CALIFORNIA LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, May 19, 2022 – 1:30 pm

Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA

Board Minutes

Jason Wells called the meeting to order at 1:52 pm.

Members present: George “YG” Gentry, Charll Stoneman, Joe Starr, Matt Bissell, Ricky Shurtz, Chris Dow, Cory Munger

Board members absent: Jeremy Wright, Bob Broderick, Mark Pugsley, Ariel Roughton, & Brita Goldstein

Others present: Kathleen Burr & Andrea Eggleton

Kathleen Burr requested that 2022/2023 Board nominations be moved to the first agenda item. George Gentry moved with a second by Joe Starr. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathleen Burr requested to nominate the following people for a one-year appointment to the CLFA Board of Directors for the 2022/2023 year -

* Kieran O’Leary
* Mike Tadlock
* Chris Dow
* Frank Barron

George Gentry commented that he is still working to fill additional seats.

The following nominations were approved at the April 19, 2022 Board meeting to serve on the CLFA Board for the term 2022/2024 –

* Brita Goldstein
* Cory Munger -
* Matt Bissell agreed to serve for one additional term 2022/2023.

The following Board members are coming off the Board -

* Jeremy Wright
* Ariel Roughton
* Ricky Shurtz

With these members the Board will have 12 seats. Phil Battaglia has been asked and will let George Gentry know.

Charll Stoneman moved with a second by Joe Starr to approve the Board members as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Direction of CLFA – George Gentry & Charll Stoneman presented:

* Charll commented that both George and himself are concerned about the direction of the CLFA Board and lack of participation at the membership and Board level. Understandably the pandemic has contributed to this on some level. Charll will be presenting his concerns and ideas at forthcoming meetings.
* Both George & Charll grew up in the forestry industry and have been long-term CLFA members and served on previous boards.
* In years past when George attend breakfast meetings in Humboldt County the average number in attendance was 40.
* The focus of the organization in the early days focused on professional development, the RPF license, and forest practices. The pandemic hurt the association because of the lack of personal interaction.
* George is hoping we can now re-establish some momentum & purpose in the association.
* On the one hand, policy and legislation are very important, but they should not be our core focus. The core should be on the profession and forest practice.
* Andrea Eggleton has done an excellent job representing forest practice for CLFA.
* How should we move on from here? George feels we should offer meetings/ conference/trainings where the employer feels it is “good value” for their employees to attend.
* Example – all employers pay for archaeology training.
	+ Examples: CLFA should be the leader in terms of botany practices or a conference where we talk about road layouts, erosion control, silviculture, and look at what are the “core” practices for an RPF.
	+ Tie in our trainings to the RPF exam.
* CLFA needs to start developing the next cohort of foresters.
* Currently 77 people have signed up to work with George in his RPF exam study group.
	+ CLFA needs to capture this group of people by developing structure now.
* Apprentice Professional Forester Program:
	+ George presented his original program.
	+ The BOF has what’s know as “Certified Specialties”. CLFA can propose a regulation to the BOF. This certified specialty would be run by CLFA the same way CRM is run by the Society of Range Management.
	+ CLFA can have a Certified Specialty for an Apprentice Professional Forester.
	+ As an example - a person graduates from college and would take a variation of the short answer RPF exam and if passed, this person would be able to enter into this program. CLFA would help provide those enrolled in this program with the knowledge and skillset to pass the RPF exam. This helps people as they develop their professional applied knowledge and allows CLFA to capture recent graduates and bring them into the profession. They would become associate members and would move forward through the association.
	+ If a person successfully completes the program, when that person goes to take the RPF exam they would take a more focused exam with two questions in the morning and two in the afternoon that would focus solely on applied knowledge. As it would be assumed that completion of this program demonstrates core knowledge.
	+ Both parties would then have an investment in each other.
	+ Dan Stapleton would like George Gentry to meet with BOF legal counsel the week of May 16, 2022 to review the program.
	+ George is asking the CLFA Board to support the Apprentice Professional Forester Program and move forward as a CLFA program.
	+ George commented that this is a two-fold process, 1) getting the regulation in place and, 2) building up an infrastructure in CLFA thru possibly applying for grant funding/ to support the program financially.
	+ Each board member expressed his/her thoughts on this program and all were positive. Andrea feels this program should not just be ran by volunteers – and this is one of the items that needs to be addressed.
* Charll Stoneman moved with a second by Joe Starr to support George Gentry in presenting his Apprentice Professional Forester Program to the BOF and BOF legal department on behalf of CLFA. Motion passed unanimously.
	+ George Gentry will work with the CLFA, the BOF & PFEC on language for this program.

