

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Conference Call
May 13, 2003

Minutes

In Attendance: Cowie (Chair), Fleisher, Hanna, Koepp, Nickles, Piirto (Chair-Elect), Sears, Todd (8)

Meeting called to order at 0905

There was no formal review of Executive Committee (EC) Notes from the Conference Call on February 3, 2003, however, Mr. Koepp noted that Categorical Exclusion letter was sent. Minutes will be corrected to reflect this fact.

Officer Reports:

Chair Report (Craig Cowie):

Our Chair reported he had been serving with his USFS Type 2 Team in Nagadoches, Texas on the Space Shuttle recovery project for the last month so he feels a little bit behind.

Field Forester Award: As there are no current nominations the Chair suggested that we nominate Doug Nickles. All agreed that Doug's exemplary body of work warrants a nomination. Chair will follow up. Nomination is due June 2nd.

The Chair noted that on June 6th and 7th UC Cooperative Extension is holding two workshops in the Idyllwild and Lake Arrowhead areas. Additional contacts could be made for our Fall Meeting if some members could attend. Mr. Koepp stated that he may attend the Idyllwild workshop on June 6.

House of Society Delegates (HSD) Update: Craig mentioned that another HSD Convener Call is upcoming. If we have any issues that we would like to receive national attention forward them to Craig. Major issue currently is the alleged regional bias of the Certified Forester's Exam. Also, discussion continues on the status of the annual Leadership Workshop. The Leadership Workshop was cancelled this year but it will be on again next year. Greater financial commitment from the State Societies will be required in the future to keep the Leadership Workshop viable.

Chair-Elect Report (Doug Piirto):

Dr. Piirto reported that the Cal Poly NRM Department will be up for a SAF Accreditation Review this fall (October 17-23). The Accreditation Review Team will participate in a Field Review and a Field Tour. In addition, they will interview students, faculty members, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and the President of the University. Dr. Thompson is serving as the editor and lead person on the draft Accreditation Report, which is currently being reviewed by Upper Management. The report is due to be submitted to SAF prior to July 15, 2003.

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Dr. Piirto recently attended a National Forestry School Meeting. Dr. Terry Sharick (sp?) of Utah State suggested during this meeting that he believes that SAF is not providing a broad enough appeal for student members because SAF's focus remains too specific. It was suggested that if SAF is not willing to broaden their scope of activities, that another international resource club may move in to fill the void that has been created. As further evidence, some schools are no longer seeking SAF accreditation for their programs. Within California, UC Berkeley is a notable example.

Dr. Piirto stated that he would like to send four students to the SAF National Convention in Buffalo, NY this fall. He asked what type of sponsorship possibilities will be available from SAF. The EC stated that, as in past years, \$200 will be provided to Cal Poly students to assist with expenses. In addition, the profits from the Raffle at the Fall Meeting and scholarships from NorCal SAF may also be available.

Lastly, Dr. Piirto mentioned that he would be speaking on the Healthy Forests Initiative at UCLA on May 14. Undersecretary for the Department of Agriculture Mark Rey is also scheduled to appear.

Past-Chair Report (Tamara Hanna):

Ms. Hanna mentioned that Dr. John Helms is attempting to secure a nomination for SAF Vice-President. Tamara mentioned that the petition sponsoring Dr. Helms' nomination is due on May 17. She suggested that each EC member could print a blank copy of the petition, sign it and send it John to assist in this endeavor.

Tamara suggested a couple of topics for future meetings that came from member David Waite. These included oil exploration on the Los Padres National Forest and a visit to an offshore oil rig and a trip that would include the southern reaches of the Sierras above Bakersfield and a tour of the sawmill at Terra Bella.

Tamara requested that the Education Chair send out CFE notices for the Spring Field Tour to everyone on the conference call.

Secretary's Report (John Todd):

Prior to our next Conference Call I will re-send the minutes from our last two Conference Calls (2-3-03 and 5-13-03) so all EC members can review the minutes and suggest any corrections that may be needed.

Treasurer's Report (Mick Sears):

Mr. Sears reported that the balance in our Treasury is currently \$3400. This is up from this time last year. This is due, in part, to profits made during this year's Spring Field Tour.

The only outstanding expense is the licensing fee to maintain our website. It is \$75 for three years. (M) Koepp, (S) Hanna, all ayes with one abstention (Piirto) to authorize this expense.

Insurance for field activities: Committed for the remainder of 2003. Beyond 2003 the EC needs to decide what to do. Annual cost of insurance is about \$1000 per year. National SAF provides

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limited coverage for dinner meetings and conference center type meetings. Field events are not covered.

Mick suggested several items that are needed for inclusion in the Leadership Notebook. They include items that need to be re-visited on an annual, bi-annual or tri-annual basis (i.e. insurance, HSD assessments, website info, etc.) Tamara will follow up on this. Certain expected intakes and expenses should be authorized annually.

