**California Licensed Foresters Association**

Minutes July 26, 2018

GoToMeeting

CLFA President Harlan Tranmer called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm.

Directors Present: Harlan Tranmer, Chris Dow, Ariel Thomson, Ricky Shurtz, Sara-Taddo Jones, Paul Violett, Kieran O’Leary, Jason Wells, Emil Mason, Ron Hutchinson, Tony Gomez, and Elicia Goldsworthy

Directors Absent: Alex Stone

Others Absent: Kathleen Burr

Minutes – Tony Gomez moved with a second by Jason Wells to approve the June minutes as revised. Motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence – Harlan Tranmer reported:**

Harlan reported that Larry Camp contacted him to update that the FLC Board meeting was being held on June 27, 2018. At this meeting they would be assessing where the organization is headed due to several situations FLC is dealing with. Larry will contact Harlan with an update. The CLFA Board discussed pooling forces but keeping the internal integrity of the two organizations separate if necessary.

Jason Poburko contacted Harlan to discuss how to engage more CLFA member’s to participate in Board meetings. The Board discussed concerns relating to confidential matters and how to ensure the confidentiality of a closed session.

* In terms of announcing the call in, perhaps post a notice in the newsletter if folks are interested in a call in meeting.
* Jason Wells commented that he recalls concern with going into closed session and wanting to keep a secure line. Possibly provide Board members only with an additional call in number for a closed session. This is not the first time the Board has been asked to open up the phone meetings.
* The Board has experienced difficulty in maintaining a full Board due to the travel requirements to attend meetings.
* Paul Violett commented that it is too difficult to get a quorum with so much travel.
* Chris Dow suggested call in meetings every other month and have people who are physically present lead the closed session discussion. Harlan wants to table discussion for September.
* Jason Poburko also had comments on the website, this is discussed below in the communication committee update.

**Treasurer’s report**

The Board reviewed the financials only. Further review and approval will take place at the August Board meeting.

**Education – Sara Taddo Jones reported:**

2018 Fall Field Days:

* Coast will be at Green Diamond on November 2nd - Harlan reiterated that the topic is to demonstrate the need to reduce point count stocking. Glenn Lehar from Green Diamond Nursery will be the tour guide. Harlan has been buying trees from Glenn for years and has seen increase in survival and growth rate that is notable. One of the reasons 300 trees per acre is no longer needed is due to how stands are thinned. Elicia will take the lead on organizing the day with Tony Gomez’s assistance. Harlan is thinking 30-50 people will attend. Carpools will be setup on site. Each participant will be responsible for his/her own lunch, drinks & snacks.
* North will be at Blodgett on November 9th - Ariel just needs to finalize the details with Chris Dow.
* Kieran O'Leary reminded the board to invite the Board of Forestry to the workshops and needs an itinerary to present. Kieran will call Matt Dias to see if he can arrange. Reduce point count standard by region. William Main working group project is on the BOF website. Sara will send out save the date. It was apparently legislation that authorized the BOF to address stocking.BOF toured UC Berkeley's Blodgett Center for Forestry kicked off conversation. Berkeley Center for Forestry has taken on the topic. Start with emails to education committee and hosts.
* The 2019 spring workshop focus discussion will be tabled to the September Board meeting.

**Membership – Chris Dow reported:**

Chris Dow sent a letter to all of the new licensees who recently passed the licensing exam, inviting them to take advantage of CLFA’s free year membership. They would be free for 2018 & 2019.

**Forest Practice Committee – Harlan Tranmer and Chris Dow reported:**

• **THP Submissions:** The number of THP submissions through June 2018 was approximately 12% higher than June 2017 (111 compared to 98 in 2017).

• **NTMP Submissions:** The total number of NTMP submissions for June 2018 was two (2) less than June 2017 (10 compared to 12 in 2017). Eighty-three (83) NTOs were submitted in June 2018 compared to sixty-two (62) for June 2017.

• **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions were approximately 21% lower compared to June last year (1,043 compared to 1,319 in 2017). The number of Drought Mortality Exemptions filed through June this year is approximately 71% lower than last year (135 compared to 462 in 2017); the acreage covered was approximately 69% lower (17,148 acres compared to 55,061 acres in 2017).

• **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions were approximately 43% higher in June 2018 than June 2017 (120 compared to 69 in 2017).

• **Plan Approval:** 139 THPs were approved in June 2018 compared to 103 in June 2017. The number of NTMPs approved in June 2018 was nearly identical to the number approved in June 2017 (7 compared to 6 in 2017). Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) Activities [Updated from the TRFRF Database (01/01/2018 through 05/31/2018)]

Since January 1, 2018, the Department has expended 66,870 hours in conducting Forest Practice Program activities funded by TRFRF. An additional 4,915 hours of Forest Practice Program activities not funded by TRFRF has also been completed. Combined, Department staff has recorded 71,785 hours of Forest Practice-related activities through May 31, 2018.

