

CALIFORNIA LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes – August 27, 2016

Ft. Bragg, CA

CLFA Vice President, Nick Knipe called the meeting to order at 9:18 pm.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Christopher Dow, Kieran O'Leary, Mike Bacca, Ron Hutchinson, Nick Knipe, (On GOTO Meeting) George Gentry, Harlan Tranmer

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Stacy Stanish, Sara Taddo Jones, Jay Fazio, Stewart McMorrow, & Jan Caster

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Hannon, Kathleen Burr via GoToMeeting

VP Knipe welcomed everyone to CLFA's August meeting in Ft. Bragg and thanked everyone for volunteering their time to serve on the Board.

Minutes – Chris Dow moved, with a second by Kieran O'Leary, to approve the June 21, 2016 minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

Financials – Kathleen Burr

- Kathleen Burr presented the Financial Report. CLFA in best shape financially in many years.

Correspondence – Nick Knipe

- Chuck Dethero paid his dues to renew. Commented fees are too high for foresters with a family. This was the only renewal CLFA received with this type of comment. Nick Knipe will contact him to discuss his concerns.
- Chris Dow letter to President Fazio. See attachment from Director Dow on possible changes to CLFA Bylaws to include a "retired" or "inactive" membership category. Needs to be approved by the CLFA Board and then sent to the voting membership for a final vote. Director Dow stated that before the Board votes, need to send out the draft to past Board members for comment. YG stated that the draft should also be send to Matt Dias at Forester's Licensing to check that it's in agreement with the Professional Forester Law, as well as, to Len Lindstrand and Rich Wade. One suggestion was to send out a notice with the proposed change in the dues letter and then have online voting for the qualified membership.

Membership –Nick Knipe reported

- New Membership – Kieran attended UC summer camp and signed up 10 new student members. Evan Yoshimoto, Elenor Leender, Mary McDonnell, Julie Nguyen, Jacob Levine, Monzerrat Loza, Camila Quintana, Longher Schomburg, Katanja Waldner, Hunter Noble. Additional Associate Member Rosalie Carnam.
- Vote: Motion by Christopher Dow, seconded by Ron Hutchinson. All approved unanimously.

Executive Director – Kathleen Burr reported:

- Kathleen has received several calls from small landowners looking for foresters in their local area. These are people who found CLFA through the website. So the public is using the website.
- The web site should get busy in the fall as people sign up for the ARC classes and Fall workshops.

Forest Practice Committee – Mike Bacca reported:

- The August meeting of the Forest Practice Committee (FPC) was a joint meeting with the Management Committee. One of the main objectives of the Committee for 2016, has and will continue to be to find effective methods to facilitate small landowner harvest. The discussion went to the basics of what is a small landowner. Input from various participants stated that it may include landowners up to 640 acres. A question of why the Board was dealing with small lots (those under three acres and in subdivisions of many of these small lots). The answer to this question is that it still meets the definition of timberland and these landowners still need to deal with archaeology issues, endangered species, etc. At the end of this discussion the question was posed of whether the Board should continue to call these small lots timberland. Stay tuned for further discussion in the coming months meetings of the FPC.
- **Working Forest Management Plan-** was up for potential adoption by the BOF at the August Board meeting. Public comment was received by the Board from the following groups:
 - Coastal Action Group (CAG) – Alan Levine also gave oral testimony regarding CAG opposition to the proposed WFMP regulations. He said that it did not fully implement the legislation. One of his main concerns was the allowance of multiple landowners under one WFMP, which he said the legislation did not allow. Stu Farber found in his notes the Boards conversations with Mario DiBernardo when the legislation was being written that showed that multiple landowners are allowed.
 - Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) Rob DiPerna stated that EPIC has submitted many pages of written testimony with much documentation. EPIC at this time is not supportive of the current WFMP regulations. EPIC still has problems with wildlife and water protection in a “forever” document.
 - Forest Landowners of California (FLOC) Larry Camp, stated that FLOC was supportive of the current WFMP regulations and urged the Board to approve them.
 - No vote was taken by the Board at the meeting on the proposed WFMP regulations.
- **Utility Notification** - will mandate disclosure of electrical utility lines inside and within 200 feet of the plan boundaries- This was up for adoption at the August by the BOF. The current proposed regulations only propose changes to 14 CCR 1032.7. It was pointed out in discussion that additionally, 14 CCR 1090.2 and 1092.04 should also be changed to include Notice of Intent (NOIs) for THPs, PTHPs and Notice of Preparations (NOPs) for NTMPs.
 - No vote was taken by the Board at the meeting on the proposed change to the Utility Notification Amendment.