Committee Reports:

Policy Chair Report (Fritz Koepp):

Fritz received a recent letter from Bill Keye following up on hazardous fuel conditions in the southern California Mountains. Question was asked if we would like to pursue this issue locally with our representatives. Representatives we could follow up with include Bono, Bostrom and Feinstein. What else can we do? Mr. Nickles suggested following up with local Homeowners Associations (HOAs), especially those that are facing restrictive tree removal policies. Dr. Piirto suggested providing pertinent info or links on our website that we could refer citizens to would be helpful. Gary Nakamura of UC Cooperative Extension may have info that can be readily displayed on the SoCal SAF website.

Mr. Koepp has been in contact with Rita Nezek regarding the Healthy Forests Initiative, which strives to streamline NEPA and Federal policy. General consensus was that SoCal SAF would like to comment on this. Fritz will draft a letter for the Chair's signature.

Fritz asked if we would like to work with the CLFA to support legislative remedies for the bug problem in Southern California bug killed forests. The EC felt that this should be pursued and that we should make the most of this window of opportunity.

Communication Chair Report (J. Lopez):

Mr. Lopez reported that the next newsletter will be sent out prior to the Fall Meeting. Information and articles for the newsletter should be sent to J. prior to August 1. Newsletter will be completed and sent out by September 1.

Positive feedback continues to be received for the recent format changes to *The Sundial*.

At the spring meeting a data CD was distributed that contains updates for the Leadership Notebook. Can these updates be placed on the SoCal SAF website? If you would like a copy of the data CD for your Leadership Notebook, contact Doug Nickles.

Education Chair Report (John Todd):

Mr. Todd is re-evaluating the CFEs for the Spring Meeting. Because of weather issues the morning portion of the Field Tour was moved indoors. This 'classroom' time increased the number of CFE credits available for the event.

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At the request of Kathleen Edwards of CDF, Mr. Todd evaluated the number of CFEs that could be received for attending the Southern California Pest Tour, co-sponsored by the Southern California Forest Pest Insect and Disease Committee and the Riverside County Regional Parks.

Certified Forester's Exam: The first Certified Forester's (CF) Exam will be held on June 25, 2003. Application deadline is May 19, 2003.

Fall Meeting:

Brainstorming regarding the Fall Meeting: Discussion of fire issues – could take place at UCLA or at one of the Cal State Universities in the Los Angeles area.

Other ideas include a two day meeting with the first day spent in a Hotel conference room environment and the second day spent on a Field Tour.

Possible dates include September 26 and 27 (preferred) and October 3 and 4 (back up).

Ms. Hanna will look at locations and facilities that can meet our needs in the Ontario area.

Who will serve on the Fall Meeting Program/Planning committee? Volunteers/Draftees include Cowie, Hanna, Koepp, Nickles, Piirto

Designated responsibilities:

Hanna – Logistics

Cowie – Morning Program

? – Afternoon Program

? – Field Tour

Details will be discussed during upcoming Program Committee Conference Calls on May 27 and June 17.

Other questions:

Should we make this meeting a joint CLFA/SAF Meeting?

Which interested legislators should we invite? Bob Dutton is one suggestion – he is newly elected in the Inland Empire area

Who can provide an update of conditions on Federal Lands? Mike Deitrich or his designee.

Who can provide an update of conditions on State Lands? Eric Oldar, Kathleen Edwards or a designee.

Who can provide a presentation on the current insect infestation? Laura Merrill, USFS Entomologist

Current Working Title for Fall Meeting:

“Managing for Healthy and Fire Safe Forests in Southern California”

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To ensure the pertinence and relevance of our event we should make a concerted effort to draw on the successful portions of the CFPC Field Tour (May 14 and 15), the Cooperative Extension Workshops (June 6 and 7) and the Mountain Summit (June 27, 28 and 29).

Chapter Reports:

San Gabriel Chapter:

Report from Chapter Chair Michael Fleisher. Most recent dinner meeting was held in Glendale and had Michael Ramirez, the Pulitzer Prize winning Political Cartoonist from the LA Times, as the guest speaker.

Michael has two ideas in mind for future Chapter dinner meeting; these ideas include an overview of the work done by the San Gabriel Mountains Conservancy and an arborist speaking about the loss of the oak resource throughout the southern portion of California.

Announcements/Public Forum

Doug Nickles received a nice follow-up note from David Waite regarding the Spring Field Tour. David stated that the meeting was one of the best meetings he has had the pleasure of attending.

The California Urban Forests Council (CUFC) is looking for and collecting questions for their Certified Urban Forester Exam. If you have questions that can be used contact CUFC directly or contact John Todd who can forward info to either Herb Spitzer or Mel Johnson.

Tamara challenged each member of the EC to personally invite and to offer to drive (especially those who have difficulty getting around) another member to our future meetings and events. She car-pooled with David Waite to the Spring Field Tour and she shared that it was a very rewarding experience for both her and David. Good idea Tamara!

Next Meeting:

Next Conference Call for Fall Planning/Program Committee is scheduled for May 27, 9-11 am

Next Conference Call or physical meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for mid-July. Date and time to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 1130 hours.

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

(c:\SAF\SoCal SAF EC 05.13.03)