

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Conference Call
May 12, 2008

Minutes

In Attendance: Gubrud (Chair), Eckardt (Chair-Elect), Hanna, Koepp, Lopez, Nickles, Piirto, Todd (8)

Meeting called to order at 0905 hours

Opening Comments:

Chair Marty Gubrud reviewed the earlier meeting from February and asked if this should be considered an official meeting. The Executive Committee agreed that this was an official meeting and that the notes should be kept as the subjects that were discussed were pertinent to SoCal SAF. The EC agreed that the notes should be kept and that they would be submitted as an addendum to the notes that are being taken today.

Officer Reports:

Chair Report (Martin Gubrud):

Marty attended a San Luis Obispo Chapter Meeting that was very well attended in Bakersfield. Dr. Doug was also in attendance.

Marty has been appointed as a Hospitality Co-Chair for the upcoming 2008 SAF National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

Chair-Elect Report (Scott Eckardt):

For a summer meeting we are looking at opportunities in the Santa Monica Mountains-Ventura County-Santa Barbara County area. Doug Nickles also suggested that he had recently visited Fort Tejon and that we might want to focus on the history of the Grapevine area, which would include the new agreement and proposed future development within the Fort Tejon Ranch holdings. John Todd also mentioned that we may be able to fold in some history of the Ridge Route as SAF Member Paul Rippens has a wealth of knowledge and has led several tours about this subject. Possible meeting dates would include July 26-27.

Secretary (John Todd):

John Todd explained that he is only in a temporary role as the Fire Marshal of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. He will still be Chief of the Forestry Division when his interim assignment with the Fire Prevention Division ends.

John mentioned that he had not found a replacement for SoCal SAF Secretary but that he intends to do some officer recruiting. John offered to continue in the Secretary role for the remainder of 2008 or until a replacement is found

Treasurer (Tamara Hanna):

2007-Year End Report

The EC discussed the recent pattern of expenditures on award spending. Tamara stated that we need to stay within our agreed upon budget when purchasing awards. If expenditure of additional funds is going to be authorized the EC needs to be informed and an agreement has to be reached.

The recent practice of sending out the newsletter and other mailings via e-mail (to most members) has reduced general supply costs.

The 2007-Year End Financial Report was reviewed. Discussion: Tamara asked if we could shift money from general supplies to cover the additional cost of awards. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted, a friendly amendment to raise the 2008 Awards budget from \$100 from to \$200 was submitted by Doug Nickles. A second came from J. Lopez. All in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

The EC reviewed the proposed budget for 2008. The Chair and other members of the EC posed various questions.

One question centered on the website registration for the next three years. The fee is \$35 per year. J. will contact Jeff Reimer to determine if this expense will change. The cost for website registration for the next three years will be \$105. A motion was made by Fritz Koepp to accept the proposed 2008 budget with new changes (additional awards and website expenditures). The motion received a second from J. Lopez. All in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Chair

Ron Morrow has moved to Utah and the EC discussed appointing a replacement as Nominating Chair. The EC agreed this is a very important task and for this reason all members should continue to look collectively for new officers. Fritz mentioned that John Bryant has provided some good names in the past and that we should continue to seek his counsel.

Membership Chair

Tamara stated that she contacted members who had not renewed and also those that did not have a chapter designated. J. also followed up with the people he was asked to contact.

Policy Chair

Fritz forwarded an Op-Ed piece from the LA Times yesterday. The piece talked about global warming and how this is 'Society's Last Chance' to do something. This article was one of the most popular stories that was forwarded yesterday and it nearly crashed the LA Times server.

Communications Chair

J. asked if we want to produce a newsletter prior to our summer meeting. With a meeting tentatively scheduled for July 26, J imposed a May 30 deadline for submissions. Fritz and Scott agreed to conference off-line to pull together additional summer meeting details. Tamara stated she would write a brief article detailing how funds from National SAF will be split after the convention. The current proposal has funds be distributed after the convention based on the percentage of members from each state society that attend the National Convention. Tamara also said she would write a short article publicizing volunteer opportunities and seeking potential donations that will benefit the Forester's Fund during the convention.

Newsletter

Discussion on the next newsletter – consensus was we should send out a newsletter to the membership in advance of the National Convention. All EC members need to submit their articles.