The Board merged into CLFA board and direction.

* George feels we need to build the board back up. The new board members we have selected have a vested interest in CLFA and the Board.
* Committees need to begin meeting on a regular basis and can meet monthly via Zoom. Another item we need to re-establish are the members-at-large to participate in the committees as ex efficio members.
* CLFA is lacking in agency representation not only on the Board but in the membership. George recommends that the Board have a position named “Cal Fire Liaison” and one person from Cal Fire attends and participates in the CLFA Board meetings.
* Charll feels the CLFA Board seats should always include someone from Cal Fire, a consultant to represent the small landowner’s perspective, and someone from the Southern Sub District.
* Jason feels there is a missing component – the foresters who have been working 10 – 20 years. We need to also have the younger foresters and our sage members balanced on the Board.
* Matt Bissell and George Gentry discussed previous attempts to have a Cal Fire Liaison attend CLFA Board meetings.
* Jason commented that he feels the overall view of the membership is that CLFA needs to address more technical skills in training. CLFA will need people to support this program with effort and financial commitment.

Regulatory Update – Andrea Eggleton reported:

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection met on May 3-5, 2022 in-person at the new Natural Resources Building in Sacramento. The next scheduled meeting is on June 7-8, 2022 and will be held in Sacramento. The ability to participate remotely via webinar is being maintained. The agendas for meetings are available at: <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/business/meeting-agendas-and-annual-schedules/>

The following is a summary of items of greatest interest to the RPF community from the April Board of Forestry Meeting:

Management Committee Business

CFIP Updates – Jon Ramaley and Stewart McMorrow

* [Proposal for Mini Management Plans](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/ktoke0hu/mgmt-2-proposal-memo-emergency-fmp-final-draft_ada.docx) for burned properties
* [Interim CFIP Rate Increases](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/1han4fkz/mgmt-2-b-percentccpichange_ada.pdf)

Timberland Conversion – Less Than Three Acre Exemption

* Board Staff completed a [Conversion Feasibility Analysis](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/kc2jfnth/mgmt-2-a-conversion-feasibility-analysis_ada.pdf) document to identify potential areas within their authority where revisions to the Less Than Three Acre Exemption could be made to address a number of letters submitted during their annual Call for Regulatory Review:
	+ [Builders Coalition Letter](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/hhwbmgh0/mgmt-2-d-public-comment-coalition-comment_ada.pdf)
	+ [County of Nevada Letter](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/cygnpnmy/mgmt-2-e-public-comment-county-of-nevada-comment_ada.pdf)
	+ [RPF Dean Loftus Letter](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/k0edf4sv/mgmt-2-f-public-comment-lofthus-comment-less-than-3-acre-conversion-2-24-2021_ada.pdf)
* A new definition of [“Conversion Maintenance”](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/dioa2k0p/mgmt-3-a-draft-1100-g-rule-plead_ada.docx) was presented, which is a combination from many of the ideas explored at the April meeting. The definition states that Conversion Maintenance on parcels meeting the following restrictions would not be considered timber operations:
	+ Non-TPZ
	+ The parcel is less than 3 acres in size
	+ The existing nontimber growing use of the parcel is residential or commercial
* Concerns over definition of “building”/”Structure” and Cal Fire was not present, so need their input before the committee can move forward

