

Southern California Society of American Foresters  
Executive Committee Conference Call  
February 27, 2006

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Cowie, Koepp, Lopez, Morrow, Piirto, Todd (6)

Meeting called to order at 09110

**Opening Comments:**

Fritz opened the Conference Call and greeted all in attendance.

**Spring Meeting:**

Title: "Designing Communities to Live with Fire – Shelter in Place/Palomar Mountain Observatory"

Dates: March 31 – April 1, 2006

Location: Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, Fire Station #4 (Friday)  
Fry Creek Campground and Palomar Mountain Observatory (Saturday)

J. completed a draft version of the flyer for the Spring Meeting and circulated it via e-mail. The group reviewed the flyer. The meeting will start at 0830 on Friday. It is about 30 minutes from Escondido to the Rancho Santa Fe Fire District Fire Station #4, which is located in a rural area.

The Rancho Santa Fe Fire District will be our host on Friday. Fire Chief Nick Pavone will welcome everyone with a few brief comments. Fritz will contact Chief Pavone so he can provide a sufficient introduction.

J. reviewed the Friday agenda.

J. shared a flyer provided by the Golden Bake Hams Delicatessen. They can bring food to the Fire Station for a catered lunch. We will provide enough food to feed the on-duty crew at the Fire Station.

The EC decided that time permitting we will have a short EC Meeting at the Fire Station after Friday's program. The group will then travel back to Escondido where a no-host dinner will take place at the El Nopal restaurant. Tamara will coordinate lunches and dinner details.

Ron talked to the San Diego Area Urban Forestry Group and they are interested in co-sponsoring. We can include their logo (if available) on our flyer and send the meeting flyer to the members of their organization.

The EC discussed transportation during the meeting. Should we rent a large bus or rent two 15-person vans? Rental vehicles will increase registration costs. Another concern is the very windy road to Mt. Palomar – will riding in the bus make people sick? Seeing as there is sufficient

parking at the fire station, the campground, and the Observatory, the EC decided it would be best to encourage carpools and not rent a bus or vans.

The EC discussed how we should handle lunch at the Observatory on Saturday. Should we encourage people to bring a lunch or could they pick up some snacks at the Palomar Mountain store? There is one vegetarian restaurant at the top of the mountain and there is a nicer restaurant at Lake Henshaw. John mentioned that it might be best to provide a box lunch for all attendees which could be enjoyed at the Observatory picnic area.

Saturday's activities will begin at the USFS Fry Creek Campground atop Mt. Palomar. We will ask participants to arrive at 0900 so a talk from Bonnie Burchill (Environmental Resource Solutions, Inc.) and Craig Cowie can start promptly at 0930. After their talk we will travel to the Observatory for a box lunch and then we will take a tour of the Palomar Mountain Observatory.

The EC said we should try to have the same vendor who catered lunch on Friday prepare box lunches that we will pick-up Saturday and take to the Observatory for the lunch.

J. provided details from the Palomar Mountain website that states that tours are offered April through October. There is a small fee that will need to be paid for each participant. The fee break down is as follows:

Adults = \$5  
Seniors = \$3  
Children (6-16) = \$2.50  
Children (5 and under) = Free

Per the website tours are provided by the Friends of Palomar Observatory at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. Fritz will follow-up with the Observatory to see if we can reserve a regular tour spot and/or get a behind the scenes tour.

The EC discussed whether or not we will need to renew the insurance policy for the meeting. Tamara will check on this. Some thought that insurance will not be needed because we are not entering private property and the fact that National SAF maintains a policy to cover State Society bi-annual meetings.

Registration for the meeting will include a catered lunch on Friday, a box lunch on Saturday, and Observatory admittance fee. The EC decided that following registration rates will apply to the Spring Meeting:

SAF Members: \$50 both days  
SAF Members: \$25 per day  
Students and Spouses - \$25 both days  
Students and Spouses - \$12.50 per day

When will the meeting flyer come out? Fritz will follow-up on remaining details and get back to J. Flyer should go out by Friday, March 3, 2006 or as soon as possible after that date.

Doug P. stated that we should try to contact the local Community Colleges that have Fire Technology programs and get a contact so we can send them the flyers for our meetings. Community Colleges in the southern area that may be interested include Pierce, Rio Hondo,

Crafton Hills, Palomar, Allen Hancock, Santa Ana, and Bakersfield. We should also try to contact a member of the faculty at Cal Poly Pomona. John will contact the various colleges to determine a point of contact and then we will send our meeting flyer to them to get the word out.

J said that *The Sundial* is coming together. Everyone needs to turn in their articles to J. J. will complete the meeting announcement first and then he will send out *The Sundial*.

Doug P. asked who will serve as the SoCal SAF Rep to the Cal Poly FNR Advisory Council. There is a spot on the Council for the SoCal SAF Chair. Doug Nickles has been serving in this roll. The EC asked if the current Chair (Fritz) should take this on this responsibility. Fritz said he will follow-up with Doug N. to see if he should take on an active role with Advisory Council. Fritz said he will also try to attend the meeting. The Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2006. It will include morning and afternoon sessions. Lunch and Dinner will be attended by USFS Chief Dale Bosworth.

**Announcements:**

Doug P. will be speaking at the close out lunch of the CLFA Annual Conference in Sacramento on March 3, 2006.

Chief of the USFS Dale Bosworth will address Dr. Dicus' fire class and then he will be at the Cal Poly FNR Advisory Council Dinner Meeting which will be sponsored by the Forestry Honor Society Xi Sigma Pi on March 6, 2006.

Association of Western Forestry Colleges Conclave will take place at Cal Poly SLO March 13-17, 2006

**Next Meeting:**

The next Executive Committee Conference Call is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2006 from 9 am to 10 am. John will provide an e-mail reminder both immediately and as the date approaches.

Meeting adjourned at 1102 hours.

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

(c:\md\SoCal SAF EC 02.27.06)