California Licensed Forester Association

November 8th 2018 Blodgett Forest

Directors Present in person: Ariel Thomson, Elicia Goldsworthy, Sara Taddo-Jones, Ricky Shurtz, Tony Gomez, Jason Wells, Harlan Tranmer

Present via Go to Meeting: Ron Hutchinson

Others present: Larry Camp, FLC and Kathleen Burr (Go to Meeting)

CLFA President Harlan Tranmer called the meeting to order at 11:08

Opening Remarks:

Alex Stone will be graduating from CalFire academy this Friday and reaffirmed his commitment to the   
Board.

Minutes – Kieran edited minutes, look at October minutes and make any changes. They will be approved via email.

Correspondence – Harlan Tranmer reported:

* LTO Dave Anderson was told he needed 4 x 4 foot burn piles on CFIP project in Shasta area, was able to straighten out before Harlan responded. If the same issue comes up contact Stuart McMorrow with CFIP.
* Ryan Helmer, MIT – Wood utilization what are we doing with our debris, etc. Put in touch with SPI folks.

Treasurer’s Report – Jason Wells and Kathleen reported:

* Proposed 2019 budget discussed by Kathleen - Estimates a small amount of gain. Usually come in about 90 to 95% on gain estimate with expenses 100% of budget to 20% under. Aimed to not overinflate income. Generally, have $5,000 to 10,000 profit at the end of year entering account.
* Added item to program income - 18% income to CLFA from archaeology as MOU states.
* Board of forestry representative budgeted $10,000, discussion on whether this will be an appropriate level or should that be increased to $1,000/month estimated cost.

**Elicia Goldsworthy moved to propose the budget as a preliminary budget subject to revision, seconded by Tony Gomez. Passes unanimously**

Membership – Harlan Tranmer Reported

* Connor Goldstein (first year RPF)
* Robert Howe (first year RPF)
* Corey Bingaman (Associate)
* Edward Mann (Associate)

**Tony Gomez moved, Ricky Shurtz seconded motion to approve the new members listed above - Motion approved unanimously**

* Kevin Hurt (Associate) – membership information received after above vote.

**Sara Taddo-Jones motioned and Ricky Shurtz seconded the motion to approve Kevin Hurt. Motion approved unanimously**

Education – Reported by Harlan, Elicia, Sara, and Ariel

* Initial Arch Class
* Received positive feedback with the exception of focus on CEQA versus forest practice.
* Positive feedback on two days in the field and shortening of PowerPoint presentations.
* Meeting coming up January 18th at 9am day before CLFA board meeting. Any board member with interest in attending is welcome to attend.
* February initial class is full.
* Refresher Course
  + Board member Tony Gomez will attend November 14-15th course and report on class
* RPF Prep Course
  + November 26th at Granzellas in Williams.
  + Currently sign up small, more registration expected closer to date.
* 2018 Fall Workshop
  + November 2nd Green Diamond
    - Good turnout, went really well, notes will be compiled from the workshop documenting take home messages and communication. Will be combined with Sierra workshop as well and delivered to the Main Seminar group.
    - Women in Timber
      * Board bought a table that was filled by board, CLFA members, and Humboldt forestry club representative.
  + November 9th Blodgett and SPI
    - Currently 35 participants registered.
    - Meeting tomorrow at Blodgett at 8:30
  + Elicia, Jason, Harlan and Ariel will have notes compiled and ready by November 30th.
* Spring Conference
  + Gaia is ready to go.
  + Need flyer to Kathleen by middle of next month (December 15th). Sara will work with Kathleen to create flyer. Try to be vague with the flyer as topics are still being discussed.
  + Discussion of what topics we will want to cover on the CalTrees topic. Will it be a status report, history, etc? Will depend on what happens in the next few months with CalTrees and plans acceptance.
    - Contact Dan Craig now to get him on the agenda. Sara will contact.
  + Topics/schedule:
    - Yana can’t do oak woodlands on Saturday so will need to move to Friday or drop.
    - Jason proposed possibly look at mass timber as filler topic? Larry Camp will send Sara information to follow up with and see if it can fit into the conference.
    - Proposed Plan:
      * Thursday morning cogeneration plant tour at SPI
      * board meeting Thursday afternoon
      * Friday - 901 implementation and oak woodlands
      * Saturday – CalTrees and possibly permit synchronicity depending on the status.
    - Still room for ideas for Saturday.