Unevenaged Stocking Revisions Update

* YG presented the results of working group with a [preliminary draft plead](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/0pnp5gzz/mgmt-4-draft-unenven-aged-plead.doc)
	+ Consideration of snags and hardwoods in unevenaged stocking
		- Reduce the size of snags that can be used for stocking to help in cases where the larger snags do not exist
		- Is there a problem with MSP if Group B are included? Question to Cal Fire
	+ Group B species revisions
	+ Revision of the 8-18s standard to remove the reference to 8-18s
	+ Higher use of group selection
		- Jim Able method - increase from 20% of the area to 30% of the area
		- By the time you get to third entry, initial groups need to be thinned and that can be a problem in the rules. This will be addressed in the next plead.

Forest Practice Committee Business

Botanical Resources Scoping Guidance

* This item has been off of the Committee’s agenda for 6 months before coming back into Committee in April. It went into a closed-door negotiation with the CA Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) general counsel over the winter upon the agency’s “significant legal concerns” with the previous draft of the Board’s guidance document.
* The version of [the document](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/nlujx2ak/fpc-3-draft-botany-guidance_ada.docx) before the Committee at this meeting reflects those discussions. CAL FIRE notes that they were not included in those discussions. No changes were made between the April and May meetings.
	+ EPIC and CNPS submitted a joint [comment](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/hv5n1ei5/fpc-3-cnps-epic-botanical-guidance-comments_ada.pdf) that the guidance was still too permissive; two other comments received expressing similar point of view ([Cohen](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/o5aknj2t/fpc-2-representative-comment-letter_ada.pdf), [Stone](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/oc3h4jmy/fpc-3-stone-botanical-guidance-comments_ada.pdf)). CNPS attended the May meeting to expand on many of these concerns.
	+ Committee Members, Cal Fire and many industry and small landowner (Forest Landowners of CA) representatives voiced concern over underground regulation, survey costs for small landowners, and maintaining flexibility within what is allowed or required by CEQA.
	+ The item was closed with remarks by Member Wade that he was not optimistic that the current document was going to be able to be moved forward based on a lack of stakeholder consensus.

Northern Spotted Owl Update

At the March 2022 BOF meeting, CAL FIRE Biologist Stacy Stanish gave an overview of the NSO rules in the FPAs and current status on how various landowners comply with them, what challenges exist, and made recommendations to the Board for areas that landowners could benefit from rule revisions, if the Board desires to make revisions.

* Ideas for rule changes identified by Stacy
	+ Prior to making changes to rules for habitat, conduct range-wide habitat analysis and compare with NSO ACs to help guide any need for rule changes.
	+ Make rules less prescriptive and more outcome based by removing all 919.9s and 919.10 and just allow Director to reject plan if it results in a take.
	+ Consider that our current rules don’t consider other NSO limiting factors other than habitat (i.e. Barred Owl impacts), which don’t include rapidly changing science and habitat conditions.
	+ Would be helpful to clarify what a “site of listed species” is in consideration of emergencies and exemptions.
* In response, the Board provided the following [summary document](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/unrheypi/fpc-3-potential-nso-rule-changes_ada.docx) and a revised (from April) potential draft [rule plead](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/qqucmw5d/fpc-3-nso-rule-text_ada.doc). The Board Staff is going to continue with some additional reporting and research on these items. Board Staff and Stacy will keep working on minor regulatory changes that can be accomplished (NTMPs in SORPs, removing rules that are erroneous).
* The 919.9 rules really are just a requirement to show how a landowner is accomplishing Take Avoidance, which is not required for any other species. There are also many new ways of TA that are not reflected in the current FPRs.
* Goal is to incorporate language that allows NTMP or WFMP lands to demonstrate TA under a SORP. Another goal is to update the rules and to make modest changes that could assist small landowners.
* The Board would like to know if any landowners in NSO country would be negatively affected by the changes being proposed (and also if these changes would help). This is primarily to learn what any impacts on small landowners would be, since the larger companies are all fairly engaged and also unaffected by these rule changes due to having HCPs. Please contact the CLFA Board or contact me directly (aheggleton@frstcorp.com) with any feedback for the committee.

