes from December 13, 2002 Executive Committee Meeting approved. (M) Piirto, (S) Hanna, all approved.

Officer Reports:

Chair Report (Craig Cowie):

Discussion on House of Society Delegates (HSD) Convener Calls: First call for 2003 to take place next week. Craig asks that if we have any issues that we would like discussed at HSD, that we forward those comments to his attention.

Leadership Academy Update: The Leadership Academy has been cancelled for this year. Covering the expense of this annual event has been taken out of the National SAF budget. SAF will look for participants to pay their own way or be sponsored by their local societies in future years. May become an every other year event. Dr. Piirto comments that even if the Leadership Academy is no longer an annual event, that SoCal SAF should continue to stay abreast of developments and maintain an interest in continuing to send a participant whenever the Leadership Academy is held in the future.

SoCal Leadership Academy: While it will not be held this year, participants from 2002 would like to receive updated reference material for SoCal contacts. Doug Nickles stated he will develop an insert that participants can place in their Leadership Manual.

Executive Committee for 2003:

- Mr. Todd stated that he would be willing to continue as Secretary, Membership Chair and Education Chair for 2003.
- Kathleen Edwards and David Swenk were drafted as Community Outreach Coordinators during 2001; their level of interest needs to be determined to see if they would like to remain in these roles.
- Paul Rippens also needs to be contacted to see if he would like to remain in his position as Historian. Mr. Nickles expressed an interest in filling this position. Mr. Cowie will contact Mr. Rippens and follow up.

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- Dr. Piirto asks if the Chair would like him to continue in his role as Science/Technology Chair on the Executive Committee. All agree that if possible, it would be best if Dr. Piirto could continue in his role as Science/Technology Chair and as Chair-Elect.

If you have any other issues that you would like the Executive Committee to consider please forward to Craig Cowie for his review.

Chair-Elect Report (Doug Piirto):

The Cal Poly Advisory Council will be meeting on February 23-24. Featured speakers will include Dr. Bart Thielges, Associate Dean, Oregon State University, and Donn Zea, of the California Forests Products Commission, will be part of panel discussion that will address "Is There a Global Crisis in Forestry Education?"

Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference will be held the weekend of February 7-8 in Redding, CA.

Past-Chair Report (Tamara Hanna):

Tamara has been continuing dialogue with Gary Nakamura (NorCal SAF FIT Coordinator) regarding our upcoming spring meeting and participation of FIT alumni.

Secretary's Report (John Todd):

Nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer's Report (Mick Sears):

Mr. Sears was not able to participate this morning because of classroom commitments.

Committee Reports:

Policy Chair Report (Fritz Koeppe):

Sequoia National Monument: Mr. Koeppe asked if we should support the NorCal SAF position on the Monument? All agreed the Chair is authorized to co-sign their letter as a show of SoCal support for their position.

Salvage Timber (Categorical Exclusion): Mr. Koeppe asked if SoCal SAF would like to write a letter to support USFS policy changes regarding salvage timber sales. While Mr. Koeppe agreed with the new policy changes, he felt no letter was necessary, as National SAF had stated SoCal's position in their letter dated January 16, 2003.

Protection of Old Growth: There was a meeting last week to strategize about the protection of old growth forests. An initiative to protect old growth failed to make the last ballot. The State Board of Forestry strengthened old growth protection last year. Some want a stricter definition of old growth tied to diameter size. Dr. Piirto stated there is a need for a clear definition of old growth. Could a definition that is just tied to diameter size also include southern California oak species? Mr. Koeppe will remain in contact with NorCal Policy Chair, John Kessler, and he will offer to co-sign if they are developing a response or a position.

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Membership Chair Report (John Todd):

New Members: The Executive Committee would like to see new members receive a letter of welcome from both the Chapter Chair and the State Society Chair. Ms. Hanna has a letter that she has used in the past she will forward to Mr. Todd. Mr. Todd will forward new member information to Mr. Nickles so new members can be included in SoCal SAF e-mail correspondence.

Communication Chair Report (J. Lopez):

Mr. Lopez could not be present because of a work commitment.

Communication Chair responsibilities are divided as follows:

- J. Lopez: Newsletter
- Doug Nickles: E-mail communication
- Jeff Reimer: Website updates

New Format for Newsletter: The next *Sundial* will be published in a new format, Microsoft Publisher. After completion, if the newsletter file is converted to a .pdf file, it can be sent to members who prefer to receive an electronic version and it can also be posted on the SoCal SAF website.

