

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Conference Call/Planning Meeting
June 29, 2005

Minutes

In Attendance: Piirto (Chair), Koepp, Hanna, Lopez, Nakamura, Todd (6)

Meeting called to order at 0905 hours.

Opening Comments:

Doug Piirto gave a brief overview of his trip to Finland. He gave high grades to the Finns for their forestry practices and activities. Finns are looking for collaborative exchanges of students, researchers, educators etc.

Gary Nakamura asked if anyone has been involved in the International Forestry Working Group. He brought this up because it might be a way to continue the momentum that has been created by some of these international travels. Gary suggested using the Working Group as a way to get involved and share our experiences.

A suggestion was made that Doug provide a presentation of his trip to Finland to SoCal SAF at the Fall Meeting.

John Todd suggested that all members should review the comments that John Helms presented to Congress on the 100th Anniversary of the USFS. You can find them in the June 27, 2005 version of the E-forester.

SoCal SAFers that are planning to attend the National Convention should register prior to July 25 to take advantage of the 'early bird' rate.

Officer Reports:

Chair's Report (Doug Piirto):

Doug said that Cal Poly hosted a showing of 100th Anniversary Film "The Greatest Good" during a recent Xi Sigma Pi meeting. Film was well received and all SAF members should try to see it.

Doug will be making a presentation to the Lumberman's Association at La Quinta on July 15, 2005.

Treasurer's Report (Tamara Hanna):

Tamara sent out summary of funds received after the Spring Meeting. A profit was realized as expenses were very low.

Our account is currently at 5700.00 and change.

Tamara's financial summary from the Spring Meeting is found as a separate attachment on the e-mail message where you received these notes

Tamara's new home e-mail is tjh2ogal@yahoo.com

Secretary Report (John Todd):

The notes from Executive Committee Meeting that took place on 3-18-05 and from the Spring Meeting that took place on 3-18-05 and 3-19-05 were reviewed. No corrections were suggested. M/Lopez, S/Koepp, all approved the notes as submitted

In the interest of long-range planning John looked up the dates and locations for the next four National Conventions. They are as follows:

2005 SAF National Convention
October 19-23
Ft. Worth, Texas

2006 SAF National Convention
October 25-29
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2007 SAF National Convention
October 24-28
Portland, Oregon

2008 SAF National Convention
November 5-9
Reno, Nevada

Committee Reports:

Membership (Tamara Hanna):

Tamara reviewed the draft registration form for the Fall Meeting and suggested that the form be changed to state that prospective members who would like SoCal SAF to contribute \$10 to their SAF membership be required to join by October 5, 2005.

Nominations (Craig Cowie):

Craig Cowie needs to contact the Secretary, Treasurer, and other Executive Committee Members to determine if they will continue in their roles for 2006.

A question was asked about who is the going to start the search for a Chair-Elect. Craig is the Nomination Chair as he is the Past-Chair. All EC Members need to work closely with Craig to identify possible candidates before the Fall Meeting. One idea was that we could include a short note in *The Sundial* encouraging members to run for office. Gary suggested that the EC might

want to identify candidates and then follow-up with personal phone calls to individuals to ascertain their interest. All members of the EC should work on identifying possible candidates. Please share any candidates you may have with the EC and forward their names to Craig so he can initiate contact.

A brief discussion took place regarding John Todd's Fellow nomination. Everything that needs to be done has been completed and John will appear on the ballot this fall. John will be the focus of the member spotlight in the fall version of *The Sundial*. Thanks to all that worked hard to secure John's nomination (especially J., Fritz, and Doug!!)

Craig has been nominated for the Field Forester Award. Gary has the information that he needs to complete the nomination.

Communications (J. Lopez):

J. set August 1 as the due date for articles that are to be included in *The Sundial*.

The Sundial is to be mailed August 15 with an insert for the Fall Meeting included.

The announcement for the Fall Meeting should go out about August 1.

The Fall Meeting Flyer and Registration Forms will be sent out via e-mail during the month of August.

Deadline for registration will be September 15, 2005.

For the upcoming version of *The Sundial* Doug provided a summary of articles that will be included:

- Chair's Comments
- Gary Nakamura's overview of the Volunteer Organization Structure (VOS) Task Force Report
- Member spotlight of John Todd.
- Article provided by member Jay Gruenfeld
- 2005 SAF National Convention update

Policy (Fritz Koeppe):

Fritz Koeppe stated that not as much is going on in the policy arena as there has been in previous years.

Information on the failed nomination of Nancy Drinkard to the Board of Forestry reached SoCal SAF at too late of a date to provide written comments.

Fritz stated that we did not provide written comments on the recent lawsuit filed by California Attorney General Bill Lockyer against the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment because this case was already being considered by the courts (Editorial note: the suit has since been thrown out). Gary pointed out that SoCal SAF's comments, while they may have no bearing on what happens in court, may be important to membership so they know where SoCal SAF stands on this important issue.

Fall Meeting:

Friday:

J. has requested a special Friday tour of Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) as they only hold tours on Monday-Thursday. He has a contact in the Public Relations Department at JPL and he is working with them to secure this tour.

JPL limits private tours to 50 people.

Option A:

If we can get into JPL on a Friday the plan would be to take a 2 to 2½ hour tour of JPL. That would be followed up by talks given by two speakers that would speak to the group in a JPL Meeting Room.

