

Southern California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting
Conference Call
August 11, 2008

Minutes

In Attendance: Gubrud (Chair), Eckardt (Chair-Elect), Koepp, Morrow, Lopez, Piirto, Todd (7)

Meeting called to order at 0908 hours

Officer Reports:

Chair Report (Martin Gubrud):

There will be a 9 AM Conference Call tomorrow for the Arrangements Committee for the upcoming National Convention in Reno, Nevada. Marty is communicating with Bob Solari and J. Lopez.

Marty has several handouts from National that he will discuss at the end of the agenda as time allows.

Marty is Co-Chair of Hospitality. He was told his registration fee will be taken care of (?) but he does not know if he should accept this offer as his registration may not be included in the SoCal SAF attendance count. This is important because according to what we have been told the three sponsoring societies (Intermountain, NorCal and SoCal) will be compensated by the National Office based on the percentage of state society members that attend the National Convention.

Marty and Scott Eckardt will be attending House of Society Delegates Meeting that will take place on the two days immediately preceding the National Convention.

Chair-Elect Report (Scott Eckardt):

Scott is now working out of the Dudek Office in Auburn. He is still coordinating some projects in SoCal but most of his work is keeping him in NorCal. He is not spending as much time in SoCal as he thought he would so he is wondering if he should continue as SoCal Chair for 2009.

The EC members discussed having Scott serve as the Chair while living in NorCal. We may need to find a replacement. Marty volunteered to remain as Chair for an additional year. If the EC decides to accept his offer we would need to find a new Chair-Elect for 2009.

The EC discussed the fact that once you put in your address change SAF automatically moves you into a new State Society. The EC is leaning towards finding a replacement. EC members should be prepared to discuss and nominate a new candidate at the National Convention.

Secretary (John Todd):

Notes were presented from the Executive Committee (EC) Meetings that took place on February 12th and May 12th. The EC is to review and forward corrections to Eckardt (2-19) and Todd (5-12).

John's term as Fire Marshal has ended and he is back as Chief of Forestry effective July 16, 2008.

John has not found a replacement to serve as SoCal SAF Secretary but he will continue in this role for the remainder of 2008.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Chair

Dr. Doug Piirto made a motion that the Nominating Committee come up with a slate of officers by the end of the National Convention. Motion was seconded by Fritz Koeppe, all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Policy Chair

Fritz forwarded notes from the State Policy Chair Network Conference Call. Notes were taken by Dr. Mortimer who, to Fritz's knowledge, was not on the call. Fritz mentioned that he thought SAF National Policy has become less democratic (grass-roots) and the setting of policy seems to be more centralized. From Fritz's perspective the organization has become more of a political or lobbyist organization. Dr. Doug wondered how this 'change' would affect our status as a 501 c (3) (non-profit) organization. Dr. Doug asked if we should write a letter diplomatically asking if response to policy issues and procedures for responding have changed.

During the Convention SAF will hold the 1st Annual Symposium on American Forest Policy on Saturday, November 8th from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. The EC felt we should attend the Policy Forum at the Convention and then if we feel that local policies are not being addressed then it may be time to draft a letter. The Symposium will conflict with Chair Gubrud's proposed meeting time and date for the SoCal SAF EC Meeting.

Communications Chair

J. sent us the purge list on Tamara's behalf (Membership Chair). There are 15 members on the purge list. Currently there are 125 members registered to SoCal

SAF. Some are students and some are regular members. J. offered that National SAF will offer student rates for one additional year for those new graduates that are entering the employment sector. Dr. Doug offered to follow-up and he will share this fact with the current Cal Poly students and recent alumni.

Fritz asked if why both Dr. Dicus and Dr. Thompson are listed on the National SAF website as Cal Poly Student Advisors for SAF. Dr. Doug stated that his preference is that both professors remain as Student Advisors.

J. said that the current Conference Call number that we are using, which is provided by Los Angeles County, will remain available for future SoCal SAF Conference Calls.

Newsletter

J. has only received a submission from Marty for *The Sundial*. A new newsletter deadline for submissions of September 30 has been set. J would work on the Newsletter in October and then put out a Newsletter after the National Convention possibly in conjunction with the 2009 SoCal SAF Officer Ballot.

Fritz asked if we should continue with the current Newsletter format. Would a blog be a more timely way of reaching our members? The EC needs to keep in mind that not all members have internet access and that we don't disenfranchise those members. Fritz asked if it would be better to look at a new model. The EC agreed we should try to keep our communication on the cutting edge. We can discuss further at future meetings.