Action Item: Tamara Hanna will write an article encouraging state society attendance at the convention. A share of the convention profits proportional to individual society membership attendance will be given to the state society.

Marty asked about providing compensation for the SoCal SAF Newsletter Editor similar to the way Northern California SAF does. While J. agreed that the NorCal Editor is a paid position, he pointed out that the person in that role also coordinates a great deal of other activities. While J. appreciated Marty's suggestion, he stated that he did not feel a need to seek compensation for the volunteer activities he does for SAF.

Forest Science Chair

Dr. Doug Piirto shared that there will be 'A Workshop on Climate Change' sponsored by the California Forest Products Commission in Sacramento on Thursday May 15, 2008 from 12 – 5 PM. The Forest Foundation will talk about green building and a representative from the Air Resource Board will talk about Climate Change and air quality.

Dr. Doug also provided details on the Board of Forestry (BOF) Workshop that reviewed the California Fire Plan last week. The Board is updating the plan and it was looking for success stories, input from academia, and ways to strengthen the plan as it is revised.

The BOF stated its intention to reform the Science Committee that has been inactive for the past few years. The BOF has approved an updated charter, completed a report for the California legislators, and the report has been posted on the BOF website and it is available for public review. The report will focus on an attempt to tie the strategic plan of the BOF to their research mission.

Tamara asked Dr. Doug about the Cal Poly Foundation Building Fund. Dr. Doug detailed progress to date. The Dean of the School of Agriculture is proposing the construction of a state of the art Ag Science Center. Donations will be needed to support the construction of a new Forest Products Resource Lab and to provide an endowment for a research Forester.

Awards Chair

We have two 50 year membership awards to present this year. One is for member Raymond Schaaf and other one is for Fellow Timothy O'Keefe. Tamara will work on framing these awards and will encourage the members to attend our Summer Meeting where we would be able to present these very deserving individuals with their awards.

Historian

Doug Nickles has arranged all SAF correspondence into a special email folder, hard copies can be printed as needed.

Chapter Reports:

San Gabriel Chapter – Doug Nickles

Doug is in the process of scheduling a dinner meeting for the summer. Bill Keye has been invited to be the guest speaker discussing the political issues affecting forestry from the State Capitol.

The Disneyland tour is still planned; dates TBD.

Another tour option is "Americana at Brand" an event/venue in Glendale, a Caruso affiliated project (with landscaping similar to Disneyland).

Cal Poly Student Chapter – Dr. Doug Piirto

Officers for the 2008-09 school year are as follows: Chair – Lenny Cridebring, Vice-chair – Tyler Nethaway. Students are currently organizing for the National Convention in Reno. Any support from the state society would be most appreciated.

Los Padres Chapter – Dr. Doug Piirto

Dr. Doug talked about in the past the LP chapter sponsored an “Outstanding Forester” award for a student. The award was a financial sum and/or a forester handbook. For some reason, the LP Chapter has stopped doing this. Doug asked why? It was recommended that Dr. Doug follow up with John Bryant, LP Treasurer, and Dr. Dicus, LP Chair, to gain their input. A quick roundtable discussion of the EC agreed that if the LP Chapter no longer wants to support this award that the State Society should. This item will be discussed again at future meetings.

National Convention Student Activities Coordinator – Doug Nickles

Doug is still trying to ascertain the level of participation from the Cal Poly students at the convention. He needs more contact with Samantha Gill and Megan Wilson. Significant involvement at the National Convention would bring national recognition to Cal Poly SLO.

New Business:

Marty Gubrud brought up the subject of bring the NorCal Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) program to SoCal. The EC has discussed this matter at length during past meetings. All agree it is a great and worthwhile program, but it takes a lot of volunteers and money to pull the program together. SoCal just does not have the same resources to put together such a program as does NorCal.

The EC recognizes that there is a big disconnect with inner city youth of southern California and discussed support we could provide to other programs. Programs that were discussed include Conservation Days at Griffith Park, Camp Colby (LAUSD educational facility), Forestry Conservation Days (contact is Tom Catchpool of the Sierra region). All members agreed that these programs are very good programs and that they provide a needed service for many children. However, they may require a large cadre of volunteers and significant financial resources.