Site Preparation

* This item was not covered due to unavailability of key Cal Fire staff. It will be on the agenda for the June meeting again.

Notice of Intent Revisions

* This has been an item on the Committee’s work plan for a while (2007-2009). Notices of Intent require “regeneration methods” and intermediate treatments to be identified but do not explicitly require inclusions of all of the silvicultural methods proposed to be used. The reasoning is outlined within the [Initial Statement of Reasons](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/nghlsxij/fpc-2-a-isor-notice-of-intent_ada.doc).
* This [rule plead](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/1cqbtpsk/fpc-2-b-notice-of-intent-rule-text_ada.docx) would require all “Silvicultural Systems” and Special and Alternative Prescriptions within a plan to be listed on NOIs. This is a very modest and simple rule change.
* This rule package was authorized by the Full Board for 45-day notice with a few minor grammatical changes. Apologies that this was previously reported in the April Newsletter but actually didn’t happen until the May BOF meeting.

Full Board Meeting 5/3/22

* Executive Session – No reportable actions taken.
* Consent Calendar Items –Motion confirmed unanimously to approve consent calendar items including the [Rulemaking Matrix](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/k2shh5zp/full-7-b-rulemaking-matrix_ada.pdf).
* Monthly Board Reports
	+ Report of the Chairman, Dr. Keith Gilless
		- Many thanks for all associated with the Rule Making Workshop yesterday on the 5’ zone immediately around structures.
		- Diversity of opinions trying to balance science along with ease of inspections, along with owner’s disruptions/costs. Urges everyone to participate early in this process.
		- Goal to be able to implement new rulemaking by July 1 implementation of new construction legislation.
	+ CAL FIRE [Director’s Report](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/g5wegvbd/full-9-may-2022-director-s-report-final_ada.pdf), given by Matthew Reishman
* Executive Officer Report- Possible Action Items.
	+ Staffing update
	+ Legislative update
* Report of the Regulations Coordinator The Board’s Regulations Coordinator and/or Land Use Planning Program Manager will report on ongoing regulatory matters. Possible Action Items: The Board may act in response to requests of the Regulations Program Manager or Land Use Planning Program Manager on items presented in the report.
	+ a) Board consideration of options for “State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, 2021” rulemaking, including potential rule plead changes and approval of 15-Day Notice
	+ b) Board consideration of readoption of the findings of emergency and rule text for the emergency rulemaking action titled “Santa Cruz and San Mateo Weekend Emergency”, amendments to 14 CCR §§ 926.9, 926.10, 928.5, and 928.6
* Report of the Standing Committees. Committee Chairpersons will report on the items discussed from Committee meetings. Possible Action Items: The Board may act in response to Committee recommendations. (See Committee Agendas which are incorporated as though fully set forth herein.)
	+ Forest Practice Committee, Rich Wade, Chair
	+ Management Committee, Chris Chase, Chair
	+ Resource Protection, Dr. Keith Gilless, Interim Chair
* Report of Board’s Advisory Committees.
	+ Effectiveness Monitoring Committee, Elizabeth Forsburg Pardi, Co-chair
	+ Range Management Advisory, Dr. Marc Horney, Co-chair or Dr. Kristina Wolf, Board staff
* PRESENTATIONS
	+ Forestry Challenge presentation on solutions to California's wildfire crisis – Diane Dealey Neill
* HEARINGS
* Public Hearing “Meadows and Wet Areas, and Cutover Land Amendments” The proposed action is [amendments](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/tkanesgk/full-15-b-meadows-and-wet-areas-and-cutover-lands-rule-text_ada.docx) to existing Forest Practice Rules to remove references to “Cutover Land” from the Rules and combine the definitions for “Meadows and Wet Areas” for the Northern and Southern Forest Districts and extend that definition to cover all forest districts in California, as well as to improve clarity using defined terms within “Aspen, Meadows and Wet Areas Restoration” special prescription, and within rules specific to the High Use Subdistrict. The reasons are discussed in the [Initial Statement of Reasons.](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/aluc4we0/full-15-a-meadows-wet-areas-and-cutover-land-amendments-isor_ada.pdf)
	+ Public Comments
	+ [EPIC](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/cvup3obs/full-15-c-meadows-wet-areas-and-cutover-lands-public-comment-epic_ada.pdf)
	+ [Alan Levine/Coast Action Group](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/nltdi53r/full-15-d-meadows-wet-areas-and-cutover-lands-public-comment-alan-levine_ada.pdf)
	+ [NCWQCB](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/tv4njwvk/full-15-f-meadows-wet-ares-and-cutover-lands-public-comment-ncwqcb.pdf)
	+ [CAL FIRE](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/dbliqzub/full-15-g-meadows-wet-ares-and-cutover-lands-public-comment-cal-fire_ada.pdf)

