

**Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)**

**Minutes  
May 20, 2005**

**Attending: By Conference Call**

<b>RMAC:</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Ken Zimmerman	RMAC Chairman
Mike Connor	Public Member
J.R. McCollister	Public Member
Leonard Hale	Watershed Fire Council of Southern California
Mel Thompson	California Wool Growers Association
Neil McDougald	Cattlemen's Association
Jeff Stephens	CDF / RMAC Executive Secretary

**Members of the Public:**

None

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions:**

J.R. McCollister called the meeting to order May 20, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. Jeff Stephens called the roll for attendees. Mike Connor then assumed the lead for subsequent discussion.

**Agenda Item 2: Proposed recommendations to the Board on the CDF  
Vegetation Management Program and Draft Report.**

Mike Connor with consensus from the remainder of RMAC elected to defer a detailed discussion of the Draft Report for VMP to a later date and focus on the paper prepared by Mel Thompson on public outreach and the draft recommendations submitted by various RMAC members.

Mike Connor opened discussion on the Outreach paper stating that he was not clear on the intent or meaning of some sections. Mel Thompson offered clarification stating the outreach may be thought of as having two components: 1) Internal to the Department and other cooperating agencies, and 2) the general public. The purpose of targeting the general public is to not solicit input but rather to communicate to the public that VMP is a viable tool for managing vegetation and reducing the cost and risk of wildfire.

Leonard Hale commented that the intent is more of an educational tool and Mel Thompson agreed. Mr. Hale further recommended that the statement referring to “a flawed” program be stricken. The RMAC members agreed that this wording should be deleted.

Mike Conner stated that further editing of the Outreach section is warranted including a change of the title to read, “Program Review and Outreach.” The RMAC members agreed to the title change. Mel Thompson expressed concern that the discussion up to this point had not identified the specific items in need of revision, only that what has been written is not clear to Mr. Connor, and that future revision should be done with a clear idea of what the concerns are, and the message that RMAC wishes to convey. Mr. Connor offered clarification by stating that portions of the document were not meaningful to him and may not be understood by the intended audience. He further offered to work with Mr. Thompson on revisions to some sections. This discussion concluded with Mel Thompson and Mike Connor agreeing to work together on revisions, and Ken Zimmerman offering to review the outcome if desired by Mel and Mike.

J. R. McCollister referred the group to the top paragraph, page 2, in reference to an awareness campaign for younger audiences in regards to vegetation management and asked if this is really needed. Mel Thompson responded stating yes it is needed, and that a more comprehensive effort in educating younger audiences is needed to convey the importance for vegetation management. Ken Zimmerman spoke in favor of keeping the section stating it is one of the stronger portions of the section on Outreach.

RMAC discussion then focused on the recommendation papers submitted by the committee members to date.

Ken Zimmerman: Maintenance of Completed Projects. Only minor discussion of this paper occurred on this item initially. In subsequent discussion occurring later in the meeting, item 1 related to projected population growth was suggested as a closing statement for the Draft Recommendations, and that it is moved from the recommendations portion. RMAC agreed to this change.

Neil McDougald: Paradigm Shift. Mike Connor stated that this section was previously proposed as the lead for the recommendations section but as of this date had not been moved. The RMAC agreed that it should be moved and also agreed that certain portions of the original text found within the Draft Report under “Paradigm Shift” will be retained and added to the recommendation paper submitted by Mr. McDougald. RMAC also agreed that a change in title should be considered from “Paradigm Shift” to “Emphasize Natural Resource Management.”

Mel Thompson noted that the term “watershed” has been introduced for the first time within the paradigm section. Previous to this section the term “landscape” is used. RMAC agreed that both terms have merit and where possible both should be used with one another. Ken Zimmerman cautioned the group to not change terminology unless it is a good fit with the original intent and wording. Mike Connor agreed to look for opportunities to incorporate both terms and the RMAC agreed to this strategy.

Chuck Pritchard: Dedicated Workforce. RMAC members noted there presently is no such section in the body of the Draft Report. RMAC agreed to move this section to the section on a New Commitment to Vegetation Management. It was also determined that some editing is in order to produce text that is more readable and clear. Mel Thompson raised the possibility of using the Dedicated Workforce text as an executive summary for those that do not wish to read the entire report. Ken Zimmerman suggested a Table of Contents that will refer the reader to the various sections. Jeff Stephens will include a Table of Contents in subsequent revisions and the final copy.

Joe Rawitzer: Local Partnerships. This paper has not been submitted. Jeff Stephens agreed to contact Mr. Rawitzer and assess whether he intends to provide the text.

Henry Giacomini: Streamlined Process. This paper has not been submitted. Jeff Stephens agreed to contact Mr. Giacomini and assess status. Mike Connor agreed to take responsibility for this recommendation section if Mr. Giacomini is unable to respond.

Chuck Pritchard: Integration of Programs. Mike Connor and Ken Zimmerman agreed to take this section jointly.

Leonard Hale: Funding Needs. Mr. Hale indicated that he has no further input on this section unless RMAC wishes to propose legislation as a means to providing more funding.

Discussion returned to the Public Outreach section. Mike Connor noted that the Public Outreach section is more general or conceptual as related by Mel Thompson, and that it may be desirable to have a section of this type. Mel Thompson noted that a conceptual approach to promoting the program may need to be developed. Mr. Connor further noted that a conceptual approach could be used to promote longer term solutions with the Board. Mel Thompson stated that the input by Neil McDougald on a paradigm shift is the first effort he has noted to change the paper to a conceptual scale.

Discussion closed with instruction to Jeff Stephens to provide certain information on data and make contacts with specified individuals for information. Mike Connor

proposed that he revise the document per the revisions made at this meeting, and stated that he will submit a new draft for review. A clean copy of the paper without track changes will be included in the next circulation of the document by Jeff Stephens.

**Agenda Item 3: New and Unfinished Business:**

Jeff Stephens stated that the next meeting of RMAC is June 21 and 22, 2005 and that all RMAC members should submit agenda items for scheduling.

**Agenda Item 4: Public Comment:**

None taken.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote 12:00 Noon, May 20, 2005