

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Glendale Fire Department, Glendale, CA
December 13, 2002

Minutes

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

Meeting called to order at 0915

Approval of minutes from October 18, 2002 Executive Committee Meeting with the following addition:

- Add to Oct. 18 minutes: Executive Committee (EC) directed Policy Chair, Fritz Koeppe, to send a land use planning letter based on the Aug. 28 letter SAF President Wm. Smith sent to Senator Robert Byrd, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Appropriation.

Officer Reports:

Chair Report (Tamara Hanna):

Jan. 21 letter on behalf of the Riverside Fire Lab is no longer necessary because the lab is going to remain funded.

Lopez Fellow Award Recognition: Present framed certificate at upcoming Forestry Division Meeting and a dinner meeting of the San Gabriel Chapter – also will be mentioned at the Spring Meeting.

Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) in SoCal: Would like to include FIT graduates who live in southern California in the mailing for the Spring Meeting in Julian. Then we can see how many FIT graduates attend and gauge interest for future continuing education opportunities.

Proceeds of Cal Poly Raffle, Fall Meeting: discussion of compensation for students; Do these proceeds detract from annual National Convention subsidy? Does convention subsidy have to go to convention expenses if no members attend a SAF National Convention in a given year?

Chair-Elect Report (Craig Cowie):

Spring Meeting: Julian, CA focus of meeting will include harvesting that is happening as a result of the Pines Fire (July-Aug., 2002). Possible dates include March 28-30. Pierce College Field Trip is same weekend, could tie programs together. Pierce study subjects include Equine Center, Wolf Recovery, Salvage Harvesting, and Sunday tour of Anza-Borrego State Park.

Officers needed: Discussion of how to increase participation of membership as members of the Executive Committee and as Officers on the State Society and Chapter level.

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Meetings – Closed or Open? Should we open up our meeting to other groups? If we want greater numbers and diversity at our meeting this is a significant opportunity. Meetings can be advertised on other societies' websites. One of the most well attended chapter meetings of last year was a San Gabriel Chapter Dinner Meeting that was also attended by many members of the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area Group. This group had met earlier during the day and one of the members, who is an SAF member, had previously publicized that SAF would be holding a dinner meeting to discuss Sudden Oak Death on the same day as their meeting was scheduled. As many in the group had an interest in the subject, many of them came to the meeting, where their attendance enhanced the knowledge and views that were shared during the evening.

SoCal Leadership Academy: Should this continue to be an annual event? Every two years? Do we need a half-day or full-day session?

Annual meeting schedule: Should State Society continue to have two annual meetings (Spring and Fall) or just have one annual meeting and continue to publicize and encourage regional and chapter activities (i.e. trip to Reagan ranch, past trips to Channel Islands sponsored by Chapters)

Treasurer's Report (Mick Sears):

Review report. Mick asks Doug P. to inquire about large checks for fall meeting expenses that have not yet been cashed.

Motion (M) by Nickles, Second (S) by Todd proposal that all Fall meeting raffle/silent auction proceeds go to Cal Poly students with \$200 earmarked for convention travel and the remainder to go to the Cal Poly NRM Department for Doug Piirto to apply toward student development. Motion passes 7-0 with one abstention.

SPECIAL THANKS to Mick Sears for donating the nice items that embellished the silent auction.

Past-Chair Report (Doug Nickles):

New major at CSU Channel Islands: B. S. in Environmental Science and Resource Management.

Doug distributed comprehensive notes and shared pictures from the fall meeting in SLO.

Award for Andy Lipkis that was to be presented at the 2001 National Convention mailed to him.

Newsletter discussion: What happened this year? No state society newsletters were produced. Need to decide how many newsletters we are going to publish on an annual basis, need to set deadlines and keep them, need to get realistic estimate for the Communications Chair as to how many newsletters he can produce realizing that he also supports the San Gabriel Chapter in a similar capacity. Also need to keep current versions of the newsletters on the website. Availability of current newsletters is a critical communication link to all members, especially those who cannot attend meetings.

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Committee Reports:

Tellers Committee Report (Mick Sears):

Election for Chair-Elect: 29 ballots received, all for Doug Piirto. Zero write-in votes

Doug Piirto accepts role of Chair-elect for 2003 and Chair for 2004. Congratulations Doug!

Request to update National SAF web directory for SoCal. Nickles will handle.

Membership Report (John Todd):

Discussion on membership pins, although this has not been embraced previously for all members because of expense it may be good to provide pins in selective categories. For example: recognition of five years of membership, current research indicates that the greatest numbers of members are dropping their membership after 1-6 years. Perhaps some recognition would encourage their continued participation.

Tamara Hanna has been sending postcards to new members. Membership Chair should request Chapter Chairs to contact new members to welcome them aboard. Perhaps a letter from both State Chair and Chapter Chair would be a good introduction to local SAF activities.

Provide Doug Nickles with new members e-mail addresses so he can add them e-mail list.

Policy Chair Report (Fritz Koepf):

Do we need a response to recent media stories in the NY and LA Times about “relaxing” logging regulations? Feeling is that we should respond, perhaps in joint SoCal/NorCal letter or in just a SoCal sponsored letter.

Chapter Reports:

Cal Poly Report (John Bryant/Doug Piirto):

Sequoia National Monument Draft EIS is out, while there may be need to comment, probably a NorCal issue; preferred alternative in the draft allows for maximum flexibility in resource management.

Recent paper from Cal Poly published on ecosystem management. If you would like a copy contact Doug Piirto at Cal Poly.

There is a Career Fair at Cal Poly on Feb. 20. For more information contact Carolyn Jones or Doug Piirto at Cal Poly.

John Bryant reminded all of upcoming UFEI academies. For more information go to UFEI website at <http://www.ufe.calpoly.edu/>

John Bryant would like to work on a Fellow nomination for this year. He feels we have enough viable candidates to nominate a Fellow annually. Todd will send him required paperwork.

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Meeting adjourned at 1315 hours.

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

(c:\md\SoCal SAF EC 12.13.02)