

Southern California Society of American Foresters  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Conference Call/Planning Meeting  
August 22, 2005

**Minutes**

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

Meeting called to order at 0907 hours.

**Opening Comments:**

All Executive Committee Members offered congratulations to Craig Cowie for receiving the Field Forester Award. J. Lopez suggested that Craig should be featured in the Member Spotlight Section in the next issue of *The Sundial*.

Doug Piirto congratulated J. on completing another excellent issue of *The Sundial*. It will be mailed out later this week. In addition, the Fall Meeting Announcement has been completed and it will be sent out shortly.

John Todd stated that the LA County Fire Department Forestry Technician and Forestry Assistant exams are currently open. Please let any perspective employees know that this opportunity exists. For further information please contact John, J., Michael Fleisher, or Tamara Hanna.

Doug provided the following agenda items:

Fall Meeting

*The Sundial*

Nominations

Support for Cal Poly student travel to the National Convention

Michael asked about receiving points on Los Angeles County Exams for participating in SAF and other organizations. The new exams that have been released do not offer points for organizational participation. This item was added to the agenda.

**Fall Meeting Update:**

John has completed his CFE assessment of the Fall Meeting. It will be worth 5.0 units of SAF CFE Category 1 Units. This information has been added to the Fall Meeting Announcement.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is going to allow SoCal SAF to visit their facility but the meeting will be hosted at LA County Fire Department Camp 2 (next door). As parking is limited at Camp 2, we may need to park some of the visitor's vehicles at Hahamongna Watershed Park, which is just south of Camp 2. We may need to work out a shuttle to get visitors from the park to Camp 2.

Current meeting agenda is as follows:

Friday, September 30, 2005

8:00 – 8:45 Registration - Coffee and Pastries (Camp 2)  
8:45 – 9:00 Introductions, Walk to JPL  
9:00 – 11:30 Tour of JPL\*  
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (Camp 2)  
1:00 – 2:00 JPL Speaker 1  
2:00 – 2:15 BREAK  
2:15 – 3:00 Overview of LA County Camp Operations, Captain Fred Bland  
3:00 – 3:15 BREAK  
3:15 – 4:15 JPL Speaker 2  
4:15 – 4:30 BREAK  
4:30 – 5:15 Discussion of Volunteer Organization Structure (VOS) Task Force Report  
5:15 – 5:45 SoCal SAF Executive Committee Meeting  
6:30 – Dinner at Dish Restaurant, La Canada-Flintridge

Doug can provide an overview of his trip to Finland if one of the scheduled speakers is not available.

\*J. has confirmed each attendee will need to have one form of Government Picture ID to gain access to JPL.

Saturday, October 1, 2005

8:00 – 8:45 Registration - Coffee and Pastries (Monrovia Canyon Park Conference Center)  
8:45 – 9:00 Introductions  
9:00 – 10:00 Land Management Issues in the Monrovia Wildland Urban Interface  
Battalion Chief Derek Young, Monrovia Fire Department  
10:00 – 10:15 BREAK  
10:15 – 11:00 Mission and History of Monrovia Canyon Park  
Park Ranger Kim Bosell  
11:00 – 12:30 Monrovia Canyon Park Tour, Free Time  
12:30 Meeting Adjourns  
1:00 Lunch at Empanada's Gourmet, Monrovia

A brief discussion was held regarding presentation of gifts for speakers and other key contributors. J. volunteered to review the SAF website and to purchase some gifts. A motion was made to spend up to \$250 to acquire gifts for speakers and other key contributors during the Fall Meeting. M/Lopez, S/Piirto, all in favor, motion carries

Registration fees will be \$40 for SAF Members for both days, \$20 for one day. Spouses can attend both days for \$20, or one day for \$10.

### **Communications:**

*The Sundial* is complete and it will be mailed out late this week. It will be delivered via a combination of e-mail and US Mail. An insert for the Fall Meeting will be included.

The Fall Meeting Announcement will go out midweek via a combination of e-mail and US Mail. The deadline for registration will be September 15, 2005. The tour of JPL will be limited to 50 people.

**Nominations:**

All Executive Committee members need to be looking for candidates to serve as Chair-Elect. Please forward the names of any potential candidates to Nominations Chair Craig Cowie. The consensus of the EC is to return to a one-year term for the role of Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past-Chair.

Fritz suggested that Jay Gruenfeld, a contributor to the current edition of *The Sundial*, may be a viable candidate. J. will contact Jay to see if he is interested in running for the Chair-Elect position.

A brief discussion ensued regarding other possible candidates who could possibly run for office and might also be available to attend the National Leadership Academy.

A discussion was held on what positions need to be elected and which position can be appointed for 2006. The consensus was that the Treasurer and the Secretary serve at the behest of the Chair. Other members of the EC are appointees that need to be confirmed by the Chair on an annual basis. Fritz will review the by-laws to determine that this is the proper procedure.

**National Convention:**

At this time EC Members who are planning on attending include: Piirto, Hanna, Koepp, Lopez, and Cowie.

Doug said that Cal Poly will be having a breakfast (?) and all members of SoCal SAF will be invited.

Doug asked about financial support from SoCal SAF for Cal Poly Students. Up to eight students may be attending. NorCal may again provide some financial support. To date Doug has commitments of \$4500 to support Cal Poly student attendance at the National Convention. A suggestion was made that SoCal SAF provide \$500 to support Cal Poly student attendance at the National Convention.

A motion was made to allot up to \$500 to cover Cal Poly student expenses related to the National Convention. M/Todd, S/Lopez, all in favor with one abstention (Piirto), motion carries.\*

A discussion was held regarding support for the Chair and Chair-Elect to travel to the National Convention. For the past several years up to \$1000 has been annually approved to support travel of the Chair and Chair-Elect to the Convention.

A motion was made to allot up to \$1000 to cover Chair and Chair-Elect expenses related to the National Convention. M/Lopez, S/Todd, all in favor, motion passes.\*

\*Contingent upon the Treasurer's approval

**Announcements/Round Table:**

University school foresters are going to meeting at Swanton-Pacific Ranch October 3-5, 2005. If you are interested in attending, contact Dr. Brian Dietterick at (805) 756-6155 or Dr. Piirto at (805) 756-2702.

J. suggested that at the beginning of the year it would be a good idea to write a letter to the various southern California resource agencies re-introducing SoCal SAF and encouraging prospective members to join us for another exciting and educational year. This was done in the past, but it has not been done for the last couple of years.

Possible locations for future meetings were discussed. It has been sometime since we have been to the Santa Barbara or San Luis Obispo area and it may be time to hold a meeting in that area. A suggestion was made that we canvass the attendees at the Fall Meeting to see what ideas and themes they may have for future meetings.

The recent Forestry Assistant bulletin flown by LA County Fire Department is not offering any points for participation in professional organizations. In the past, participation in professional organizations such as SAF, California Urban Forest Council, California Licensed Foresters Association, and the Southern California Association of Foresters and Fire Wardens were worth points on the exam. While this exam is already out, it may be worth writing a letter from SoCal SAF supporting credit on future exams for participation in professional organizations. John will compare the current exam to past exams, determine if there have been any changes, and report back to the EC.

**Next Meeting/Conference Call:**

The next meeting of the EC will take place during the Fall Meeting at either Camp 2, at the end of the first day, or later that evening at the Dish Restaurant. All attendees will be welcome at the meeting of the EC.

Fritz will work on dates for a face-to-face, sit-down EC Meeting in December, 2005 or January, 2006. This will be a planning meeting for 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 1055 hours.

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

(c:\md\SAF\SoCal SAF EC 8.22.05)