

## **BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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### **MINUTES BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING March 4, 2009 SACRAMENTO**

#### **BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Stan Dixon, Chairman  
David Nawi  
Pam Giacomini  
Jim Ostrowski  
Bruce Saito  
Lloyd Bradshaw  
Tom Walz  
Jim Ostrowski  
Doug Piirto

#### **BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **BOARD STAFF:**

George Gentry, Executive Officer  
Chris Zimny, Regulations Coordinator  
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant

#### **DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:**

Del Walters, Director, Forestry and Fire Protection  
Russ Henly, Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dixon called the March 4, 2009 meeting of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to order.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**01-03-09 Member Saito moved to approve the February minutes. Member Bradshaw seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Dixon gave a brief description of the Interagency Forest Working Group (IFWG) meeting he attended on February 27. Stan stated he was pleased with the diverse group of agencies and departments that were represented at the meeting.

David Nawi represented the Board at the IFWG meeting and offered his thoughts. He stated the decision to make the meetings public and engaging Kim Rodriguez as the facilitator of the meeting was an excellent idea. The intent of what was discussed during the meeting was for the group to come up with recommendations for the Board by January 2010 regarding ARB 32 scoping plan. Also on the agenda was a consideration by IFWG on the charter for the group that will be decided during a meeting tentatively scheduled for March 18, 2009. Comments regarding the consideration are due and are to be submitted to Executive Officer Gentry by March 9, 2009.

Mr. Gentry also represented the Board and added that the March 18 meeting date had not yet been confirmed; he will send meeting requests to see if this date is agreeable for all involved. He mentioned one of the more important items discussed during the meeting which was a commitment by the attendees to provide IFWG with their timelines and goals for climate change issues. The plan is to coordinate with other agencies more efficiently.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

Director Del Walters discussed his meeting with the Riverside Board of Supervisors and their Chief Executive Officer. Riverside has sent Cal Fire a 120 day notice of reduction on the contract in Riverside as a result of budget reductions and the possibility of layoffs. Butte County may follow suit. He also gave an overview of current state budget issues. Bargaining Unit 8 which represents the firefighters union has made some gains but there may be the possibility that they will get similar furlough reductions as service employees did. The Director stated that even though the state budget had been signed there will still be a spring "revise" process and consideration of the budget change proposals. Among one of the proposals discussed was the Emergency Response Initiative.

This is the Governors initiative that would allow Cal Fire to maintain four person staffing. The initiative would also allow Cal Fire to eventually replace the aging infrastructure of engines and the helicopter fleet. The mid year analysis has caused Cal Fire to put a halt to non-essential spending. On law enforcement side, the defendant in the Tulare Fire that claimed the lives of a pilot and a battalion chief has pled no contest and is looking at a potential of 15 years. Sentencing is scheduled for April 2, 2009. In the case of the defendant charged in Esperanza Fire sentencing is expected. Law enforcement training is moving forward and will receive POST certification, field training officers and administrators have been placed within the program.

## **REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE**

Beth Pendleton, Deputy Regional Forester, Region 5 gave a PowerPoint presentation on ecological restoration, a copy of the PowerPoint is maintained in the Board binder. (nurseries)

## **Board Presentation of 2007-2008 Golden Trowel Award**

Introduction and Remarks by Mr. Richard Jenkins and Ms. Beverly Ogle.

Mr. Walt Williams, former CAL FIRE Division Chief, Ishi Conservation Camp was presented the Golden Trowel Award for his outstanding work with the preservation of historical sites.

## **REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

### **California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF)**

Mark Stanley gave the Oak Mortality Report. A copy of the report is maintained in the Board binder.

### **Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)**

Jeff Stephens gave a report on RMAC, and mentioned that there would be RMAC meetings on March 17 and 18, 2009. Policy and Range Management group will be discussing the draft white paper which is still under review. Also the continued discussion on climate change, the committee will contribute information to the Board and FRAP. The management plan for the Carrizo Plains National Monument and the possible use of livestock for herbivory to maintain habitat

There were three nominations submitted for consideration to the Board for two open positions with RMAC, Chuck Pritchard, Joe Rawitzer and Mark Horney

Board asks RMAC to further review the nominations of Joe Rawitzer and Mark Horney and make a recommendation.

**03-04-10 Pam Giacomini motioned to accept the nomination of Chuck Pritchard, David Nawi seconded, motion carried unanimously.**

### **MONITORING STUDY GROUP (MSG)**

**No Report**

### **PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE (PFEC)**

Mr. Eric Huff, Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing, submitted a handout.

The following Registered Professional Forester has requested license **REINSTATEMENT** from withdrawal status pursuant to 14 CCR §1608(d):

The following Registered Professional Foresters have requested and meet the requirements for license **WITHDRAWAL** pursuant to 14 CCR §1608(a):

The following Registered Professional Foresters have **VOLUNTARILY RELINQUISHED** their licenses to practice forestry:

Mr. Juergen Momber	RPF No. 268
Mr. Raymond Rice	RPF No. 394
Mr. Robert Dean	RPF No. 72
Mr. Melvin McLaury	RPF No. 834
Mrs. Ann Ahokas Wirek	RPF No. 2471
Mr. Edward Heilman	RPF No. 1398
Mr. John Warnock	RPF No. 1253

Mr. Daryl McRoberts	RPF No. 323
Mr. Kenneth Werner	RPF No. 508
Mr. William Howe	RPF No. 1726
Mr. Adolph Groncki	RPF No. 515
Mr. Christopher Town	RPF No. 2665
Mr. James Walker	RPF No. 738
Mr. Joseph Flynn	RPF No. 122
Mr. Gilbert Easter	RPF No. 1079
Mr. Frederick Henschell	RPF No. 1753
Mr. Don Banghart	RPF No. 819
Mr. Peter Barnard	RPF No. 1241
Mr. Bernard Weisgerber	RPF No. 810
Mr. Grover Payne	RPF No. 666
Mr. Calvin Smith	RPF No. 1220

Eric gave an update of the RPF examination slated for April 17, 2009. Eric stated they have reviewed and qualified a number of applicants; about 40 will be taking the exam.

