

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Conference Call
March 8, 2004

Minutes

In Attendance: Cowie, Gubrud, Hanna, Koepp, Lydick, Nakamura, Nickles, Piirto (Chair), Todd (9)

Meeting called to order at 0935

Officer Reports:

Chair Report (Doug Piirto):

Eighteen 'Thank You' notes were recently mailed to speakers and facilitators for the Fall Meeting in San Bernardino.

A letter regarding the Sierra Nevada Framework was mailed.

Redwood Symposium is scheduled for next week, March 15-17, 2004 Rohnert Park. The status of Jackson State Forest is certain to be a major issue.

Discussion of vacant Chair-Elect position. Possible candidates include Michael Fleisher, Martin Gubrud, and Jeff Reimer. The EC discussed extending current office holders one additional year. After a short discussion a motion was made to extend the current Chair for one additional year. M/Cowie, S/Nickles, all in favor, with one abstention (Piirto) – Motion carried.

A ballot for electing a Chair-Elect will be included with the spring edition of the *Sundial*.

Treasurer's Report (Hanna):

Tamara provided an update. The bank account has not yet been transferred from Mick to Tamara. However, this is in process of happening and Tamara is managing the books in the meantime. Minimal expenses incurred to date during year 2004.

Committee Reports:

Awards and Recognition (Tamara Hanna):

Tamara is continuing to work on special recognition awards for Fritz and Mick. Tamara will focus on Mick's many accomplishments in her 'Member Spotlight' section of the Spring *Sundial*. Fritz will be the focus of her article in the Fall *Sundial*.

Communications Chair (J. Lopez):

Needs articles, ballot, and items (Information and Registration Forms) for Spring Meeting submitted so *Sundial* can be published.

Craig Cowie stated he would put together a one-page flyer for the Spring Meeting that will include an overview of the meeting, registration information, and hotel information. He will send the info to J.

Doug Nickles reminded everyone to send any new SAF info to Jeff Reimer for posting on the SoCal SAF website. The Secretary will check with Jeff to ensure that the current EC notes are posted on the website.

Policy Chair Report (Fritz Koepf):

The EC requested that the Policy Chair draft a letter of support for State Forests, which are facing drastic budget cuts because of the current state fiscal crisis. Fritz will review the current Assembly Bill regarding the Management of State Forests and prepare a draft response from SoCal SAF.

Membership Chair Report (John Todd):

The EC asked the Membership Chair to send a letter of welcome to new members to personally invite them to a chapter meeting or an upcoming event.

The EC requested that the Membership Chair provide Chapter Chairs with a list of their members that are on the 'Purge List' so they can contact them and encourage them to maintain their SAF membership. Members that do not belong to a Chapter will need to be contacted by the EC.

Education Chair Report (John Todd):

Recently evaluated the Spring Meeting for California Urban Forests Council: "*Current Pests and Diseases of Northern and Central California Urban Trees.*"

National SAF is developing an interactive CE Calendar that will be web accessible and that will allow Education Coordinators to directly upload information for posting on the calendar.

Spring and Fall Meetings:

Spring Meeting:

Proposed date: Friday, April 23, 2004

Topic: *The Healthy Forest Initiative and Healthy Forests Restoration Act*

Location: Lake Arrowhead, California

Address: San Bernardino County Fire Department, Fire Station 91

301 South State Highway 173

Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

Registration: \$40 prior to April 16, \$50 after April 16

The meeting is being planned as a one-day meeting with approximately five hours in the classroom and a short, two hour field trip to end the day. We will be looking at fuel treatments and restoration efforts. Although restoration efforts are not part of the forest plan, overall forest health is an important component of the plan that we will be examining.

The four Southern California USFS National Forests Plan's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is scheduled to be released in April, 2004. A portion of the meeting will be spent on a review of the DEIS.

Insurance: In order to have a field tour JZA Insurance will need to be contacted and our insurance policy will need to be renewed. Cost is \$1100 per year. This allows us to have two field trips per year, one during the Spring Meeting and one during the Fall Meeting. Craig will follow up with Doug N. and JZA Insurance to renew the policy.

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.

Chapter Updates:

San Gabriel Chapter:

The San Gabriel Chapter has two upcoming events planned. A dinner meeting will be scheduled sometime during the month of April. On Saturday, June 5, a day long field tour of the Saint Frances Dam site and disaster will be led by Paul Rippens.

New Business:

Northern California SAF Chair-Elect Julie Lydick discussed the possibility of scheduling a joint NorCal – SoCal Meeting sometime in the next year. The EC agreed that it would probably be a year long process to pull together a meeting of this size and scope. With that in mind, it was suggested that a meeting could be held during spring 2005 at a location that is conducive to travel for members of both state societies. Suggested locations include San Luis Obispo, Swanton-Pacific Ranch, or a location somewhere within the Sierra National Forest.

After a brief discussion a motion was heard that proposed that NorCal and SoCal SAF plan and hold a joint meeting in late spring/early summer 2005. M/Todd, S/Cowie, all in favor, none opposed – Motion carried.

A preliminary program committee for a joint NorCal – SoCal Meeting was established. At this time it includes: Lydick, Piirto, Nakamura, Gubrud. The SoCal Chair-Elect will be added to the committee once he or she is elected.

Announcements:

Gary Nakamura suggested that the NorCal and SoCal Societies need to work closely together to develop Joint Position Statements. While having two separate state societies is a good thing, working together on important items, like position statements, can have a greater impact.

Gary also suggested that SoCal SAF focus more on education programs. These type of programs can serve a membership retainer and as a membership recruiter.

NorCal SAF member Bill Keye is setting up a Forestry 101 class with the State Judicial Branch. He will be looking for Southern California foresters who can assist on this project when he comes to Southern California.

Action Items:

All: Please provide input to J. Lopez at your earliest convenience for inclusion in the Spring *Sundial*.

Lopez: Complete and mail *Sundial*. Send out meeting information and registration information for the spring meeting.

Koepp: Prepare a draft letter in support of continued funding for State Forests. Also, draft a response to the Assembly Bill that is currently being considered about the management of State Forests.

Todd: After receipt from National SAF, provide a copy of the chapter 'Purge Lists' to Chapter Chairs so they can follow up with their members and encourage them to maintain their memberships with SAF.

Future Executive Committee Meeting Dates:

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

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Next Meeting:

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

Meeting adjourned at 1136 hours.

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