

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

Policy Focus Group

**Minutes
January 13, 2009**

Attending:

RMAC:

Ken Zimmerman
Mike Connor
Ed Anchordoguy
Scott Carnegie
Mel Thompson
Jeff Stephens

Representing

California Cattlemen's Association (CCA)
Public Member
California Wool Growers Association (CWG)
California Forestry Association (CFA)
California Wool Growers Association (CWG)
CAL FIRE / RMAC Executive Secretary

Members of the Public:

Representing

None

Items 1 & 2 Call to Order and Introductions:

Ken Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Items 3, Review edits submitted by the Resource Protection Committee (RPC) on the White Paper, State Owned Lands: A Discussion of Their Acquisition and Recommendations for Sustaining Natural Resource Values.

Ken Zimmerman asked Jeff Stephens if the comments before RMAC may be considered as being endorsed by the full Resource Protection Committee (RPC) of the Board. Jeff Stephens responded stating that he is confident that the version before RMAC is endorsed by the full RPC and that if RMAC agrees with the comment they (RPC) are in a position to advance the paper to the Board.

Discussion turned to the intended audience of the paper. Mel Thompson referred to the "Recommendations" section stating that the Board has identified the audience with their modifications, and recommended a cover letter stating RMAC's objectives for how the paper will be used. Mr. Thompson stated that in conversations with Farm Bureau representatives the indications were that it is not appropriate to expect a document of this type to make it to the legislature.

Jeff Stephens also suggested that a letter accompany the white paper that is resubmitted to RPC stating RMAC's findings, and RMAC's goal for the paper. Ken Zimmerman agreed and stated that he also favors addressing the bullet points by Jeff Stephens that are in question. Ed Anchordoguy expressed doubt that anyone could produce an accurate number for land under government ownership. Mike Connor suggested we provide the RPC with the opportunity to solicit assistance with FRAP, per the commitment made by the Board, in order to address the bullet points in need of further investigation.

Ken Zimmerman stated that he will contact a federal economist and ask if he can provide information for the Federal Tax Code as it relates to bond funds and their use for management activities. Ed Anchordoguy stated that he has 30 years of experience with government and the use of bond funds, and that he does not know of any circumstances that allowed their use for management. He further stated his belief that it has more to do with the legislation creating the bond. Mel Thompson recommended contacting Elizabeth Hill, Legislative Analyst's Office, as a potential source for information.

The discussion turned to a series of edits primarily brought forward by Scott Carnegie. The paper was revised according to edits accepted by the Focus Group, including minor edits of the Recommendations section.

The Focus Group agreed to bring the paper with edits before the full RMAC tomorrow. They also agreed that a cover letter will be suggested to the full RMAC that highlights items of special concern, including the acreage figure for other public lands of 6.6 million acres, and the reference to the Tax Code and its relationship to the use of bond funds for management.

Discussion turned to the role of RMAC in general with the Board. The point was made by Ken Zimmerman that it is the responsibility of RMAC to respond to and work on behalf of the Board who appoints RMAC. Mel Thompson stated that he sees RMAC supporting and helping the Board, and also serving "our own special interests" as well, in that RMAC should serve as the liaison between the Board and RMAC's constituents. Jeff Stephens agreed in the context that it is very important that RMAC bring forth to the Board the views and interests of the constituents represented by RMAC. Mr. Thompson further indicated that he would favor a review by RPC of the "voice" with which the section *Implementation of a Cooperative Stewardship Strategy* is written, and the message the Board wishes to communicate.

Ken Zimmerman asked Mel Thompson how much time he would need to address the Board's Strategy Paper at the full RMAC tomorrow, and asked him to comment on content as well. Mr. Thompson stated he would need approximately 15 minutes. He further stated that the Strategic Paper is obviously an important document to the Board.

New and Unfinished Business

Mel Thompson began a discussion of the RMAC Strategic Plan, stating that it is a January 2000 document and it reads like a 2000 document in need of updating. Ken Zimmerman stated that most of the tasks in the Plan have been completed. He further stated that to re-write the document would be a major undertaking, and recommended amending the document vs. a complete re-write. Scott Carnegie confirmed with Ken Zimmerman that it is the function of this committee to complete a re-write when appropriate. Mel Thompson cited several sections that could be deleted and/or rewritten, and that each year's goals, objectives, and accomplishments could be added each year if presented as a binder. KZ stated that he wishes to preserve the ability to use the Plan as a handout, and a binder would not lend itself to this use.

Item 10, Public Comment

None
Adjourn