CALIFORNIA LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

GoToMeeting

August 24, 2019

CLFA President Chris Dow called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Directors present: Chris Dow, Paul Violett, Tony Gomez, Jason Wells, Elicia Goldsworthy, Gwyndolyn Ozard, Ricky Shurtz, Emil Mason, Joe Starr, Harlan Tranmer, and Ariel Thomson, Robert Little signed on at 11:00 am.

Director absent: None

Others present: Kathleen Burr, Andrea Eggleton

Minutes

* July 2019 minutes – Paul Violett moved with a second by Tony Gomez to approve the July minutes as amended.

Treasurers Report – Paul Violett reported:

* Profit & Loss:
	+ CLFA Accounts:
		- CLFA Checking account - $8,282.25
		- CLFA Money Market - $184,736.13
* Managed Accounts:
	+ ARC - $26,685.49
	+ CLFA Scholarship - $29,695.55
	+ Roy Richards Scholarship - $11,068.07
* Paul reviewed the decrease in voting membership that was budgeted. Currently the voting membership is at 80.15% of budget – total dues are 82.61% of budget. Expenses are 71.67% of budget.
* Paul discussed a possible membership drive.
* Paul reviewed all items that were over budget.

Correspondence – Chris Dow reported:

* CALTAG – Recent meeting was an overview of what is currently going on in the state. Not much new to report. CLFA is forwarding our conference information to them. Committee will meet again in several months.
* RMAC – Range Management Advisory Committee - Brandi Goss will be putting on a course using grazing animals for fuels management in Sacramento on September 16th. Chris will be attending.
* Larry Camp – Announced that the WFMP is coming forward and passed through litigation. The BOF won overall. EPIC will now have to pay for their own court fees.
* Elicia Goldsworthy & Harlan Tranmer received correspondence from Roger Sternberg regarding the cost of ITP – Roger has one landowner who has spent over $15,000 on his ITP and only got one crossing out of that. The issue is candidate species are costing small landowners a fair amount of funds. Elicia is hoping this does not become a political issue and that sound science will win overall. This continues to be a huge concern. Andrea Eggleton said she has been using information from our Frog Conference several years ago that has assisted her in dealing with this issue.

Membership – No new memberships were submitted.

Committee Reports:

Education:

* Archaeology Classes – Chris Dow reported:
	+ Chris briefly reviewed the letter CLFA sent to the BOF on July 8th outlining the importance of the archaeology program and how critical it is to forest practice throughout the state and will be essential to meeting the Governor’s Executive Order B-52-18 – increasing pace and scale. This letter was also sent out to the membership. This letter shed light on the current issues with this program and the letter set in motion a meeting with CLFA, Helge Eng, Chris Browder and other staff directly related to this program. Director, Thom Porter announced to the BOF that the October class that had been cancelled will now be offered sometime in the next year. A meeting has been scheduled for September 17th in Sacramento with Rob Little, Chris Dow, & George Gentry who will be meeting with Helge Eng, Chris Browder, and other staff.
	+ Kathleen is working with the Gaia to reschedule this class.
	+ The Board discussed current issues with the overall archaeology program in the field and just not the classes.
	+ Refresher class are still on for November 6th & 7th.
* Fall Conference
	+ Ariel & Elicia will get the finalized brochure to Kathleen by September 1st.
	+ The Board discussed the morning conference and afternoon field day.
	+ The day before the conference will be the CLFA Board meeting.
* Spring Conference
	+ Topics will be discussed at the September meeting. Ariel will be putting out a survey to the membership to see if they would be supportive of a “back to basics” conference in March.

Outreach - Tony Gomez reported:

* Howard Biswell Scholarship
	+ Tony emailed the scholarship applications to all the schools that offer forestry and to Diane Deally Neill. Ariel will place the scholarship on the social media. The scholarship was also sent out with the August newsletter.

Video Scholarship – Chris Dow reported:

* Reach out to students to create a video about forestry. This can be advertised on all of CLFAs social media outlets.
* Jason Wells, Tony Gomez, Emil Mason, Chris Dow, & Paul Violett will be on the video scholarship committee. Paul will be advising on the financial
* Chris would like to name this scholarship the Hazel Jackson Scholarship – the Board agreed unanimously. This will be a permanent scholarship.
* The flyer should be ready to be advertised at all of the Forestry Challenge’s coming up this fall.
* The winning video could be presented at the Forestry Challenge Finals and CLFA annual meeting.
* Due date for the video will be February 15, 2020.
* The Board discussed the scholarship funds raised at the 2019 evening fund raiser. Chris felt the funds raised – should be utilized.
* Kathleen noted the current CLFA scholarship fund balance is $29,695.55.
* The committee will decide the topic, amount of scholarship, and guidelines on submission.
* At the evening fundraiser the funds raised were slated to go straight to the scholarships and that was a point that was made to the membership.

FFA Program – Emil Mason reported:

* If this program is only under the FFA and does not fall in with the Forestry Challenge, the program would fall under ‘Forestry Career Development’ events.
* This year this sanctioned event will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 30th & 31st.
* Emil reviewed the curriculum with Matt Patton for this event, and they determined the curriculum was very rigorous. Matt Patton was agreeable to release the names of the kids that scored above 75% on the test – the certification would be great.
* This is a national competition and none of the smaller competitions are fully regulated.
* Paul Violett wondered if SAFwould be the more likely certifying body.
* Chris Dow will contact Thibault Hoppe-Glosser –SAF, Outreach Coordinator and let the Board know where FAS would stand on this by the September Board meeting.
* Chris Dow felt by CLFA offering this certification, it would bring new foresters into California and help to reach out to a wider audience.

Forest Practice – Andrea Eggleton reported:

The September meeting will be held in Fresno, CA, including a field tour which will cover items related to the CAL VTP.