- **Electronic Submission of Harvest Documents-** Nothing new to report.
- **RPF/LTO Responsibilities** - Alan Carlson of Associated California Loggers (ACL) reported that he has received the requested data dump from CALFIRE regarding violations given to LTOs. ACL is going through the data and wants to set up a future meeting with CLFA and CALFIRE to discuss the findings.
- **Technical Rules Addendum (TRA) #2 revisions – Wildfire Hazard and Risk**
The Forest Practice Committee (FPC) continued discussion on possible revisions to TRA #2. A discussion ensued on whether TRAs were regulatory in nature or guidance documents. The discussion continued that some were clearly regulatory (TRA #1) and others were clearly guidance (TRA #5). Other TRAs were mixtures of both regulation and guidance; including TRA #2 that has both regulatory and guidance sections. One future project of the Board (FPC) may be to pull all the regulatory sections out and make them part of 14 CCR 912.9 [932.9, 952.9] and then leave TRA #2 as a purely guidance document.

Legislation – Nick Knipe reported:

- **Climate Change / Cap-and-Trade Issues:** The biggest unresolved issue is whether the legislature will extend the state's climate change law (AB 32). The law sunsets in 2020 and there are growing concerns from Governor Brown, some Democrats and environmental groups who believe a bill (SB 32 – Pavley) is needed to keep the law alive post 2020, and to demonstrate to the renewable energy industry that the state's law will remain intact. The Assembly passed SB 32 today but must receive a concurrence vote in the Senate. SB 32 is also contingent upon whether the Legislature approves another climate change bill (AB 197 – Garcia), which places additional transparency requirements on the implementation of AB 32 while also allowing the Legislature to approve two new appointees to CARB. SB 643 awaits full votes.

A contingent issue is whether the Legislature will be able to appropriate a substantial portion of revenues that are generated under the state's cap-and-trade program. A pending lawsuit brought by business groups has challenged whether the revenues collected for the program should have been done under a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. This has created concern and uncertainty about cap-and-trade expenditures regardless of whether certain programs such as biomass could actually help solve climate change and reduce forest fires. Finally, a related climate change issue is legislation, SB 1383 – Lara, which seeks to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, including a 40% reduction in methane and a 50% reduction in black carbon by 2030. SB 1383 awaits full votes on the Assembly and Senate Floors but faces stiff opposition from business groups, the agriculture industry and several Moderate Democrats.

- **Resource Budget Trailer Bills:** Meanwhile, even though the Legislature has already approved an overall state budget plan in July which provided funding for general government issues, several so-called "budget trailer bills" seeking to implement various policies linked to the overall budget have not been approved yet. These bills must get concurrence votes in the Legislature before moving to the governor's desk but they are expected to pass. This includes resource budget trailer bills that do the following:

AB 1611, SB 839 and SB 859 - would exempt "licensed cannabis cultivation" operations, as determined by Department of Food and Agriculture, from requirements to obtain a streambed alteration agreement with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (1600 permit). AB 1612, SB 840 and SB 831 - would expedite transmission interconnections for specified bioenergy or biomass projects in order to give them first priority to commence operations over other renewable energy resources.

AB 1613 – would spend \$1.2 billion in cap-and-trade dollars (SB 1613) for various programs, including \$20 million for healthy forest and fuels treatment.

