CALIFORNIA LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

GoToMeeting

Friday, October 25, 2019

Board members present: Christopher Dow, Harlan Tranmer, Gwyndolyn Ozard, Paul Violett, Robert Little, and Ariel Thomson

Board members absent: Jason Wells, Elicia Goldsworthy, Emil Mason, Joe Starr, Tony Gomez, and Ricky Shurtz

Others Attending: Kathleen Burr

Chris Dow called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

**Minutes**

* The minutes could not be approved as there was not a quorum.

**Membership**

* The two new members Mallory Pappas & Katherine Benedict’s membership approval will be moved to the November 7, 2019 Board meeting.

**Treasurers Report / Executive Director’s Report – Kathleen Burr and Paul Violett reported:**

* CLFA Accounts:
	+ Checking - $5,648.29
	+ Money Market - $179,271.49
* Managed Accounts:
	+ Archaeology - $26,686.83
	+ CLFA Scholarship - $29,635.03
	+ Roy Richards Scholarship - $11,068.63
* Paul Violett reviewed the proposed budget for 2019/2020 and estimated year-end financials for year ending November 30, 2019.
	+ Items contributing to year-end loss are:
		- Loss of memberships
		- Loss of fall archaeology 5-day class – CLFA’s 18% income on registration fees
		- Board of Forestry representative – increase in expenses to cover 2019
* The Board will discuss, at the November Board meeting, the importance of a membership drive. Kathleen noted that there has not been a membership drive in the last five years. We lose more members each year, than the ones added. The members on the non-renew membership list totaled over $15,000 – voting and associate.

**Executive Director – Kathleen Burr reported:**

* Kathleen reviewed the upcoming Prep Exam that will take place at Granzellas on November 13th. There are 17 students to date.
* Fall workshop – 44 registrations have been received. Kathleen let the Board know she will be sending out a conference reminder again on Monday.

The following committee reports were submitted in writing to the Board.

**Education**

**Fall Workshop:**

* Confirm all speakers and tour options are good to go.

**Spring Workshop –** the survey will be discussed at the November 7th Board meeting.

 Survey results:

* As of the 21st 112 people have participated and the results are as follows:
* The leading topics currently are **interpretation of recent guidance** (green) and **inventory design**.
* Comments and additional suggestions received are below:
	+ none
	+ Two of the listed topics above are only going to benefit consulting foresters, so you will not have a large audience. Additionally, log scaling is best taught on the log deck. It isn't very effective in a classroom setting. I think you need to consider a few other options; **Contracts** would be a big help, what needs to be in them, You could talk about log purchasing agreements, logger agreements, road use agreements, boundary line agreements, and all the other contracts that foresters oversee. A class **about property lines** would be interesting. How about classes on **road building**? An appraisal course would be great as well. This would however be a multiple day course..... At some point in time, we really need to have an Association meeting and discuss whether or not we care about things like our license and if we want to protect it by changing the Licensed Foresters Laws and put some teeth into the law, or AB 5, or prescribed fire and whether or not this should be written by an RPF.
	+ None
	+ I would love to go over all of these topics honestly.
	+ impacts of climate change on CA forests and management implications
	+ Stream classification is of utmost importance. Too many differing opinions from qualified experts (CDFW, Cal Fire, WQ). We also need to work on de-emphasizing "uneven-aged management" goals in order to fully address fire prevention goals (stocking standards need to be adjusted).
	+ None of those topics are appealing
	+ Fuel assessment and management
	+ I believe CALFIRE is working on a Stream Classification white paper in Cafferata’s shop. My impression (could be wrong) is that the standards for what is enforced for streams AND stream crossings vary across the state. CLFA and CALFIRE should compare notes and have a standard the lead agency follows.
	+ Exemption permits
	+ I would like a detailed **review of exemptions and emergencies**, when and how they can be used, what they require as far as paperwork, it seems like there is a lot of variables with these.
	+ **Interpretation of MAMU habitat** requiring pre-harvest surveys. How people are using **the revised stocking requirements**. Any **trends in violations or licensing actions** over the last few years.
	+ more choices?
	+ AP Silviculture
	+ Get CGS involved to discuss **watercourse crossing sizing; culverts and rock**. Also, get WQ and CDFW involved to discuss **SEPEs and monitoring and THP Map Points** versus road maintenance activities. Lastly, get CAL FIRE and CDFW involved to tell us what is a class III versus a disconnect swale and what constitutes a fish barrier for class II/I transitions.
	+ Bringing fire back to the ecosystem
* There are some really good suggestions here. Should we consider any of the suggestions put forward?

**Water & Wildlife – Gwendolyn Ozard reported:**

Water and Wildlife Committee Report Highlights since the October Newsletter.

The Fish and Game Commission met on October 9-10. They received the Department’s one-year status review of the foothill yellow legged frog.

Synopsis: **Recommend to NOT list the North Coast Clade** (Roughly everything North of San Francisco). They will be voting on the subject in **December**. Until then, protection measures are still business as usual. More details to follow.