**Forest Practice Committee**

Reporting to Legislature on Exemptions and Emergency Notices:

Northern Spotted Owl: The Board will defer decisions on this topic until the August meeting. The Board is actively collecting information on what take avoidance options small landowners are utilizing, as industrial timberland owners generally have their own NSO take avoidance process. US Fish and Wildlife Service will consider the Board’s decisions on NSO take avoidance, activity center definition, and the take avoidance process for small landowners when it has a clearer proposal.

**Management Committee**

Board Policy on State Forests: The Board is seeking a 10 year period for updating management plans rather than the current 5 year period.

Possible Updates to NTMP’s: NTMP’s and the use of Exemptions on these is being evaluated, with approximately 14% of NTMP’s having had exemptions on their acreage, mostly 1038(b) and 1038(k) for mortality. Discussions continue and a more detailed analysis, along with greater information collection and analysis is planned. Currently, Fish and Wildlife, as well as Water Quality Control Boards share concerns of exemption impacts on protected species or water quality issues without agency review.

**Director’s Report to the Board of Forestry**

Most notably discussed were the impacts of the Governor’s Executive Order B-52-18 and the advancement of legislation pertaining to prescribed fire. CALFIRE is actively engaging and navigating the proposed legislation and acceptance of liability for prescribed burning. At this time, they are currently only able to accept liability under VMP management, and are pursuing avenues to provide the liability coverage that is possibly upcoming, and how to make the process work in the best way possible.

**Professional Foresters Examination Committee**

At the July full BOF meeting, Frank Mulhair and James Hawkins were voted unanimously to assume positions with PFEC. They will fill needed seats as industry representatives. Nominations will still be accepted to fill consulting forester representatives.

 **Legislation - Jason Wells reported**

* AB425 – no change, senate inactive, CLFA supports – no letter has been sent to date
* AB 1956 – this bill has changed substantially and is narrowed down to creating local grant fund to support programs, CLFA will be sending a letter to the Senate since it has made it through Assembly. This is a Board action item.
* AB2091 – prescribed burn bill. Currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. CLFA a letter of support.
* AB2208 – biomass – this bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. CLFA sent a letter of support.
* AB2251 – currently in the Senate Appropriation Committee.
* AB2627 – MBTA, CLFA is opposed. Currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee now.
* AB2889 – requires CAL FIRE to provide efficient implementation. Coalition letter sent and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
* SB49 – currently in the Assembly Rules Committee.
* SB100 – watch. CLFA wasn’t sure it includes biomass.
* SB 1260 – currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. CLFA wrote support if amended mechanical thinning into bill.
* SB1453 – CLFA sent letter.

**CalTREES – Harlan Tranmer reported:**

Dan Craig did a demonstration of the CalTREES online timber harvest permit at Big Creek Lumber Co to see the platform and get a preview. The roll out date is expected in December or January. It’s a word document with drop down menus. Won’t have regionally specific info at first. BCLC is going to try to use it as soon as it is officially online. HT thinks it’s going to save time and should make it shorter in length for the LTO. Shorter/less text and fewer pages. Sections 3, 4, 5 won’t be included in form – will upload in to system. Dan Craig is encouraging people to call him with questions or walk in on Fridays if you want to talk in person. Form will collect and identify specifically why the review process was delayed, tracking who or what caused the delay and why.

**Permit Synchronicity – Harlan Tranmer reported:**

LSAA and WDR in THP approved at the same time as the THP is approved. RWQCB still being difficult but is on board. CDFW seems on board at this point – just be sure to communicate with reps and front load all of the LSAA info. Ties in to CalTREES. They are paralleling each other on the 1492 funds. Workshop in spring – they aren’t sure if that's soon enough. Spring workshop ideas: permit sync and CalTREES.

**Licensing – Ricky Shurtz reported:**

There were 29 applications for the last licensing exam, with 11 new RPFs 3058 to 3068 new. The October 2018 exam will be in Redding (this time only) and then all future exams will be in Sacramento due to the cost of putting on the exam.

The RPF exam prep class will be hold Nov 26th at Granzellas in Williams.

Mtn. Home exam prep Nov 29, 30th. Look at PFEC newsletter.

Dan Stapleton will be proceeding, through the BOF Licensing Committee, with developing the new emeritus license status. This topic will be discussed on August 23rd at the next PFEC meeting. Ricky let the Board know he is hoping to attend.

**Water and Wildlife – Elicia Goldsworthy reported:**

Nothing new on water.

