

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting/Conference Call
June 12, 2006

Minutes

In Attendance: Koepp (Chair), Morrow (Chair-Elect), Piirto, Todd (4)

Meeting called to order at 0910 hours.

Minutes from 3-31-06 were approved.

Opening Comments:

Ron provided an up to date phone number.

John provided an update on the Board of Forestry (BOF) Meeting and Field Tour that took place in Los Angeles County during the first week of June. The group toured northern Los Angeles County, primarily focusing on the development in and around the Santa Clarita Valley. Other highlights included the water wise garden at the Castaic Lake Water Agency, viewing forestry plantations at Castaic Lake, and visiting the "Old Glory" oak tree in Pico Canyon. The EC suggested that a similar tour might be good for a state society meeting.

Fritz talked about going to San Luis Obispo or completing a tour similar to the one provided to the BOF in Los Angeles County for the Fall Meeting. Dr. Doug will be on his sabbatical in Finland this fall so hosting a meeting at Cal Poly will be considered for the spring or fall of 2007.

Fall Meeting:

Location: Los Angeles County

Program Chair: Ron Morrow, John Todd, J. Lopez, Fritz Koepp

Possible topics:

Urban Forestry

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Forestry

City of Pasadena Tree Ordinance

Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance

Los Angeles City Heritage Tree Ordinance

Descanso Gardens – work surrounding the Gardens, possible removal of timber via a Timber Harvest Plan, Vegetation Management Projects, use of goats, etc.

LA County Forestry Nurseries

LA County Forestry Plantations

SoCal SAF representation on the Arborist and Foresters Task Force

Field Trip – Friday

Descanso Gardens – Saturday

Primary dates: September 29-30, 2006

Back-up dates: October 6-7, 2006

Chair Report:

Fritz reported that there has only been one HSD Conference Call so far this year. There have not been a lot of issues and things have been relatively quiet this year.

Chair-Elect Report:

Chair-elect Ron Morrow will be departing for the Leadership Academy this Friday. He will be driving to the meeting. Registration is \$375. Ron will be leaving on Saturday morning – program will take place on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday – Ron will be returning on the subsequent Wednesday. This year the Leadership Academy will take place in Snowbird, UT

Past-Chair Report:

Dr. Doug will be in Finland September 5 through December 5 on his sabbatical. He will be at the Seinajoki Polytechnic University, home of the Tuomarniemi Institute of Forestry. While in country Dr. Doug will be reviewing European logging equipment, working on a research grant on bio-energy, and providing start-up assistance for a new Masters Graduate Program. Dr. Doug will provide a program on his Finnish experiences upon his return. Dr. Rich Thompson will be the Acting Chair at Cal Poly in Dr. Doug's absence.

All EC members need to start looking for possible Chair-Elect candidates for 2007. Possible nominees include:

John Henshaw – Los Padres Deputy Forest Supervisor
Mike Scott – Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District
Gina Thompson – USFS, Big Bear Lake
Scott Eckhardt – Dudek Company
Thom Myall – USFS, Retired
Bobby Goodman – Citrus College (possible Chapter Chair)
?? – Pierce College

The members of the EC decided to divide this list up and contact the aforementioned candidates to determine if they are interested.

Todd – Goodman, Scott, Thompson
Piiro – Henshaw, Myall
Morrow – Eckhardt
Koepp – everyone else

After contacting the candidates forward the results via e-mail to Dr. Doug (Nominations Chair). A ballot will be included in the Fall Newsletter.

Lack of activity at the Chapter level continues to be a concern of the EC. All members of the EC should be looking for individuals who, with some mentoring, could re-vitalize activities at the Chapter level. Dr. Doug stated he would work on getting the Los Padres Chapter back up and running and John said he would focus on re-energizing the San Gabriel Chapter.

Communications:

Due to lack of contributions *The Sundial* has not been published this year. The EC suggested that only one newsletter (Fall) may be published this year. In addition to the lack of articles submitted the time it takes to produce the Spring and Fall Meeting announcements is also a factor. The Fall Meeting announcement should be mailed prior to August 25, 2006.

Ideas for Future Meetings:

- Santa Barbara Area; possible contacts: Sam Alfano, Thom Myall, Chris Childers; possible topics: oak-woodland management areas, agricultural issues, winery issues.
- Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; possible contacts: Cal Poly Faculty, Cal Poly Student SAF Chapter; possible topics: ??
- Eastern Mojave Scenic Area; possible contacts: NPS Rangers; possible topics: Kelso Depot and Kelso Dunes, Management of the Eastern Mojave Scenic Area, Mitchell Caverns.
- Palm Springs Area; possible contacts: ??; possible topics: Visit the Biomass Power Plant in Mecca, Biomass Wood Utilization, Borax Plant, Management of the Salton Sea, other issues in the Coachella Valley.
- San Pedro Matir, Baja California, Mexico (joint meeting with Mexican foresters?).

The tentative SoCal SAF Meeting schedule for 2006-07 is as follows:

Fall, 2006 – Los Angeles County

Spring, 2007 – Palm Springs Area (Santa Barbara will serve as a back-up location)

Fall, 2007 – Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Roundtable:

Recently, there has been a significant discussion on how to regulate activities on forested landscapes that are not capable of producing specific forest products (timber). Glenn Flamik, the State Urban Forestry Program Administrator, is working with the Professional Forester's Examining Committee (PFEC) and the BOF to assemble a task force that will lead a discussion that may more clearly define roles and retain environmental safeguards. Members of various societies and professional organizations are being asked to participate in this discussion. Doug Nickles was initially nominated but there is concern that we may need to nominate two people, a forester and an arborist, to participate and ensure that the concerns of all SAF members are fairly represented. The SoCal EC felt that we did not know enough at this time to make an informed decision. Gary Nakamura agreed to do some more fact finding. He will forward additional details to the EC so this can be discussed and we can make an informed decision at a later date.

Anne Fege, of San Diego Museum of Natural History, suggested that SoCal SAF needs to be more proactive in advertising our meeting to the local community when we announce our meetings. This will enhance attendance during the meeting, bring topics of interest to the forefront, and provide volunteer opportunities for local community members.

SoCal SAF member Richard Geary asked if SoCal SAF would be taking a position on Senate Bill 1799. SB 1799, introduced by Senator Perata, is concerned with Forest resources: Heritage trees.

Gary assured Richard that SAF would take a position on this bill. Richard was to follow-up with Gary.

Calendar:

Executive Committee Meeting/Conference Call: August 21, 2006

Fall Meeting primary dates: September 29-30, 2006

Fall Meeting back-up dates: October 6-7, 2006

House of Society Delegates: October 23-24, 2006

SAF National Convention: October 25-29, 2006

Next Meeting:

The final scheduled Executive Committee Meeting for 2006 is set for **Monday, August 21, 2006**. Additional calls may be scheduled as required. The meeting is scheduled for 0900 – 1200 hours. John will forward call-in details shortly before the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1032 hours.

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

(c:\md\SoCal SAF EC 06.12.06)