The following is a list for items of greatest interest to the RPF community from the August Board of Forestry Meeting:

FULL BOARD MEETING

* In July, CLFA presented a letter of support for the CAL FIRE Archaeology program to the Board of Forestry, and expressed regret that the Initial Arch Training Course had to be cancelled for fall 2019 due to archaeological staff shortages. At the August meeting, CAL FIRE Director Thom Porter announced that every effort would be made to re-schedule the course for November or December 2019.

CLFA’s letter to the Board is posted on the CLFA website and on the Board of Forestry website: <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/media/8848/full-12-clfa-archaeology-support-letter.pdf>

* The Board of Forestry won their recent case brought against them by the Coast Action Group regarding the Working Forest Management Plan.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

* Potential Revision of Stocking Standards for the Southern Sub-district of the Coast and Marin County
	+ Proposed revision of point count to 300 for consistency with rest of Coast
	+ Consideration of revision of current requirement to plant conifers under hardwood over story (913.8 (b)(6))
	+ Proposed removal of requirement in 913.8(a) to retain 50% of trees between 12-18” DBH
* Potential Revision of Basal Area Stocking Standards within 14 CCR 913
	+ There is no current consensus or direction on which provisions to focus – Committee will re-visit the item in November meeting

FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

* Development of Non-Regulatory Action Supporting the Use of Feller-Bunchers within a WLPZ under Specified BMPs
	+ A white paper has been developed by BOF staff to support harvesting in the WLPZ using low ground pressure equipment. The current draft of the white paper has extensive references to relevant research on the topic and can be found here: <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/media/8879/fpc-2-draft-feller-buncher-white-paper.pdf>
* CAL FIRE Annual Exemption Monitoring Report to the Legislature – the draft report will be available for public review by October or November
* Steep-Slope Harvesting
	+ The Board desires to consider regulatory action to clarify limitations on the use of ground-based equipment in cable and tractor yarding areas pursuant to 914.2 Tractor Operations and 914.3 Cable Yarding in order to address current logging technology and techniques including steep-slope tethered logging and shovel logging.
	+ This item will be developed over the next few months and may result in a rule package to be included in the 2021 Forest Practice Rules.

RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

* The committee continues to discuss potential revisions to Vegetation Clearance of Utility Infrastructure 14 CCR 1250

Legislation – Jason Wells reported:

* SB 182 – Hanna Beth Jackson – Bill relates to county zoning. One of the provisions is creating fund for home hardening and defensible space. They would be taking money from Cal Fires Green House Gas. Department of Finance opposes the funding for this bill. Scheduled to meet in Assembly Appropriates on the 30th. Jason will speak with Brian White.
* AB5 – Gonzales – In Senate Appropriations. Bill relates to creating worker protections. CLFA sent a comment letter request that LTO’s and RPF’s be exempt from this bill. FLC and CFA also sent letters they would support if amended. ACL sent a letter that mirrored CLFA’s letter asking licensed professionals to not be included. Harlan noted that we did not support, as this bill would affect those we work with, such as truckers, etc. No changes regarding language have been made. Consulting Foresters also sent a letter that licensed professionals be exempt.
* SB69 – CLFA moved to no longer watch.

Licensing – Ricky Shurtz reported:

* PFEC meeting is September 5th. Ricky will attend or phone it.
* A venue has been set-up in Yreka for the next licensing test – looks as if there will be 25+ taking the test.
* Elicia will be meeting with John at the location. Elicia Goldsworthy and George \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_will be the proctors.
* Ricky will send out a letter to the new RPFs regarding their free 1 ½ year’s membership. Chris will send the template letter to Ricky.

Wildlife & Water – Gwyndolyn Ozard reported:

* Water Boards – not any updates.
* Fish & Game Commission – they met in August and the only consequential items were:
	+ Voted to accept the San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat and it is now a candidate species for one year.
	+ Accepted the petition to list the mountain lion and approved a 30-day extension on review. Quite a few groups were opposed to this listing. Nothing has proceeded except the acceptance of the petition being sent in.
	+ Paul Violett noted that at the CFA Board meeting Gary Rynearson reported that the North Coast Water Board will not have a quorum at their next meeting.
* California Native Plant Society’s Wildfire Recovery Guide – Elicia Goldsworthy – reviewed a few items in this guide. CLFA is mentioned in the back of this document, as well as, a link to RPFs.

Communication Committee - Gwyndolyn Ozard reported:

* Social Medial
	+ CLFA now has an Instagram Account to help communicate helpful forestry information, current forestry event updates, and to reach out to our membership/potential membership with engaging social media updates. Members can follow CLFA @CLFA\_communication. We will be showcasing a different CLFA member or associated business/company/employer each week with our new hashtag #forestryfriday!! If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself) to be showcased by the #forestryfriday post please send a (or multiple) photos and a quick description to our Facebook page, to our Instagram account via the message function, or email them to admin@clfa.org.

Ricky Shurtz brought up the current issue with homeowner’s insurance rates outrageous increases that are being charged or policies being cancelled. This is a state level issue. There has been a 9 to 10% in dropped policies. Chris recommended that we watch this issue and not be involved at this time. Andrea informed the Board that the State Insurance Commissioner had a town hall in Shasta County. This meeting was recorded and she can forward the link to the Board.

Harlan Tranmer would like to get the Headhunter Committee going again to nominate new Board members for the 2020 Board year. Members that will be leaving in May of 2020 should be looking for replacements.

Chris reviewed that Board members need to get their newsletter articles in on time. The September articles are due August 28th to Kathleen.

Next Board meeting will be September 21st at the Sonoma RCD.

Tony Gomez moved with a second by Emil Mason to end the meeting at 12:05 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Burr

Executive Director