The Fish and Game Commission - The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) last met June 20-21 in Sacramento where they received the Department’s request for a six-month extension of time to submit its status review report on the petition to list foothill yellow-legged frog as an endangered or threatened species under CESA. The FCG also received the Department’s one-year status review report on the petition to list Humboldt marten as an endangered species under CESA.

The next FGC meeting will be held on August 22-23 in Fortuna, when the Commission will determine whether listing Humboldt marten as an endangered species is warranted.

Foothill yellow-legged frog **-** On December 14, 2016, FGC received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to list foothill yellow-legged frog as a threatened species under CESA. On June 21, 2017, FGC voted to accept the petition for further evaluation and to initiate a 12-month review of the status of foothill yellow-legged frog in California. On May 21, 2018 DFW requested that FGC grant a six-month extension of time to complete its review. FGC staff recommended to approve DFW’s request on June 21, 2018 thus changing the due date for the Department’s report to January 7, 2019 (18 months from the date the candidacy filing were published). The FGC will consider the petition, DFW's evaluation and other information submitted to determine if listing is warranted at its April 2019 meeting.

Humboldt Marten **-** In June 2015, FGC received a petition from the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) and the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) to list Humboldt marten as an endangered species under CESA. FGC designated Humboldt marten as a candidate species at its February 11, 2016 meeting. Final consideration is scheduled for the next meeting on August 22-23, 2018.

The status review report represents DFW’s final written review of Humboldt marten and is based upon the best scientific information available to DFW. DFW hand-delivered the status review report at the most recent meeting on June 20-21, 2018.

Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog **-** The USFWS has announced that the *Endangered Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Draft Recovery Plan* is available for public comment. Comments and information will be accepted until September 17, 2018. Comments can be sent to: Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250, Carlsbad, California 92008; or email: fw8cfwocomments@fws.gov

Western Pond Turtle **-** Listing status is currently under review with the USFWS. An initial working group meeting has been scheduled to determine population status and conservation needs. Updates will be provided as they become available.

Upper Klamath-Trinity River (UKTR) Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) - National Marine Fisheries Service is currently conducting a status review to address the petition to list the UKTR spring run Chinook salmon ESU as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); or, alternatively, to create a new ESU to describe Klamath Spring Chinook salmon and list the new ESU as threatened or endangered under the ESA. The Petitioners also request designation of critical habitat concurrently with the listing. The public comment period closed on April 30, 2018.

**Communication – Ariel Thomson reported:**

Website is outdated and meeting minutes are not being disseminated. Last minutes posted were in 2016. The Board discussion supported the development of a new website to be managed by the Communications Committee. Sara commented that it makes more sense to pay someone to manage site. The Communications Committee requested an opportunity to try to manage the website as part of their committee duties for one year. Kieran O’Leary moved with a second by Emil Mason to approve a payment up to $400 to enter into a one-year contract with Square Space for the purpose of updating and managing the CLFA website. Motion passed unanimously.

The communications committee will have a new website preview prepared for the September Board meeting.

**Outreach – Chris Dow reported**

* Dan Stapleton has been presenting throughout the state.
* Harold Biswell Scholarship – 10 applications have been received. The submissions will be sent to the committee members for grading. The names of those submitting the applications will not be revealed to the review committee and handled the same procedure as CLFA and Roy Richard Scholarships.

HT - Cal Poly FNR 475: THP layout day, 19 college students – 4 students were forestry majors, at least one who is set on becoming an RPF. They write a THP, do a layout day with an RPF and have a PHI with agencies. Conservation groups speak to them. They toured evenaged and unevenaged management in the Sierras. Look at the course as a model for other programs. Thought it was a good exposure.

60 second forester PSA on PBS – Tony Gomez informed the Board this is dead due to some significant changes at the station.

 CLFA Brochure – Jason Wells reported there has been no progress to date as updating the website is a priority. Emil offered to help print the brochure and he will work with Jason on this project. Jason & Emil will work on creating a brochure for the Board’s review at the September Board meeting.

**Nomination/Headhunter Committee – O'Leary reported**

Six past president’s participated. The committee put together over 60 potential Board member names that Kathleen compiled. Kieran reported the list included quite a few retired or soon to be retired members, nine females, but not enough younger members. Kathleen will send a google spreadsheet out to the committee members to complete contact information and this will become a working document for future Boards to work from in filling open Board seats.

The committee also discussed a Bylaws change that would change the two year Board seat to a three year Board seat.

2019 will require nine new Board members to fill the Board.

**Old Business –** Harlan Tranmer reported:

Strategic plan – Harlan is hoping to present the preliminary plan to the Board at the September meeting.

Archaeology 5-day initial class: Kathleen provided an update via email.

The Board reviewed the 2018/2019 committee assignment list. No changes were made.

Tony Gomez moved with a second by Ron Hutchinson to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elicia Goldsworthy