- **Other Forestry-related Issues:** FLC-supported AB 2029 (Dahle) which seeks to expand and extend the LaMalfa exemption passed Senate Appropriations and now heads to the Senate Floor. However, there has been a lot of consternation from CALFIRE and the Department of Finance about the bill (they had concerns with language allowing the construction of temporary roads). Several amendments were offered by the author to address those concerns, including a requirement that a registered professional forester to mark and map the roads; prohibit roads in unstable areas; and require the registered professional forester to confirm the necessity of the road for safety or to provide access to the harvested area. But the Senate Appropriations Committee included additional amendments that removed all of the language from the bill allowing for construction of temporary roads, and also inserted a new 2021 sunset date instead of the 2023 sunset. While the California Forestry Association was not happy with the amendment, they have indicated the bill still has value. The bill awaits a full vote of the Senate and Assembly.
- Other forestry bills that remain alive and await full votes in the Senate and Assembly include the following:
 - AB 1923 (Wood) would require the CPUC to direct the electrical corporations to authorize a bioenergy electric generation facility with a nameplate generating capacity of up to 5 megawatts to participate in the bioenergy feed-in tariff.
 - AB 1958 (Wood) would create an exemption for the restoration of oak woodlands that would allow landowners to remove conifer trees that are crowding out oaks provided various restrictions; would also require CALFIRE to report on the effectiveness of existing exemptions in the Forest Practices Act.
 - AB 2480 (Bloom) would declare state policy to recognize and define source watersheds as integral components of California's water system, and eligible for financing on an equivalent basis with other water infrastructure projects.
 - SB 1386 (Wolk) would declare state policy that the protection and management of natural and working lands is an important strategy in meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals, including a requirement that all state agencies, departments, boards and commissions consider this policy when revising, adopting or establishing policies, regulations or expenditures to protect and manage natural and working lands.

Licensing:

At this month's PFEC meeting, a discussion was held regarding the Maranto memo sent to the PFEC regarding growth and yield on NTMPs, WFMPs and SYPs. Additionally the letter asks the PFECs position on whether CALFIRE Review team members should be: "obliged to have sufficient understanding in sustained yield concepts including personnel

that serve as their supervisors?" Although a CAL FIRE employee, the letter Mr. Maranto sent was as a private citizen. Although, some old NTMPs growth and yield analysis are not all they should be, Mr. Maranto lambasted all NTMP growth and yield analysis as inadequate. He asked the PFEC to define the standard for "incompetence" as shown in PRC 752(b). He implied that his supervisors are not qualified to review his work. He had several CAL FIRE files in possession when he was making his complaint. The PFEC refused to take his "work files" as most Growth and yield work is submitted to CAL FIRE as confidential information. Additionally, Mr. Maranto does not like stand table projection even though it is an acceptable way to supply growth and yield information on small NTMPs. He feels that Foresters should hire experts to do growth and yield estimates even though it may be cost prohibitive to many small landowners. CLFA may consider holding a future growth and yield workshop.

Wildlife & Water Resources – George Gentry reported (Stanish still on fire response):

F&G commission met regarding whether they should list NSO and COTO under CESA. Worried about Timber harvest as a threat. CFA presented data: barred owl biggest threat and not timber management/harvest. The Commission wants to make quite clear in their finding that timber management is/was not a threat to the NSO. Forest owners managing their lands stood out as a positive for NSO. The Commission wants to "hard pivot" to Barred owl issues. DFW Director Chuck Bonham was very supportive of the present process for review of NSO in the THPs. For COTO, Scott Osborn (DFW lead for review of COTO) testified for DFW and stated that listing is not warranted at this time. Management recommendations can be made on any THP. Testimony was that on most forest lands, most large trees with cavities are kept as wildlife trees. These could be used by COTO. Without listing, buffers and surveys are going away.