Scheduling and Coordination of Newsletters, Meeting Announcements: In an effort to save on postage every effort should be made to ensure that meeting announcements and newsletters go out together. Extra mailing means extra postage, which means extra expenses. Timing for newsletters for 2003 could be as follows:

- Before the Spring Meeting (Spring Meeting announcement included)
- Before the Fall Meeting (Fall Meeting announcement included)
- One additional newsletter at the end of the year

Deadlines and Publishing of Newsletters: Drop dead deadlines for input to newsletters need to be established and upheld. If a deadline passes and the Newsletter Editor has not received input he should either contact those who are to contribute or publish the newsletter without their input. In any event, we want to avoid a lack of production of the newsletter. It remains a critical link for those who want to stay abreast of local SAF developments but cannot attend the local meetings. Mr. Nickles offered that the Glendale Fire Department can still publish the newsletter as long as it is received in a finished format.

Education Chair Report (John Todd):

Certified Forester (CF): Several SoCal SAF members beat the December 31 deadline and are now registered as CFs. The need for CEUs will continue to increase as these members will need units to maintain their certification.

Spring Meeting: Mr. Nickles will forward a copy of the agenda for the Spring Meeting to Mr. Todd so it can be assessed for CEUs and the appropriate notification can be sent to National SAF.

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Awards and Recognition:

J. Lopez Fellow Award: Award will be presented at a San Gabriel Chapter Dinner Meeting and mentioned at the Spring Meeting.

Citizen Forester Award for Andy Lipkis of TreePeople: Doug Nickles will continue to pursue an appropriate venue for the presentation of this award.

Spring Meeting:

The Spring Field Tour will be a combined effort with Pierce College, Cal Poly SLO and possibly, Cal Poly Pomona. We will be on the site of July, 2002 Pines Fire and we will be looking at salvage logging that is taking place on private property in the Julian area. SoCal SAF will coordinate and support the Saturday portion of the event. Doug Nickles has been in contact with the logger and CDF Forester Thom Porter, who will coordinate a portion of our tour. Other topics will include certification of Big-cone Doug Fir as a wood product, comments from local residents on the fire and the logging, and a tour of some of the local Christmas tree farms.

Logistics: This will be a one-day event with no scheduled overnight stay. Local lodging info will be provided in the mailer. Travel will be completed by carpool and lunch will be the only meal that will be provided.

FIT Participation: Tamara Hanna will join the program committee and work with Gary Nakamura of NorCal SAF to coordinate participation of FIT graduates who reside in SoCal.

If you would like to join Pierce College for a greater portion of the field tour, contact Doug Nickles.

Chapter Reports:

Cal Poly Report (Jeff Reimer/Chris Dicus):

Bi-weekly meetings are being held with 25-30 students regularly attending. Different employers have been addressing the students and presenting an overview of different job opportunities.

An emphasis is being placed on meetings and events being held jointly with the Los Padres Chapter to increase participation and to provide better access to professionals in the field.

Cal Poly will check on student availability for the Spring Meeting. Travel distance may be prohibitive.

Los Padres Chapter:

Joint Chapter meeting with Native Plant Society scheduled for February 6, 2003; Dr. Chris Dicus to present "Fire Management From a Forester's Perspective."

Dr. Dicus on ballot as Chair-Elect, Jeff Reimer volunteers to remain Chair for an additional year to allow Dr. Dicus to get up to speed as Chair-Elect.

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San Gabriel Chapter:

Los Angeles County Forester Michael Fleisher will Chair the San Gabriel Chapter in 2003. Michael is looking forward to scheduling some dinner meetings and a field tour during the upcoming year.

Southern California State Society:

Craig Cowie reminded everyone that another round of public meetings related to the ongoing development of an updated Forest Plan for the four southern California National Forests will take place soon. He encouraged everyone to try to participate in a local capacity. When the Draft EIS comes out Craig would like to develop a SoCal response. Individual Chapters may want to develop regional or separate responses.

New Business:

The Executive Committee requested that Treasurer Mick Sears prepare a report on whether or not dues should be raised for the SoCal State Society.

Open discussion of how to keep past State Society Chairs involved with the Executive Committee after they have completed their term of office.

Brainstorming for Fall Meeting: Possible ideas include a field tour of the eastern Sierra and a meeting in central Los Angeles (Getty Museum?). Meeting in LA could be a forestry or natural resources educational forum and include the Forest Health Initiative. Use of facilities at Cal State Los Angeles may also be a possibility.

Doug Nickles solicited input for SAF Yahoo Calendar. E-mail Doug at dnickles@yahoo.com with dates of Chapter and State Society meetings, newsletter publishing dates, Executive Committee meeting dates, etc.

Next Meeting:

Possible dinner/evening meeting in Ramona – Julian area on Friday, March 28, the night before the Spring Field Tour. Craig will work on location and lodging options.

Meeting adjourned at 1145 hours.

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

(c:\SAF\SoCal SAF EC 02.03.03)