

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 8, 2016
Sacramento, CA

RMAC Members Present	RMAC Members Absent
Co-chair Marc Horney Sheryl Landrum Rich Ross Andréé Soares John Van Duyn Cole Bush Chuck Pritchard	Co-chair Lesa Osterholm Bill Burrows Bart Cremers Billie Roney
RMAC Staff	Department Staff
Edith Hannigan	

Items appear in the order they were presented on the agenda.

Approve May and July Minutes

This item was put over to the November meeting.

2017 RMAC Meeting Schedule

Ms. Hannigan presented meeting dates for the 2017 calendar year and received information from members about other rangeland-related events throughout the year. The Committee discussed exchanging the March meeting for a workshop on grazing leases and agreements.

Expiring Membership Terms

Two members have terms expiring in January 2017. Co-chair Horney, with the support of the Committee, would like to be re-appointed to another four year term by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board). Mr. Pritchard is stepping down after 24 years of service to RMAC, and Ms. Hannigan will work with Karen Buhr of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to find a new representative.

Focus Group Updates**a. Public Land Grazing****i. Update on the Board's July 21st discussion on grazing on state forests policy recommendations**

The Board adopted RMAC's proposed changes, incorporating some of their own changes from the June meeting and with some editorial revisions, on July 21, 2016. Staff will send out the approved language to the Committee.

ii. Draft grazing leases template

The Committee reviewed the various draft leases and agreements supplied by members. Members discussed how the Committee could best serve the

ranching community by addressing the need for draft grazing documents such as plans, permits, agreements, and leases, given Committee's members expertise. The Committee determined perhaps leases were not the best use of their experiences, and are investigating other relevant documents they may be able to turn into templates for grazers. In particular, staff was directed to look into the North Table Mountain Ecological Preserve and their management plan.

iii. Draft grazing lease template cover letter

Continuing the discussion related to draft leases above, the Committee discussed information to include in a "cover letter"/informational document/white paper about information to include in grazing leases, plans, or permits. The Committee discussed sponsoring a workshop in early spring 2017 to gather feedback from state and federal agencies, grazers, conservation districts, and others on their needs in this arena.

b. Rangeland Water Quality

i. Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, USFS/NCWQCB Waiver

Ms. Hannigan presented information to the Committee from Co-chair Osterholm about the State Water Board's proposed Waste Discharge Order, which the State Board is encouraging all regional boards to adopt to apply to their Irrigated Lands programs; a revision to the Order is expected this fall and staff will keep the Committee updated.

Ms. Hannigan also alerted the Committee to a discussion regarding the Irrigated Lands program taking place at an upcoming Central Coast Water Board meeting and the Committee requested her attendance at that meeting, if possible.

c. Rangeland Conversion/Forest & Resource Management

i. August 2 Presentation to California Board of Food and Agriculture

Recap

Member Landrum, Ms. Hannigan, and Tom Smith, CAL FIRE pest specialist, gave a presentation to the California Board of Food and Agriculture (CBFA) on August 2 regarding invasive shot hole borer impacts in southern California. The CBFA is interested in investigating this issue further and have requested Department of Food and Agriculture staff to engage on this. Member Landrum and Ms. Hannigan will continue following this at CBFA and engaging with members.

ii. 2016 CARCD Conference Presentation

The conference proposal submitted by Ms. Hannigan to the 2016 California Association of Resource Conservation Districts on the topic of shot hole borers was accepted; Member Landrum will be joining Ms. Hannigan in Ontario in November to present.

iii. Draft Letter to Board of Forestry on Biomass/Co-gen Utilization

Co-Chair Horney and Member Landrum are cooperating on this letter; they are currently gathering relevant background information to inform their letter

and currently plan to have a draft for the Committee at the January 2017 meeting.

Future Board of Forestry Engagement Options

Ms. Hannigan led a discussion about ways the Committee might communicate with the Board about modern ranching and range management protocols and providing Board members with functional information about being a rancher in California today. This is something the Committee members will consider during the year; Ms. Hannigan will send the Committee the Board meeting schedule so members can attend when possible.

Member Pritchard suggested a guest speaker presentation on where to go next if low water continues, depending on the outlook for the 2017 rain year.

Legislative Update

RMAC reviewed the legislative update provided by staff.

Updates from Partner Organizations and Public Forum

No organizations provided updates.

Mr. Hank Rupp, Rancho Guejito Corporation, and Mr. Bill Thomas, Best Best & Krieger, spoke in response to previous RMAC agenda items regarding *Rancho Guejito Corp vs Board of Forestry and Fire Protection* and provided information about the case from the perspective of Rancho Guejito.

Meeting Adjourned.