April Minutes

* Charll Stoneman moved with a second by Joe Starr to approve the April 2022 minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Financials – Kathleen Burr reported

Treasurer’s Report / Executive Directors Report – Kathleen Burr reported:

* Profit & Loss – Net Income $73,613.74
* Balance Sheet – Total Assets $350,029.98
* Managed Accounts:
	+ Archaeology - $22,015.10
	+ CLFA Scholarship - $24,556.72
	+ Roy Richards - $10,407.33
	+ Hazel Jackson - $7,573.69
* Currently memberships are:
	+ - Associate members – 105% of budget
		- Contributing members – 130% of budget
		- Sustaining 100% of budget
		- Voting is at 89.69% of budget
		- Currently CLFA is at 94.26% of total memberships paid to date from approved 2022 budget.
* Joe Starr moved with a second by Charll Stoneman to approve the financials as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
* Memberships paid through Stripe do not reflect in these financials as Stripe is reconciled paid out by the 10th of every month.

Correspondence

* Kathleen reviewed note sent in by Steve Cannon with his membership payment regarding CDF needs to process CFIP applications more quickly.
* Charll received correspondence from CDFW addressing lake & streambed alterations. CDFW is trying to setup a program electronically.

Memberships

* Membership – all were paid online
	+ Samantha Gill – RPF 2696 – Cal Poly
	+ Alexander Gentz – Associate – YG
	+ Lewis Campbell – Associate - Placer County RCD
	+ Aiden Stephens – RPF 3158
	+ Justin Barrett – Associate
	+ Richard Klug – Associate
* George Gentry moved with a second by Cory Munger to approve the new members. Motion passed unanimously.

Archaeology – Kathleen Burr reported

* Several recent participants at the refresher classes do not feel the class reflects what is pertinent to needs of the field forester.
* The refreshers are designed to be a reflection of what is taught in the 5-day initial class.
* Kathleen has discussed several times w/Len Nielson the cost and effectiveness of Pinon Resources instruction at the refreshers.
* The MOU with Cal Fire has been signed by both Cal Fire and CLFA and will remain in place until 2026.
* Currently there are 22 people on the waiting list for the October 2022 class.

Education – Fall Workshop

* The Board needs to begin working on this workshop
* In lieu of the earlier board discussion the Education Committee will work on setting the conference topics. George Gentry asked what should our education approach be? Should we have two big conference per year or develop smaller workshops scattered throughout the year? George suggested developing a table of topics and determine the best platform for each presentation. CLFA needs to develop a strategic plan approach to our future education efforts.
* Charll would like to go back to basics modules.
* The board discussed different topics and formats for 2023 educational workshops.
* Jason has been discussing the possibility of a joint conference with SAF Rachelle Hedges the new California SAF incoming chair.
* Chris Dow felt we could also offer PCA hours to develop additional attendees at our conferences.
* George Gentry feels that if CLFA develops future programs, the non-CLFA member cost needs to be much higher than the CLFA membership cost. Joe Starr commented that the difference should be equal to the cost of the CLFA membership.