**Board of Forestry – Andrea Eggleton report to the Board:**

October is a dark month for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The next meeting will be November 5-6, 2019 in Sacramento.

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

FULL BOARD MEETING

1. All of the following regulatory action items from the agenda were passed unanimously: NTMP Amendments, Stocking and Silvicultural Standards Amendments, Permanent Post-Fire Recovery Exemption, Registered Professional Forester and Certified Specialty Amendments 15-day Notice, Licensing Fee Amendments 45-day Notice
2. PFEC Nominations
	1. Frank Mulhair was appointed Vice-Chair of the PFEC
	2. James R. Christian Eggleton was appointed to a four-year term to the PFEC as a “Consultant” member
	3. The Board has requested new nominations for the open “Public” position and it remains unfilled at this time.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Potential Revision of Stocking Standards for the Southern Sub-district of the Coast and Marin County
	1. Proposed revision of point count to 300 for consistency with rest of Coast
	2. Consideration of revision of current requirement to plant conifers under hardwood over story (913.8 (b)(6))
	3. Proposed removal of requirement in 913.8(a) to retain 50% of trees between 12-18” DBH
2. Potential Revision of Basal Area Stocking Standards within 14 CCR 913
	1. No action was taken on this item, as more time is needed to identify potential issues – Committee will re-visit the item in November meeting
	2. CLFA is working with Calforests and a group of RPF stakeholders primarily engaged in unavenged management to identify the highest-priority issues and provide potential regulatory revisions. **Comments from the membership are welcome! Email admin@CLFA.org.**
3. Discussion of Limited Timber Operators License and Timber Operator Education
	1. CAL FIRE is interested in requiring all LTO license levels to attend the 2-day LTO class
	2. Consideration of additional limitations on B and C licenses – potentially only A licenses would be authorized to perform timberland conversions, road building, and crossing installation.

FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

1. CAL FIRE Annual Exemption Monitoring Report to the Legislature – the draft report will be available for public review by October or November
2. Development of Non-Regulatory Action Supporting the Use of Feller-Bunchers within a WLPZ under Specified BMPs
	1. 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/9014/fpc-2-draft-feller-buncher-white-paper-91819.pdf>
	2. **If anyone has comments, now is the time to submit them!**
3. Steep-Slope Harvesting
	1. 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.
	2. 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.
	3. The current rule plead is very rough but can be accessed here: <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/media/9031/fpc-3-draft-operations-rule-plead.docx>
4. Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction – 14 CCR 1052.4
	1. The Board engaged in Emergency Rulemaking to expeditiously pass amendments to 1052.4 earlier this summer. **The emergency rules for the Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction are currently in effect until February 11, 2020.** **This is a great opportunity – use it!!** The Board may extend these regulations for an additional 180 days. The rule text is available here: <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/media/8892/emergency-emergency-fuel-hazard-reduction-amendments-2019.pdf>
	2. During the September Meeting, the Board has begun to address issues that were tabled during the previous rulemaking effort in order to engage in regular rulemaking to make permanent revisions to this rule section.
	3. **CLFA asks for member feedback in identifying potential scenarios in which the timeline for treatment of slash and woody debris (one year from the start of operations) would be problematic, besides burning. Email admin@CLFA.org.**

RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

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

# **CLFA Board Member Action Items and Next Month’s Agenda Items:**

* Continue to work with Calforests on Stocking Standards revisions for basal area standards by October 31, 2019.
* Feller Bunchers in WLPZ White Paper – November 5 is probably the last opportunity for comments, so please provide them to me if you have them. I will review the white paper in detail as well and provide comment if necessary.
* Tractor and Cable Yarding rules – if anyone is particularly interested or concerned about the revision of these rule sections, please let me know.
* Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction
	+ Current emergency rules are valid until February 11, 2020 with a possible 180-day extension.
	+ Chairman Wade has requested that foresters (looking at you, CLFA) provide comment on as many real-life situations regarding timing of required fuel treatments as possible. Rich is interested in providing additional flexibility. Current rules are written that fuel treatments must be completed within 1 year from the start of operations. Rich is open to even an open-ended timeframe that is dictated by the forester.
	+ Member Jani is asking for tree spacing recommendations for small diameter stands to withstand fire as an alternative to canopy cover.

**Communications**

**Website:**

* Moving forward with the new site and getting it up to date/ready for release. Please look at the new site and send any update/errors/suggestions that you have!

**Video Scholarship:**

* Gwyndolyn Ozard presented the Video Scholarship to the Forestry Challenge Students at their first event.
* Chris Dow presented the Video Scholarship to the Forestry Challenge students on October 24th event.
* Gwyndolyn has been posting on Facebook and Instagram. Please send her pictures.

**Legislation – no report Legislature is on recess**

**Licensing – no report**

**Old business – Robert Little reported:**

* Robert requested that the Board search for an RPF to be involved with the archaeology program in developing the curriculum from the membership and that he not just be appointed. The Board will discuss this at the November 7th Board meeting.

Newsletter articles to Kathleen by October 28th.

Board adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Burr