

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION**

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**PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE  
OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

January 18, 2006

Members Participating: Doug Ferrier, Chairman  
Michael Stroud  
Kimberly Rodrigues  
Tom Osipowich  
Otto van Emmerik  
Ray Flynn  
Gerald Jensen

Staff Participating: Eric Huff, Executive Officer  
Terra Perkins, Office Technician  
Bill Cunningham, Deputy Attorney General

Guests Participating Shane Cunningham, CDF  
Bill Schultz, CDF  
Don Gasser, RPF and Certified Arborist  
Chris Quirnbach, CLFA  
Duane Shintaku, CDF  
Chris Browder, CDF  
Roy Richards, CLFA  
Dennis Hall, CDF  
Craig Ostergaard, SPI

**APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2005 MEETING**

**01-01-06** Otto van Emmerik moved to approve the October 20, 2005 minutes. Mike Stroud seconded. Motion unanimously passed with three abstentions due to lack of attendance.

**DISCUSSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE  
PROTECTION'S HARVEST PLAN (THP's, NTMP's, etc.) FILING STANDARDS  
AND PROCEDURES**

Following introductions, Chairman Ferrier opened the discussion with a summary of the review process to date. Mr. Ferrier and Executive Officer Huff explained that sub-committees of the PFEC met with the Redding and Santa Rosa CDF Review Teams on November 10 and 14, 2005, respectively. The PFEC was provided copies of all of the Plan return letters for 2005 issued by both Review Teams to facilitate discussion of potential issues during those meetings.

Chairman Ferrier summarized what the PFEC had learned about the physical process of Plan handling by Review Team staff and noted the timelines by which Plans must be reviewed. Mr. Ferrier then explained the reasons for Plan returns identified in the various return letters. Mr. Ferrier noted that the reasons for return were consistent with what previous such reviews had found.

Chairman Ferrier opened the floor to questions and comments from Members and attendees. PFEC Member Ray Flynn raised the question about the status of the CLFA THP checklist. Executive Officer Huff clarified that a greatly modified version of the CLFA checklist was still in use by the Review Teams. Chairman Ferrier noted the checklist is outdated and that the Department had discussed the possibility of revising it.

Member Otto van Emmerik commented on the review process in Santa Rosa and noted the level of professionalism exhibited and the questions asked.

Chairman Ferrier noted that staffing levels are low, but for the most part timelines are being met regardless of the budget. Overall, each Review Team staff person exhibited a high level of competence and clearly understood every step of the review process.

Discussion moved into the issue of rule interpretation by the Department and the importance of clear communication of expectations to Plan proponents. Roy Richards additionally commented on staffing turnover rates and the resulting changes in rule interpretation. Duane Shintaku explained that CDF has set up internal safeguards to prevent rule interpretation by staff. Discussion on this topic continued.

Chairman Ferrier then summarized the review process and indicated that no major problems were identified by the PFEC. It was suggested that the CLFA checklist could be revised to reflect the current state of the process. Discussion followed as to how this revision might be accomplished and the necessity of revising the THP form prior to the Checklist.

Chairman Ferrier then recapped the PFEC's likely responses to the questions asked in Board Chairman Dixon's letter to the PFEC.

**01-02-06** Executive Officer Huff and Chairman Ferrier will draft a letter and develop a report with potential recommendations to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

**DISCUSSION OF FIRE CLEARANCE INSPECTIONS PURSUANT TO PRC4291; STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S FIRE CLEARANCE INSPECTION TRAINING PROGRAM; AND POSSIBLE BOARD CERTIFIED SPECIALTY PROGRAM FOR FIRE CLEARANCE INSPECTORS.**

Executive Officer Huff briefly described the idea of a specialty certificate for fire clearance inspectors and the Department's perspective on the role of RPF's in defensible space inspection.

Deputy Attorney General Cunningham received a letter from Executive Officer Huff that prompted him to review the possibility of a certified specialty under the Professional Foresters Law (PFL). Cunningham explained the process behind the Certified Range Manager specialty relative to a possible new specialty.

DAG Cunningham reviewed the training program created by the State Fire Marshal's Office for certifying fire clearance inspectors. He noted that the PFL does not contemplate certifying individuals to inspect homeowner fire suppression features. The Law does however allow for certifying individuals to make recommendations for vegetation management and Mr. Cunningham noted that this could be the basis for such a specialty program.

It was concluded that Executive Officer Huff and Deputy Attorney General Cunningham will speak to the State Fire Marshal on this subject and attempt to clarify the relationship of the PFL to defensible space clearance.

**DISCUSSION OF RPF EXAMINATION SHORT ANSWER QUESTION**

Chairman Ferrier opened a discussion of the short answer section. He noted that an additional five applicants would have passed the examination without the mandatory short answer question.

After careful consideration and research, it was determined that the short answer question was not a problem in applicants passing. Over the past ten years, absent any other changes, no differences were found except for this year.

PFEC members agreed to closely examine the short answer question for future examinations and possibly consider whether to offer the short answer question as an option. Gerald Jensen suggested that the PFEC carefully review the short answer question based on the results of the last examination.

**DISCUSSION OF RPF INVOLVEMENT IN CEQA DOCUMENT PREPARATION**

Executive Officer Huff sent one letter to Lake County and additional letters will be sent to other counties in the near future. Huff summarized the rationale behind the correspondence for the benefit of the PFEC.

## **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Harold Bowman has retired from the PFEC and it was agreed that a letter of appreciation would be sent.

## **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

The PFEC will meet on March 14, 2006.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**1-03-06** Tom Osipowich moved to adjourn the Open Session at 1440 hours. Ray Flynn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.