Education

John Todd will continue to evaluate all SoCal activities for Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) units. John reminded everyone that the National Convention provides an excellent opportunity to accrue CFEs. CFE units are built into each program and each event and the CFEs that can be earned are listed in the Convention Program.

The *Journal of Forestry* (JOF) now has a quiz on the last page of each issue that members can complete and submit. Questions are based on articles found in the JOF issue that is being read. A passing grade of 70% will earn members additional Category 1 CFE units.

Forest Science Chair

Dr. Doug mentioned that California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) does a good job of chronicling BOF activities via their newsletter (CLFA Update), website and e-mails that are sent to members.

Chapter Reports:

Cal Poly Report

The BOF is considering a motion to honor Dr. Pillsbury for his many contributions to Forestry and Natural Resources Management education.

Both Environmental Management and Forestry Management are going through a mid-term program review. Complete program review takes place every ten years; the mid-term review is at the 5 year interval.

Dr. Doug stated that he hopes bring 10-12 students to the National Convention.

Enrollment is up at Cal Poly with overall Department enrollment at 600 people. Todd mentioned that there have been several recent media articles and success stories that are showing that land managers are turning a corner on resource issues. Recent articles have covered the Ballona Wetlands, Mono Lake, and the re-establishment of forty miles of the Owens River.

Los Padres Chapter

No activity to report.

San Gabriel Chapter:

John reported that Bill Keye, who is CLFA's Government Affairs Specialist and writes "The Gas Can" column (among other duties), spoke at the San Gabriel Chapter Dinner Meeting in July. Fritz commented that Mr. Keye does a good amount of listening and he seems to be a very effective at engaging in dialogue on forestry issues.

New Business:

FIT – Forestry Institute for Teachers; NorCal has asked us to consider sponsoring this event in SoCal or to assist in NorCal for the past several years. SoCal SAF simply does not have the resources to provide this program.

NorCal SAF has also solicited assistance with Forestry Conservation Days that are held annually in Saratoga, CA. Once again, travel distance, time and expenses remain limiting factors. The suggestion was made that we should become involved in the annual Environmental Education Fair (EEF), which is held each March at the Arboretum in Arcadia. Marty said he would contact representatives of the EEF to see if we could have a booth that would promote Forestry and SAF information at the 2009 EEF.

Old Business:

The EC discussed insurance at our annual meetings. This issue has been discussed several times in the past by the EC. My personal recollection is that indoor meetings are covered by the National insurance policy that covers state society meetings. Outdoor meetings that take place on private property require

the purchase of an 'insurance rider' through a private insurance company that has been selected by National SAF. We have purchased this insurance rider in the past but it was expensive (approximately \$1100 per year). Tamara has a good understanding of the policy and she can provide any needed clarification.

Marty followed up with District III Council Member Julie Lydick about the sale of the National Headquarters Property but he has not received any additional info. Per J. the Council voted on the issue and there was agreement that it was time to move past the litigation that has plagued the National Headquarters Property for decades. This sale will enhance the SAF's financial security for the future. Latest update on this issue is that the sale of National Headquarters Property has fallen through. Stay tuned!

The EC also discussed the necessary By-law change for approval and standardization of e-voting. Per Fritz the National Office will provide new standard, minimum by-laws to both the Chair and the Policy Chair. Once received, they will be forwarded to the members for voting and approval.

Open Forum:

Dr. Doug mentioned that it might be timely to complete an article for publication in *The Forestry Source* or the JOF on Los Angeles County Forestry Division. The Forestry Division was created by County Charter in 1911 and the Division will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2011. It may be the oldest local government forestry entity in the United States.

The Editor of the JOF, Matthew Walls, is looking for manuscripts that could be included in the JOF. All members are encouraged to look for suitable topics or manuscripts that will maintain the high level of professionalism that is expected of the JOF. If you are aware of a worthwhile project that has not been written up, this is your chance to be published in a professional peer-reviewed journal.

2008 Calendar:

The next meeting of the EC is scheduled to take place during the National Convention. Marty will try to select a time and place that the EC will be able to meet prior to the convention. The date and time may change depending on meeting space and when a quorum of the EC is available.

Dr. Doug suggested that the Chair have a meeting or conference call after the National Convention so we can debrief and share experiences from the event.

National Convention, Reno, Nevada – November 5-9, 2008
Conference Call, mid-December or early January dates TBD

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the SoCal SAF Executive Committee will be scheduled to take place in Reno, Nevada during the National Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 1045 hours.

Respectfully submitted by John R. Todd, Secretary, Southern California SAF
(c:\md\SoCal SAF EC 08.11.08)