

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting/Conference Call
August 21, 2006

Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 0905 hours.

Minutes from 6-12-06 were approved. M/ Piirto, S/Koepp, that the meeting notes be accepted as written. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Treasurer's Report:

Tamara reviewed the report generated after the Spring Meeting. A profit of \$562.84 was realized.

Two additional expenses have been previously approved for this year:

- \$266.20 for J. Lopez to travel to NorCal SAF Meeting in Reno, Nevada (this money was allotted from the Chair/Chair-Elect travel fund to the 2005 SAF National Convention as all appropriated funds were not used).
- \$500 was approved for Ron Morrow to assist with registration and travel expenses to attend the 2006 Leadership Academy in Snowbird, Utah.

Current balance: \$5,770.16

Outstanding budget items remaining for 2006 include:

- Authorizing expenses for Chair/Chair-Elect to travel to the SAF National Convention
- Authorizing expenses for Cal Poly Students to travel to the SAF National Convention

Authorize Delegates to attend the HSD Meeting at National SAF Convention:

A discussion was held about who will represent SoCal SAF at House of Society Delegates (HSD). Fritz and Ron will not be able to attend the Convention. J. and John are scheduled to arrive in Pittsburgh after the HSD Meeting. Tamara will be in Pittsburgh one day early and she can represent SoCal SAF on the second day of HSD. The EC asked Tamara if she could adjust her schedule to attend both days of HSD. Dr. Doug made the motion that SoCal SAF authorizes \$400 to cover Tamara's travel expenses to the SAF National Convention and any additional funds required to adjust her airplane ticket. M/Piirto, S/Lopez, all in favor, none opposed, motion passes.

Authorize Financial Support Cal Poly SLO Student travel to National SAF Convention:

Financial support for Cal Poly student travel was also discussed. The EC received a letter from Cal Poly requesting financial support for four students who want to travel to Pittsburgh. As less

that \$500 will cover Tamara's expenses the EC decided to allot \$480 to cover the student's registration expenses at the National Convention (\$120.00 per student). The Cal Poly students will provide copies of their registration receipt to the Treasurer so that an accurate record of expenses can be kept. M/ Todd, S/Lopez that \$480 be allotted for the student travel to the SAF National Convention. All in favor, none opposed, with Dr. Doug abstaining. Tamara is to send the check to Dr. Doug at Cal Poly payable to the "NRM Dept. – FNR Discretionary Fund." Tamara was to mail the check on 8-21-06.

Fall Meeting:

The Fall Meeting is set for September 29 and 30, 2006. Day 1 will replicate the Board of Forestry tour that L. A County provided during June, 2006. During our field tour we will view much of new development in the Santa Clarita Valley, where we discuss County Fire's brush clearance and fuel modification programs. In addition, we will visit the Fire Department's Pacoima Facility to look at the Firehawk Helicopter and the Infrared Mapping Vehicle. We will also review L. A. County Forestry Division activities in and around Castaic Lake and visit the relocated "Old Glory" oak tree (made famous by a tree-sitter John Quigley during late 2002).

John suggested that we rent two 15-passenger vans to transport participants for the Friday portion of the meeting. He has been in contact with Enterprise Rent-a-Car in Santa Clarita and they have rental vans available for \$109 per day (plus applicable taxes and fuel). The EC authorized John to reserve two vans for the field tour. If registrations indicate we will only need one van we will cancel the reservation for the second van prior to the event. Tamara will work on supplying box lunches and drinks for Friday's lunch. She will follow-up with Michael Fleisher to find out which vendor he used for the Saint Francis Dam/Ridge Route tour that the San Gabriel Chapter provided during 2004.

Day 2 (morning) will take place at Descanso Gardens in La Canada-Flintridge. J. Lopez has been in contact with the CEO Dave Brown and the Descanso Gardens staff will provide two 45 minute presentations and a one hour guided tour for our group. Dave Brown has training as a forester and he is interested in limited removal of trees that will help sustain the budget of the gardens. Registration will be from 8 am to 9 am with presentations starting at 9 am. There is a café on site that will provide coffee and snacks in the morning and will also be open for lunch after our tour is completed. Attendees will be free to enjoy the gardens in the afternoon. Entrance fee for participants will likely be waived. Attendees will be free to tour the garden at the close of the meeting. J. will ask Mr. Brown if we can park vehicles in the Descanso Gardens parking lot during our Friday tour as this would be a convenient meeting place to start and end our Friday tour.