Education –

- Fall workshop - North – October 7th - Nick Knipe stated that there are really solid speakers and the route is set. They are applying for continuing education credits with the Dept. of Pesticide Regulations. This will be a one-day brown bag field day. Reforestation is the topic and discussion will focus on "reforestation treatments", as well as CFIP funding, and other funds available to the small landowner. Need to get the agenda to Kathleen ASAP so it can be posted to the website.
- Fall Workshop - Coast – This will be prepped for discussion at the next Board meeting as Director McMorrow is at a fire presently. This will be a one day brown bag field day. The committee is discussing carbon projects as the workshop focus. Steve Smith, Interim Chief Forester with the Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc., (RFFI) has been in discussion with the committee and will lead the tour. The date will be October 21– so as not to be in conflict with the Archeology Refresher Course and to avoid a potentially very busy week just prior to October 15.
- Spring Workshop –
 - Venue – Lions Gate, McClellan, CA
 - Dates – March 10 & 11, 2017

- Day 1 Workshop – The committee presented topics of focus including exemptions & conversion exemptions – pros/cons, potential issues, marijuana growing, and hazardous fuels reduction projects.
- 2017 Scholarship Competition at the Spring Workshop.
 - Director Dow will call Director McMorrow to guide the scholarship questions toward the topics presented at the spring workshop.

Communications – Kieran O’Leary reported:

- Director O’Leary reported that he looked at the website. All contact buttons work. Employee announcements, Director O’Leary recommends that they stay online for 90 days and then they are automatically deleted. This will solve the problem of having announcements online too long. Have colleges’ link on the website link to the Natural Resources Departments and not just the colleges. There is no map of the three districts so members do not know which district they are in, we should include a map. Bacca stated that a District map could be obtained from Suzanne Lang at CAL Fire in Santa Rosa.

Old business – Vice President Nick Knipe reported:

- 60 second forester – Director Caster has been working to get the videos completed so they can be posted to YouTube and linked to the CLFA website. CLFA is in the grant process with SFI.
- Director Bacca said that he spoke with Matt Dias and Draft Comments on the Utility Notification Amendment 2016 he submitted to President Fazio were not sent in as public comment. The Board may need to revise how draft comments are sent to the President with the end of the public comment period at the top of the draft comments so he knows when he needs to act.
- Watershed “Campbell Creek” Pilot project on Lyme Redwood Company lands - Russ Henley is interviewing for steering committee members. Goal is to have committee on board for their first meeting in October.
- VP Knipe discussed storage for CLFA documents that need to be stored. Director O’Leary researched Google cloud storage for rates. Jay Fazio would like CLFA to have an external hard drive. Where should that drive be kept? Nick Knipe suggested one with the Executive Director and one with the President.
- Working Forest Management Plan (WFMP) – there will be a hearing to take public comments. At the September meeting or October at the latest. Before the board votes, need to compile responses to public comments. YG says that “what you see is what you get” it should be voted on as the text is now written.

New Business- Vice President Knipe reported:

High school forestry certification program through FFA.

- Director Dow will contact Alex Stone and invite him to call in during the September meeting.
- Small Landowner Forum – Brainstorming ideas with Paul Masson and Michael Jerrad to try and figure out what needs to change so that small landowners can manage their properties more effectively. Maybe get ideas together and approach the board through the Management/Forest Practice Committee – their next meeting is in October.

AB1492 Meeting:

- Grant Programs - CFIP and Stream Restoration: Why isn't there participation south of San Francisco?
- Planning Watershed Pilot Project - Cumulative Impacts Analysis are being looked at to determine what data should be included and what may be missing. They would also like to create a data clearing house for harvest plans that would provide standardized data and presentation methods
- Training Sub-group - It seems like a training for the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) committee members would be beneficial, several of whom are from agencies. They would like to see how rules are interpreted on the ground. Clayton Code is involved with this, but not much has been done since. They would like CLFA to assist with training. Harlan will find out more from the lead, Jennifer Garcia, and follow up with Clayton. Some possibilities were raised:
 - CLFA assist with a training specifically for the EMC.
 - Invite them to the CLFA workshops.
 - Provide video of operators implementing rules, BMPs, or mitigations such as installing a crossing
- High level of plan returns - A large percentage of plans are being returned from the Redding office. This is not so for the Santa Rosa office. The committee is going to look into what is causing the returns.
- The Committee is under the impression that THP review timelines are not a problem at this point.

For possible new CLFA retired membership category, when should the Board discuss the annual dues price?

Need to pull Kathleen's contract to see if it's up for renewal.

Need newsletter submissions by September 3rd.

Nick Knipe moved with a second by Kieran O'Leary to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Bacca
Director