J. Lopez suggested the SoCal SAF continue to concentrate our efforts on what we already have available locally in the Los Angeles area. One example is the LA County Arboretum’s Environmental Education Fair which is held annually on the second Saturday in March. SoCal SAF only needs to contact the Fair Coordinator and we could set up a booth, staff it with a few SoCal SAF members and we could pass out forestry literature and distribute information about SAF to the fair’s visitors. This Fair targets teachers and children. An audience similar to those at FIT (Teachers) could be reached.

Dr. Doug reminded that with our limited time and resources (financially & voluntarily) we need to maximize our effectiveness. Other EC members agreed.

Action Item: J. Lopez will get all necessary contact information to Marty Gubrud. Marty will follow up on the necessary arrangements for having a SAF booth at the next Environmental Fair in March 2009.

There was a quick discussion as to what is covered under the national insurance policy. Basically, all state society meetings held in a building (seminar, classroom format) are covered. Field tours are not. A rider to the national policy can be obtained from JZA (the insurance company) if additional coverage is desired by the state society for field tours. The cost of the rider is expensive. More information on this is in the Leadership Notebook.

Marty Gubrud informed the EC that during this year's convention, for the first time, there will be a special luncheon honoring all Golden Members (those members who have 50 years with SAF). What has our state society done to recognize our 50-year members? The EC discussed having a special dinner or luncheon meeting to honor our 50-year members or we could provide some special recognition at our summer meeting.

The EC discussed the difficulty of having a state society meeting prior to the National Convention. Many EC members have made commitments to the National Convention which would make it difficult to have time to put together a quality two day program. A one-day program this summer may be a better option.

Action Item: Fritz Koepp to contact Chair-Elect Scott Eckardt to determine if it will be feasible to hold a summer meeting. The summer meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 26th.

Dr. Doug provided an opinion about the sale of the national office property. He feels as though the membership has been left out in this decision, that the national office did this without soliciting input from the membership prior to making the final decision to sell the property. This was disturbing to Doug. He sent a letter to Executive Vice-President Mike Goergen indicating his displeasure with the council and national office for having made this decision without the apparent input from the membership. Tamara Hanna also had similar sentiments when first reading about the sale of the national office property. Tamara had the opportunity to question Julie Lydick, Council District 3 Representative, during the winter meeting in Reno. One point of view was sale of the property would provide long-term financial security for SAF. Details are somewhat unclear. Julie indicated she would forward information to the state society as she receives it. Also, pertinent information about the sale of the national office property is included in *The Forestry Source* in articles written by Mike Goergen.

Action Item: Marty Gubrud to follow-up with Council Representative Julie Lydick to see if there is any additional information that can be included in the state society newsletter, *The Sundial*.

Policy Chair Fritz Koepp asked about the by-law change needed to accommodate electronic voting. Tamara Hanna received a notice sent to NorCal from the national office on this matter. It included specific language the national office is recommending that state societies use for the necessary by-law change.

Action Item: Tamara Hanna to send a copy of the document to Fritz Koepp so he can draft the by-law change.

Old Business:

Fritz Koepp provided a final resolution of the changes to the Program Chair position as proposed by Past-chair Ron Morrow. At the time of the original proposal, Chair Ron Morrow solicited input from the EC about changing the function of the Chair-Elect/Program Chair to make the Program Chair a separate and independent EC position with a 3-year term. Currently, the Chair-Elect takes over in January leaving only a few months to plan and organize the spring meeting. Making the Program Chair a separate position would allow for continuity in planning meetings without the last minute scramble that we usually face in planning for the spring meeting. After a review of the state society by-laws, Fritz indicated under the current by-laws, the Program Chair is a function of the Chair-Elect. Fritz concluded that the EC could not make this change without the membership voting to make this change. Until a proposal is made to change the by-laws, this subject is closed.

2008 Calendar

Deadline to submit article for the next Sundial – May 30th
Summer Meeting (tentative) – July 26th
Next EC meeting/conference calls (TBD) August, October, December
National Convention, Reno, Nevada – November 5 -9, 2008

Next Meeting:

The next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2008 at 0900 hours. Chair-Elect Marty Gubrud and Communications Chair J. Lopez will provide conference call details.

Meeting adjourned at 1130 hours.

Respectfully submitted by John R. Todd, Secretary, and Tamara J. Hanna,
Treasurer, Southern California SAF
(c:\md\SoCal SAF EC 05.12.08)