J. and John will work on the meeting announcement this week. It will be sent to the members of the EC for review and comment next week. Registration for SAF members will be \$50. Appropriate cost reductions will be offered to students, spouses, golden members, and single day attendees. The meeting flyer will be sent out prior to or by September 1 with an initial deadline for registration being September 15.

Next planning meeting/conference call for the Fall Meeting will be on Monday, September 18, 2006 at 0900 hours. John will send out details prior to the conference call.

Communications Report:

No newsletter has been generated this year as J. has received limited input from members of the EC. The newsletter is important to reach members who do not often attend meetings. We would like to publish *The Sundial* prior to Thanksgiving. Input needs to be received prior to Friday, November 10.

Nominations:

Dr. Doug nominated Michael Fleisher as Chair-Elect for SoCal SAF. Michael said he would consider whether or not to accept the nomination. Martin Gubrud continues to express interest and may also be considered as a candidate. Tamara will approach him at an upcoming PAPA (Pesticide Continuing Ed) Meeting to see if he is interested. John will continue as Secretary and Tamara will serve as Treasurer for an additional year. J. will also serve as a Communications Chair for another year.

Membership Report:

Tamara provided an update on the Purge List (members who are purged for non-payment of dues) that was received in April. Tamara made the effort to contact all members on the Purge List to try and determine why they had decided to not renew their membership. Some members said that not renewing was simply an oversight and they have since renewed their membership.

We have one new member, Phil McWilliams, who joined after the Spring Meeting. It seems that we continue to pick up a member or two each time we hold a meeting. Good job Tamara!

Past Chair Report:

A workshop titled "Contemporary Issues in the Oak Forest" was recently held in conjunction with University of Cooperative Extension in the San Luis Obispo area. The program was well received with approximately 50 people in attendance. Dr. Doug suggested that closer contact with our local Cooperative Extension counterparts may benefit SAF as they have many contacts and they can provide additional positive exposure for SAF activities.

Dr. Doug will be leaving for Finland on September 2 for 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. In addition, he has been tasked with providing as many as 60 lectures. Dr. Rich Thompson will be the Acting Chair of the NRM Department at Cal Poly during Dr. Doug's absence. John will serve as proxy to the SoCal EC for Dr. Doug during his time away. Dr. Doug will return from Finland on December 2. Travel safely – we look forward to a program relating his Finnish experiences upon his return.

Roundtable:

A discussion was held on Chapter activity. The Cal Poly Student Chapter has a chair and is active. The Los Padres Chapter held a meeting during 2005 and remains active. Dr. Doug will ask Dr. Dicus to send out a chapter newsletter and he stated that he would be a candidate for the Los Padres Chapter Chair for 2007. Dr. Doug will ask John Bryant to remain as the Secretary/Treasurer for an additional year. The San Gabriel Chapter is currently considered inactive because no chapter activity has taken place in the past year and a half. This prompted two questions "What happens to chapter disbursement checks when a chapter is on inactive status?" and "Does SAF still charge members chapter dues even if their chapter has been placed on inactive status?" Tamara will look into this with the National Office. Members of the San Gabriel Chapter need to continue to look for an energetic candidate who can re-invigorate chapter activity.

Calendar:

Executive Committee Meeting/Conference Call: September 18, 2006

SoCal SAF Fall Meeting: September 29-30, 2006

House of Society Delegates: October 23-24, 2006

SAF National Convention: October 25-29, 2006

Executive Committee Meeting/Conference Call: December 11, 2006

This will be a planning meeting for 2007. During this call we will set a date and location for a face to face Executive Committee Meeting that will take place during January, 2007

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled Executive Committee Meeting for 2006 is set for **Monday, September 18, 2006**. The meeting is scheduled for 0900 – 1100 hours. John will forward call-in details shortly before the meeting.

Also, December 11, 2006 will be a Conference Call/Planning Meeting for 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 1154 hours.

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

(c:\md\SoCal SAF EC 08.21.06)