

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

P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
Website: [www.bof.fire.ca.gov/licensing/licensing\\_main.html](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/licensing/licensing_main.html)  
(916) 653-8031

**PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE****Open Session Meeting Minutes****Held: Wednesday, February 24, 2010**Resources Building, 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street**15<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR DIRECTOR'S SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM, #1501**

Sacramento, California

**Members Present:** Doug Ferrier, Chair  
Otto van Emmerik, Vice-Chair  
Kimberly Rodrigues  
Tom Osipowich (by telephone)  
Raymond Flynn  
Michael Stroud (by telephone)

**Staff Participating:** Eric Huff, Executive Officer

**Agency/Public:** Chris Browder, Cal Fire & CLFA

**Item #1: Approval of Open Session minutes of December 30, 2009 Meeting.**

**02-10-01** Member Flynn moved to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair van Emmerik seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with two abstentions for absence.

**Item #2: Reports of Chairman and Executive Officer.**

Chairman Ferrier informed the Members that he had given the PFEC's annual report to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection at their January 2010 meeting. His report included updates on the Committee's activities over the course of the preceding year.

The Chairman then reported on his and the Executive Officer's attendance of the U.S. Forest Service/University of California Cooperative Extension Service's Pre and Post Wildfire Conference. Mr. Ferrier noted that there were 350 attendees, roughly half of whom were USFS employees. Cal Fire was noticeably underrepresented, but otherwise there was a broad diversity of perspectives represented amongst those in attendance. Member Rodrigues, one of the conference organizers herself, added that a surprising majority of the attendees stayed to participate in the breakout group discussions on the last day.

Ms. Rodrigues observed that there was evidence of potential agreement amongst those with divergent perspectives with respect to pre-fire treatment opportunities.

There wasn't nearly so much agreement on post-fire treatments and salvage logging remains controversial. However, participants seemed inclined to continue dialogue and work toward completion of projects on the ground. Ms. Rodrigues has already been contacted by the US Forest Service about convening a pre and post wildfire conference specific to the Tahoe Basin.

Executive Officer Huff reported on the status of the PFEC's draft letter in support of the Humboldt State University Range Science undergraduate degree program. Mr. Huff just finished drafting the letter and solicited review by the Committee. Member Flynn spoke with Range Department Chair, Ken Fulgham at a recent Buckeye Conservancy meeting and Mr. Fulgham was not optimistic about the future of the program. Apparently, the University Provost has rescinded the previous decision to grant the program probationary status and is once again looking at cutting the program altogether. Given this development, the Members directed the Executive Officer to finalize and post the current draft of the letter as soon as possible.

Mr. Huff then reported on the status of the Department's Civil Penalties Program staffing in the wake of Deputy Chief, Jerry Ahlstrom's retirement. Civil Penalties case development responsibilities will now be handled by three regionally located Department RPFs with Headquarters coordination through Staff Chief, Dennis Hall.

Member Rodrigues inquired as to the existence of additional educational opportunities for Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs) where common causes for civil penalties proceedings have been identified. Chairman Ferrier observed that Associated California Loggers (ACL) has an established logger education program, but that not every LTO is a Member of ACL. Member Rodrigues offered her assistance in the development of educational programming where a compelling and common LTO failure had been identified by Department and Board staff.

Mr. Huff reported on the status of hiring for the open Office Technician position. It is anticipated that someone will be hired for the position in the near future.

The Executive Officer concluded his report with the presentation of the latest list of delinquent RPFs. Staff will continue attempts to make contact with the delinquent individuals.

### **Item #3: General Discussion of RPF Examination.**

Chairman Ferrier asked Executive Officer Huff to report on the number of new and repeat applications for the exam. Mr. Huff stated that there were 17 new applicants and as many as 18 repeat applicants for the April exam. Exam locations have been set for Riverside, Rocklin, Redding, and Arcata.

Mr. Huff additionally reported that an applicant from the November 2009 exam had appealed the exam results. Two additional appeal graders were hired and are now working to complete the grading.

The Executive Officer went on to discuss the importance of his final review of the final draft exam to ensure that all corrections and edits had been made according to the direction of the PFEC.

### **Item #4: Discussion of Definitions of "Timberland" and "Forested Landscapes."**

Chairman Ferrier explained that the Board's Policy Committee is currently examining the Forest Practice Act definition of "timberland" as it relates to Forest Practice Regulation of timberland conversion. As has been observed by the PFEC, there is a tendency to confuse the definition of "timberland" with the Professional Foresters Law's definition of "forested landscapes." Mr. Ferrier is therefore committed to tracking the Policy Committee's discussion of this topic to be certain that any changes proposed by the Board do not negatively impact the Professional Foresters statute and regulations.

Executive Officer Huff reported that confusion over these two definitions is evident in ongoing discussions with the East Bay Regional Park District. The District is working on an EIR and fuels management plan and does not appear to recognize the distinctions between the two definitions. They have, however hired an RPF to assist in the review of the proposed fuel treatment prescriptions.

Chairman Ferrier observed that perhaps a Board guidance document could be developed to assist interested parties in understanding the Forest Practice Rules for conversions and the meaning of the term "timberland." In any event, he will continue to keep the PFEC apprised of new developments on this topic.

**Item #5: Department Status Reports on Draft THP Form Revision and Draft Growth and Yield Guidelines.**

Cal Fire Deputy Chief, Chris Browder reported that no changes have been made to the draft THP form revision currently posted on the Department's website. The Department's Resource Management executive team have not yet met to resolve questions and comments on the current draft. However, Mr. Browder and Deputy Director, Bill Snyder have met with Cal Fire Industrial Technology staff to discuss the possibility of digitally automating the form such that it prompts responses and self-modifies on the basis of the responses provided by the plan preparer.

Chief Browder then stated that there had been no changes to the draft NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines, but that further work was anticipated. It was noted as well that the NTMP regulations were currently under review in the Board's Management Committee.

Mr. Browder concluded with an update on the Department's four workshops on the newly enacted "Anadromous Salmonid Protection" and "Northern Spotted Owl" regulations. All of the workshops were very well attended. The Department is currently working through questions submitted by workshop participants. Chief Browder noted as well that an issue had arisen regarding the Department's interpretation of the Class II Large provisions of the new ASP Rules and this matter was due to be taken up at the next Board meeting.

Chairman Ferrier brought it to the PFEC's attention that the California Forestry Association's forest practice committee would be hearing a presentation from Assistant Deputy Director, Duane Shintaku on mapping requirements for THPs.

Deputy Chief Browder indicated that this presentation may have to do with mapping errors associated with even aged unit delineation. Chairman Ferrier asked Mr. Browder to follow up on this topic and update the PFEC at the next meeting.

**Item #6: New and Unfinished Business**

Member Flynn inquired as to the current status of Board Membership. Executive Officer Huff reported that there is currently one open Public Member seat on the Board. Member Osipowich solicited additional commentary on the Board's collective perspective with regard to forest management. Mr. Huff and other participants offered opinions on the current composition and disposition of the Board Membership.

### **Adjournment**

**02-10-02** Member Flynn moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Rodrigues seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

###