Eric recommends the re-appointment of PFEC member Jerry Jensen.

**03-04-10 Jim Ostrowski motioned to accept the re-appointment Jerry Jensen, Doug seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Consideration of Possible 45-Day Notice of Rulemaking for Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) Renewal Regulatory Proposal.

Eric states they are in the process of trying to clarify statutes/regulations regarding the Sustained Yield Plan renewal process. He explained that the main function of the proposal is to reduce the review period by 55 days.

Concerns were expressed by the Board regarding the 20 day filing period and if it was sufficient time for submission of the SYP. Eric explained that Cal Fire staff has determined that it is sufficient time.

David Nawi made reference to page 1, 3, 10 and 11 of the proposal regarding CEQUA requirements and made edits to line 10 pg?.

Lloyd Bradshaw made a comment regarding the 6 month prior to expiration date on line 14, page 1. The question was would the three SYP's that are currently held, be in danger of expiring while changes were being made to the proposal and would there be a provision for an extension if they didn't meet the requirement. Eric responded that there were no SYP's in danger of expiring and that language had been provided to allow for timely renewal.

**03-04-11 Doug Piirto motioned to approve 45-day notice of Rulemaking for SYP Renewal Regulatory Proposal, Lloyd Bradshaw seconds with edits on line 11. Motion carried unanimously.**

**03-04-11 Doug Piirto motioned to approve the Initial Statement of Reasons, Lloyd Bradshaw seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

### **FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE (FPC)**

**Policy nothing to report**

#### **Management**

Review of Management Committee's Draft Letter to Legislative Analysts Office (LAO) on Proposal for Consideration of Divestiture of State Forest Lands. Possible Action Item: the Board May Direct Staff to Post a Final Draft of the Proposed Letter to the LAO.

Doug Piirto gave an update of the response to LAO's proposal for consideration of divestiture of state forest lands and asks the Board to review the draft letter.

David Nawi suggests that a paragraph be added to the letter outlining the Board's responsibilities under the public resources codes regarding state forests.

Lloyd Bradshaw suggests that supporting documentation prepared by Cal Fire be sent as an attachment and a line should be added to the body of the letter referencing it. David added that the letter be sent to a higher level and filter down rather than sending to a lower level. Pam Giacomini agrees and adds that a copy of the letter go to Brenda McCarthy. **Stan Dixon?** suggests a copy of the letter should go to Mike Chrisman as well.

**3-4-12 Doug Piirto motions to approve letter with recommended amendments.** First, letter is addressed to the legislative analyst with a copy sent to Brenda McCarthy and Mike Chrisman. Second, include an attachment line to the first paragraph referencing the documentation prepared by Cal Fire. Third, include short paragraph outlining the Board's role under state forests public resources code.

### **RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (RPC)**

Nothing to Report

## **REPORT OF THE REGULATIONS COORDINATOR**

Chris Zimney gave a regulatory update on the status of projects. A notice action on the northern spotted owl ?? regulation, the SYP 45 day notice, and TNI regulatory activity

Chris explains that the TNI is a large and complex project that will need additional meetings. The committee will meet March, 23 & 24, 2009 the goal is to get an action item for a 45 day notice for the April meeting. They are also trying to get an initial statement of reasons. Chris asks that the Board review any documents that come from the committee in advance so they have an opportunity to answer questions as not to take up time at the Board meeting.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

George Gentry commented on the meeting he attended at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) workshop, regarding San Diego Gas & Electric's interest in regulations that address vegetation management around utility lines. The first phase of meetings will involve trying to identify high hazard areas; PUC had planned to use the Cal Fire's high severity zone maps. George was advised by the FRAP and Cal Fire the maps were not the correct map to use for this issue. Phase two will deal with issues the Board will be more intimately involved with.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Members of the public may address the Board on any topic within its jurisdiction not otherwise on the agenda. Submittal of written comments is encouraged to ensure that all comments will be included in the record before the Board. Please be prepared to summarize comments to three minutes in length, or otherwise at the discretion of the Chairman.

**Dan Tomelsheski** gives an overview of challenges that are currently facing the timber industry. He reports the closure of a sawmill in Quincy, with 130 employees being affected. He compares California timber harvesting processes with other states, with other states being less complex. Dan would like to see changes in the process to alleviate many of the challenges facing the timber industry. He suggests a more streamlined, efficient process with better coordination between agencies facilitating timber harvest plan approvals. Dan responded to a question from Pam Giacomini regarding the reopening of the Quincy sawmill, by saying that seeing change in the attitude of the environmentalists who stop projects and legislation would help.

**Dave Bishell** gave an overview and a report regarding the reduction of sawmills in California. A copy of the report is maintained in the Board binder.

**Ryan McKella**, Soper Wheeler Company explained the challenges his company is facing due to the closure of the Quincy mill. He mentioned that normally 10% of harvested logs would have gone to the Quincy mill but may have to be transported farther which affects their profit margin.

## **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairman adjourned the September 15, 2005 meeting of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

George D. Gentry  
Executive Officer

ATTEST:

Stan Dixon  
Chairman

Copies of the attendance sheets can be obtained from the Board Office.