Option B:

The group could visit JPL as a guest of Dr. Steve Lowe (personal acquaintance of J.) who will give us a tour in the morning. The tour would be followed by two speakers who would come to Los Angeles County Fire Department Camp 2 (next door) where they can address the group.

Option C:

If our group cannot secure entry into JPL, we will host four JPL speakers at Camp 2 who could address the group. The large conference room at Camp 2 has been reserved for the day for SoCal SAF.

J. suggested that we should take advantage of the entry into JPL and spend the day in there if we can get in.

Note: **All members will need to bring two forms of ID to enter JPL.** Passport is preferred. Gary made the point that this should be highlighted in the Sundial and that we should treat entry into JPL like getting on an airplane (in other words no sharp objects or pocket knives!)

We will need to set aside an hour in the afternoon to review the VOS Task Force Report. Gary agreed to lead a half hour discussion on the VOS Task Force Report. The other half-hour will be reserved for comments and discussion.

A link to the VOS Task Force Report will be included in the EC notes and *The Sundial*. Gary's comments regarding the VOS Task Force Report are included in the EC notes. Gary will write a short note on the VOS Task Force Report for *The Sundial* suggesting that all members review the report prior to the meeting and be prepared to discuss it.

Saturday:

Saturday's morning field activity will take place at Monrovia Canyon Park. Monrovia Park is an award winning, beautiful park. Monrovia Fire Department Battalion Chief Derek Young will give an overview of issues that the park is facing. Park Ranger Kim Bossell will discuss the history of the Park and lead a nature hike. J. suggested that the mid-day meal could be set for Empanada's in Monrovia where we could get a good lunch with an Argentinian flare.

J. asked if SoCal SAF had followed up on a spring meeting request for a letter supporting City of Monrovia's efforts surrounding Monrovia Canyon Park. Fritz suggested that we need to understand all sides of the issue and determine any political realities before we get involved.

A good discussion ensued re-enforcing the fact that that any action we take locally will need to be in alignment with the overall goals of the Society of American Foresters.

A motion was made that the EC explore the issues that may lead to a policy statement, if appropriate, for Monrovia Canyon Park. J. agreed to follow up with BC Young to determine the issues. J. will brief the remainder of the EC at a later date.
M/Lopez, S/Koepp, all approved.

Gary suggested that we should contact the Forest Service as they own parcels adjacent to the park to ensure that the USFS goals are in agreement with the city's goals for Monrovia Canyon Park. Local USFS contact is Angeles National Forest Fuels Officer Dave Conklin.

The EC reviewed the draft announcement for the meeting. All EC members should review the document and forward their edits to J. The EC discussed the Friday evening dinner and decided that all members should be invited. EC business may be discussed at dinner, but anyone who wants to attend dinner is welcome.

Volunteer Organizational Structure Task Force Report:

The VOS Task Force Report is available online at www.safnet.org/who/vos1204.pdf

Members can make comments on the VOS Task Force Report online at www.safnet.org/members/login.cfm?requestedDoc=/members/member-pw/comments.cfm&

Following are some thoughts that District 3 Council Member Gary Nakamura put together regarding the report:

Thoughts on the Volunteer Organizational Structure Task Force Report to the SAF Council
June 29, 2005

Gary Nakamura, District 3 Council member

Below are some thoughts, questions regarding the VOS report and some general ideas regarding organizational structure and leadership.

Regional House of Society Delegates (RHSD) – will National SAF provide financial and administrative support for RHSD meetings, communication, and administration? What are the RHSD authorities, responsibilities, leadership relative to state society, division, and chapter? Is the RHSD another level of structure, administration? Chapter, state/division, region, national? Roles, responsibilities, authorities at each level.

Regional Council Member – selection/election (becoming well known enough throughout a region), representativeness, communication with units represented. Difficult enough with current Council districts, and the proposed Districts would be larger.

SAF Student Rep – selection, representativeness, communication with units/members represented. Financial support for rep. to do these things? What can be expected of a student on a volunteer basis?

SAF Student Exec. Comm. – Financial, administrative support for this?

Changes to Forest Science and Technology Board (FSTB) and Working Groups (WG) looks good. Basically, have Interest Groups reaffirm their purpose periodically.

Generally, organizational structure opportunities (leadership positions, WGs, committees) to participate have not been a barrier to action or activities by SAF units or members. Lack of opportunity to participate or lead has not been a source of member dissatisfaction or frustration. Recent member surveys by Nor Cal SAF and Sacramento-Tahoe Chapter indicate a lack of interest in participating in meetings, let alone interest in serving as an officer. State society and chapter organizations are flexible enough to support most activities members are interested in. Form follows content - members must have a desire to use the structure, organization for some purpose; organizational structure should facilitate the formulation of national, regional, state forestry issues and problems, their prioritization and facilitate the development and implementation of plans, activities, policies to address those issues and problems.

Need clarification of role of the national organization and structure vis a vis the state society, division, and chapter organizations. National level roles – policy, communication (at national level, coordination at state level), public education (at national level and coordination of this at state level), accreditation, administrative structure to support state society, chapter activities (non-profit status, tax filing).

Next Meeting/Conference Call:

0900 hours on 8-22-05

Fritz will work with Craig to secure conference call details.

Meeting adjourned at 1052 hours.

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

(c:\md\SAF\SoCal SAF EC 6.29.05)