30 Second Forester – Ron Hutchinson Reported

* Ron and KO met with KCRA 3 and got a proposal that was sent out to the board. $20,000 was the priced quoted which is much higher than previous outlets. KCRA would reach a larger audience and try to reach more people in a more rapid timeframe. New approach would be to inundate the local area with a lot of commercials in a short amount of time. Would work on different media types including TV and internet.
* Suggested by Ron that before moving in this direction we refine the 30 second foresters. Current feedback is that the commercials provide good information, but the pictures are dated and not of high quality. More time should be spent to make them “prime time” ready before viewed by a larger audience that will include legislature.
* Funding currently does not cover the $20,000. $6,000 from SPI foundation currently waiting to hear on the SFA grant. Looking to run starting in January with the beginning of the new legislative session. Would need to dip into fund to continue with this plan.
  + - Bay Area market would be 5 to 6 times the KCRA price, but it would reach 6 to 8 times the people depending on the area targeted.
    - Jason Wells expressed concern about the cost and suggested reaching out to other partners including MRC/HRC and Fisher Family. Elicia brought up reaching out to Reed Family as well.
    - Board members would be more comfortable closing the gap to fund the commercials if we could get contributions covering $15,000. Potentially present the partnership as matching funds.
    - KCRA would roll into the price updating the commercials.
    - Discussion of this being an opportunity to provide the membership with a tangible product and being good use of our surplus funds. There has been talk by the membership of the rainy day fund that we have.
    - Jason and Elicia will work with Ron to reach out to potential partners, no agreement for matching funds as of yet.

Outreach – reported by Harlan Tranmer

* Roy Richards Scholarship call for questions – need to get question and call for applications out before schools go to winter break. Asked for one more week for the board to come up with questions. Kathleen will send 4 questions selected by Chris for the board to look at and possibly select from.
* Forestry Challenge – one more event in San Bernardino.

Forest Practice – Reported by Harlan and Larry

BOF Meeting November 6th and 7th.

* Management Committee:

14 CCR 1035 – 1042 do not apply to NTMPs or WFMPs and therefore no exemptions under 1038 are allowed on those lands, despite what the Board of Forestry (BOF) determined earlier this summer. Cal Fire representatives have said they will raise the issue again to the BOF. Statutory language seems to support Cal Fire’s position. Currently some NTMPs have 1038 exemptions built in.

* The BOF addressed problems with multiple owners or RPFs on a single NTMP. Theoretically, one owner could submit an NTO without the others owners knowing. A designated agent is required for WFMPs but not NTMPs. A limited amount of volume can be harvested per year from a given NTMP. If there is more than one landowner, one owner could harvest all the allowable volume for a particular year, preventing another owner from harvesting. This should be a civil matter. However, this is an example of the reason Cal Fire wants a designated agent for NTMPs. Sometimes there are 2 RPFs who don’t communicate and it has been a problem. Larry Camp asserted that someone who is both the owner and the RPF, may have to send a letter to themselves and there would be expenses involved with sending letters to multiple landowners. This is not a big issue for (FLC) but they feel it is one more hurdle to operations.
* The Cal Fire nursery program was approved with funding. Native plants are not necessarily required in the management plan. There is a lack of recent seed source. They want 200,000 seedling per year for fire rehabilitation. Nurseries were shut down except for cold seed storage. There is funding for dedicated nursery staff so that they won’t be diverted to firefighting. There were problems with ph of the water and high air temperature at LA Moran Nursery. Seed transfer guidelines may be developed to possibly use seed from different zones.