Outreach Committee – nothing new to report

Legislation Committee – Joe Starr reported –

Bills of concern to CLFA:

* SB396 - Under current law, the Public Utilities Commission, which has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations, has established additional vegetation management requirements. This bill would revise and recast those provisions related to electrical lines and abatement activities for a person who owns, controls, operates, or maintains an electrical transmission or distribution line, specifying that abatement activities covered by this law include felling, cutting, or trimming trees. The bill would explicitly require all these line clearance and tree pruning and abatement activities to comply with the commission’s vegetation management rules, if applicable.
* AB1717 **–** Current law requires that, except as specified, not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages, determined by the Director of Industrial Relations, be paid to workers employed on public works projects. Current law defines the term "public works" for purposes of requirements regarding the payment of prevailing wages to include construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work done under contract and paid for using public funds, except as specified. Current law makes a willful violation of laws relating to the payment of prevailing wages on public works a misdemeanor. This bill would expand the definition of "public works" to include fuel reduction work paid for in whole or in part out of public funds performed as part of a fire mitigation project, as specified.

Communications – nothing new to report

Water & Wildlife – nothing new to report

Scholarships – Charll Stoneman reported

* CLFA Scholarship recipient Zakary Schall will be attending the conference.
* Roy Richard Scholarship recipient Erin Burk is not available and her check has been mailed.
* Harold Biswell Scholarship – we did not receive much response. We received two scholarship that were submitted within the specified time frame. Zoey Cardoza is currently in college and does not qualify and the second application is from McKenzie Waverly who is qualified. The Board agreed to award the scholarship to McKenzie Waverly.
* Jason Wells & Chris Dow reviewed how the Hazel Jackson Scholarship was developed.
* Charll Stoneman would like to combine the Hazel Jackson & CLFA scholarships into one called the Hazel Jackson/CLFA Scholarship. Chris Dow felt this would be a great idea.

New Business – Jason Wells

* Jason Wells nominated Joe Starr for CLFA President with a second by George Gentry. Motion passed unanimously.
* Jason Wells nominated Mark Pugsley for Vice President.
* Jason Wells nominated Brita Goldstein for Secretary with a second Cory Munger.
* George Gentry nominated Charll Stoneman for Treasurer with a second by Joe Starr.

George Gentry moved with a second by Cory Munger to approve the nominations for executive committee as presented. This prompted a discussion.

* Discussion on the position of Vice President. Traditionally the Vice President steps into the Presidential position. Mark does not want to take the President position in 2023. Kathleen feels the VP position should have the commitment that he/she will be stepping into the President position. Chris Dow commented that the executive committee needs to be able to proceed up the chain of command.
* Kathleen commented to the board that she feels committee chairs should feel passionate about the chair position they accept.
* Charll feels committee positions should not be assigned at a board meeting but discussed outside and presented at the next board meeting.

Charll nominated George Gentry for the position of Vice President with a second by Cory Munger. Said revision was made to the slate of CLFA officers, motion passed unanimously.

Joe Starr addressed the Board

* Joe would like all committees to meet monthly prior to the board meeting and present a written report to the board members prior to the board meeting. The months the board meets on GoToMeeting Joe would like the committees to meet previously and the committee chair presents a recap only.
* Board meetings should be held approximately a week after the BOF so Andrea has time to develop her report and meet with the Forest Practice Committee.
* If the committees would meet prior to the GoToMeetings these meeting could be completed I less than three hours.
* The board likes the concept of committees meeting prior to the board meeting and having committee chairs present action items and a short report. Charll feels forest practice should present at every board meeting. Joe feels that the entire CLFA Board should call into the forest practice committee meetings.
* Focus –
	+ Better outreach for young foresters
	+ Commitment to archaeology program
	+ Education
	+ Scholarships
	+ Communication on committees to meet on a regular basis
	+ Ex official members on committees
* George Gentry suggested to incorporate a different agenda format.

Kathleen will update the non-paid member list and add it to the Google Drive file link. Board members will add their names to people they would like to reach out to.

Newsletter articles to Kathleen & Joe by May 29th.

George Gentry moved with a second by Cory Munger to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Burr

Executive Director