* Regarding stocking standards, the BOF Forest Practice Committee will develop problem statement. Revised standards may relate to silviculture. There is disagreement over whether to address silviculture and stocking. They may address stocking surveys also. Revised point count requirements should be an easy sell with increased survival. It will probably be somewhere between 150-200 trees per acre. There is concern that owners will cut to minimum stocking and sell property. RPFs should have flexibility on basal area. Larry felt that at least NTMP holders should have more flexibility. Larry thinks prescribed fire in unevenaged stand will damage the next generation.
* NTMP mapping requirements are being revised to match the WFMP. Mapping the sample mark is being considered. FLC is against this. If you don’t cut for 3-5 years after approval, the sample may not be relevant. There are 10-15 new mapping elements for NTMPs including unstable areas and headwall swales. There are approximately 750-800 NTMPs so these requirements would have to be for new plans only.
* The total number of NTMPs with violations is around 125. Most were administrative. Is Cal Fire trying to solve a problem that doesn’t exist?
* Forest Practice Committee:

A workshop on exemptions was held by the BOF. The focus is SB 901 implementation and trying to merge some exemptions and decide if some requirements should be consistent. Changes should be decided on in or near January.

* Northern Spotted Owl – The barred owl report was reviewed. No action was taken. The BOF does not have authority over much of the NSO regulations. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife have authority and BOF wants to make the rules line up with their policy. CalTREES should be a clearinghouse for the data. They don’t have all of the data in one place. It could take a year or more.
* The small landowner exemption is going into effect for 60 acres on the coast and 100 acres inland allowing harvesting of trees up to 32 inches in stump diameter and requiring leaving the 6 largest trees per acre and increasing quadratic mean diameter.
* The forest fire prevention exemption has been expanded by allowing harvesting up to 28 inch stump diameter on up to 300 acres and now allows temporary road construction. Lopping to 18 inches is required.
* CLFA sent a letter to the BOF supporting allowing feller bunchers in the WLPZ but the board did not have time to address it at the meeting.
* Russ Henley presented on the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee but not enough data has been compiled to draw any conclusions.
* The Public Utilities Commission presented their line clearance requirement documents. It would be better if utilities were held to an erosion control standard on access roads when repairing downed lines. Recently active harvest plans can be compromised. The landowner is accountable.
* Regulatory Representative:

Andrea Eggleton began employment with CLFA by attending the BOF 901 workshop. She produced an excellent report which was sent to the CLFA Board. One item they discussed was whether an RPF should be required to determine if large old trees are hazard trees and should be removed or if an arborist would be sufficient when the removal is part of an exemption. CLFA believes that arborist should be allowed to make these determinations in many cases because of their expertise and because there are not enough RPFs to do that work. Andrea represented CLFA on the issue of winter operations for exemptions. We feel that winter operations on an exemption should be allowed without a winter operating plan in some instances. There was no resolution on this. She also represented our position that exemption operations should be allowed in the WLPZ as there is a lot of threatened and over grown infrastructure in the WLPZ. Another workshop has been scheduled for later this month.

* CalTREES:

The CLFA letter requesting the date to require the use of CalTrees forms, be moved back was submitted but the BOF did not discuss the matter at the November meeting.

The workshop to present the CalTrees data base was attended by Jason Wells. The FTP site is being phased out and there was a problem with the public not being able to access plan documents. That problem was fixed. The new data base is not available to the public.

At least two plans have been submitted and accepted for filing on the new CalTrees forms.

* Synchronicity:

Russ Henley stated that synchronic permitting is progressing in the background. We think permits will still be separate but submitted together. Stay tuned.

* Governor’s Task Force:

CLFA is participating with the Task Force with Harlan Tranmer in the Regulations Working Group, Jason Wells in the Management and Restoration Working Group, and CLFA member and FLC board member Larry Camp in both groups.

A report on the effects of SB 901 implementation are planned to be presented in January 2020. Implementation of the mandates of SB 901 will likely continue under new Governor Gavin Newsome. Harlan suggested to the Task Force that CLFA may be able to add a 30 second forester video to let people know that there are harvest plan exemptions designed for fuel reduction to reduce wildfire hazard.

The Task Force wanted feedback on which parts of the rules or act need streamlining. We may point out underground regulations. Regulatory priorities from various organizations are requested by the BOF by November 21st. Governor Brown's biodiversity executive order has strengthened the underground regulation movement, particularly with regard to botanical protections which is included in the new THP form under item 32.

The Management and Regulations Working Groups is discussing how "forests" should be defined for the purposes of fuel management which is different than the definition of timberland. That group issued a membership inquiry to Jason asking what CLFA's focus is. Jason will draft a response and the board will informally discuss how to respond to that inquiry before the next meeting.

Legislation – Reported by Harlan

* Rich Gordon held a legislative meeting on October 23, 2018. Discussed steps to move biomass forward. Issues with the conception regarding biomass as a pollutant.

Licensing – Reported by Ricky Shurtz

* Limited Licensing
  + Issues regarding the emeritus license. Some members of the PFEC disagree with the idea that the emeritus license will provide a long-term budget fix. PFEC feels the emeritus license will divide RPF licenses into classes which they want to avoid. Looking like PFEC will move towards dividing commercial versus noncommercial activities if the emeritus license moves forward. Emeritus license would also lead to preservation of mentorship. Can still be an RPF and not be a plan signer.
  + The board discussed a second option of proposing a “senior discount” to our membership fees instead of the emeritus license. This would involve simply offering a discounted membership fee to those over a certain age. PFEC would potentially be onboard with this idea instead of offering a second license option.
  + Ricky Shurtz will draft a letter explaining the priority of CLFA is in retaining knowledge and mentorship in the profession. This may be achieved through different methods, offering an age discount is an option we would be agreeable with. The board has until the next PFEC meeting in January to give feedback.
* Testing Locations
  + Plenty of people are willing to volunteer time and locations to proctor test. This issue will be presented at the next PFEC meeting.

Water and Wildlife – Reported by Elicia

* The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) met on Oct 17 in Fresno. The agenda included consent items related to Cascades frog and Upper Klamath-Trinity River spring run Chinook salmon for the purpose of granting review period timeline extensions. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec 12-13 in Oceanside.

* Upper Klamath-Trinity River (UKTR) Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU)

The FGC initially received petition to list the UKTR spring run Chinook salmon ESU as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) on 7/23/2018. In its Oct 17 meeting, FGC staff recommended granting a 30-day extension to CDFW to evaluate the listing petition and submit written evaluation with a recommendation to the FGC; thus changing CDFW’s evaluation due date from Oct 31, 2018 to Nov 30, 2018.

* National Marine Fisheries Service is also conducting a status review to address the petition to list the UKTR spring run Chinook salmon ESU as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). It is anticipated that the 90-day finding will be published in the Federal Register in early Feb 2019.

* On Mar 1, 2017, FGC received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to list Cascades frog as a threatened or endangered species under CESA. On Oct 11, 2017 FGC determined listing may be warranted, initiating a 12-month review of the status of Cascades frog in California. Receipt of the status review was originally scheduled for the Dec 2018 FGC meeting; however in Aug 2018, DFW submitted a request that FGC grant a 6-month extension of time pursuant to Section 2074.6 of the Fish and Game Code. The extension allows time for further analysis and evaluation of the available science, completion of the status review, and peer review.
* In its Oct 17 meeting, FCG staff approved DFW’s request, thus changing the due date for DFW’s report to Apr 27, 2019 (18 months from the date candidacy findings were published) and is now scheduled for receipt at the Jun 12-13, 2019 FGC meeting. The FGC will consider the petition, DFW's evaluation, and other information submitted to determine if listing is warranted at its Aug 7-8, 2019 meeting.
* Foothill yellow-legged frog – no new information

CDFW report to FCG due 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.

* Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog– no new information

The USFWS has announced that the *Endangered Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Draft Recovery Plan* is available for public comment. The document can be viewed at <https://go.usa.gov/xUNec>.

* Western Pond Turtle – no new information

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.

Communications – Reported by

* Will be ready for rollout of the site in December. Need to communicate with David Booth for domain change and with Kathleen to add PayPal account.
* Need to set up forwarding for volcano email account.
* Have access to CLFA Facebook page.

Headhunters

* Short list of board members divided amongst committee for contact

Old Business

* Reminder to make any changes to the strategic plan by the January meeting.

New Business

* FLC to potentially have a spring workshop on 901 (April or May)
  + Half day talking about different exemptions then going out and looking those different exemptions on the ground. Requesting assistance from CLFA if interested. Would hopefully have the emergency small landowner exemption in play.
* FLC planning NTMP conference potentially in the fall looking at issues in different regions.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ariel Thomson