CALIFORNIA LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Sonoma RCD

Saturday, September 21, 2019

Board members present: Harlan Tranmer, Ricky Shurtz, Jason Wells, Gwyn Ozard, Paul Violett, Elicia Goldsworthy, and Ariel Thomson

Attending via GoToMeeting: Joe Starr, Tony Gomez, and Robert Little

Others Attending: Kathleen Burr via GoToMeeting & Andrea Eggleton in person

Chris Dow called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

**Minutes**

* Harlan Tranmer moved with a second by Paul Violett to approve the August minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

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

* Net income year to date is $688. Some contributing factors to this:
  + Board of Forestry representative costs were higher than projected when the budget was initially approved.
  + No additional income from the October 5-day archaeology class that was postponed.
  + Voting membership income is down.
  + Fall workshop income and expenses will likely both be lower.
* CLFA Accounts:
  + Checking - $6,027.29
  + Money Market - $176,752.71
* Managed Accounts:
  + Archaeology - $26,686.22
  + CLFA Scholarship - $29,634.30
  + Roy Richards Scholarship - $11,068.37
* Paul and Kathleen will make a projected budget for the rest of the year to be presented next month.
* The Board needs to address the lower membership issues and communicate the Board’s work and successes. Kathleen noted that this is also done with the president’s message that is sent out with membership dues invoices the first of December.
* BoF representative’s expenses are addressed monthly. The 2019/2020 budget will reflect a higher dollar amount that will be based on anticipated issues this position will be addressing during the coming year.
* Jason Wells moved with a second by Gwyndolyn Ozard to approve the September financials as presented. Motion pass unanimously.

**Correspondence - Chris Dow reported:**

* New CALFIRE GIS data hub.
  + The Board discussed the data hub:
    - Lots of links not there yet, but shape files are.
    - Not intuitive to begin with, but once you get it very useful.
    - Site is a work in progress, but will be good tool in the future.
* Ted James – SCLC scholarship
  + Ted and Chris Dow discussed the different scholarships from both CLFA and SCLC and what if any cross participation may be possible. Ted expressed interest in broadcasting the new Hazel Jackson Video Scholarship to their network of students.
* Ryan Banwarth
  + Student from Canada contacted CLFA with questions about obtaining his RPF license with a Canadian education. Chris Dow and Dan Stapleton responded.
* Anna Starkey (UAIC) – This email will be covered in archaeology.

**Membership: New Members – Tony Gomez reported:**

* Tanner Mar **-** associate member recommended by Chris Dow. Paul Violett moved with a second by Harlan Tranmer to approve Tanner Mar as a new associate member. Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Archaeology**

* A meeting was held in Sacramento with the following people in attendance; Helge Eng, Stephanie Velasquez, Chris Browder, Matthew Reischman, and Mike McGuirt from Cal Fire, Kathleen Burr, Chris Dow, Robert Little, and George Gentry.
* The meeting was set up in response to CLFA’s letter to the BoF concerning cancellation of the October initial archaeology course due to Cal Fire’s under staffing issues. In response to this letter, Thom Porter stated to the BoF that the class would be rescheduled.
* Highlights of the meeting and subsequent CLFA Board discussion:
  + Cal Fire is in the process of hiring a replacement for Geritt Fenenga, but the job will need to be reposted. The majority of Gerrit’s class presentation was slides relating to his career knowledge.
  + Chris Browder stated in the meeting that the teaching cadre will need about a year to re-write the curriculum for this course in replacing Gerrit. Helge Eng said the Director made it clear that this class would be held within the next six months.The second class will be held in the fall of 2020.
  + Matthew Reischman did not understand the significance of this course and its importance to Cal Fire and their staff.
  + Cal Fire will be funding an overhaul of the majority of the curriculum for the 5-day course so that it can be passed to new employees as turnover within the teaching cadre occurs.
  + The meeting attendees discussed looking outside of Cal Fire for additional faculty, possibly through Sacramento, Sonoma, or Chico State to get help assembling the course curriculum.
  + Chris Dow presented Anna Starkey during the meeting with Cal Fire. She is the Cultural Regulatory Specialist with the Tribal Historic Preservation Department, United Auburn Indian Authority, as a potential resource. She is excited to become involved and has ample experience as a professional archaeologist. Anna would like to be involved in teaching as well.
  + The idea was brought up of including an RPF as part of the teaching cadre – an RPF who has extensive experience and can bring a more practical approach to the class.
  + Paul Violett discussed the importance of the applied focus of the program is not lost to academia.
  + Robert Little addressed the academia issue with Helge and Helge agreed that the intent is applied. The Board also discussed the requirement that an RPF become part of the teaching cadre.
  + Andrea Eggleton reiterated the importance of individuals coming away with the skills that they are required to do (site records, etc.) and what they need to learn to fulfill job requirements as an RPF.
  + Chris Dow informed the Board that Chris Browder had cancelled the January 2020 annual CLFA & Cal Fire Archaeology meeting.
  + Gwyndolyn Ozard felt the Board needs to identify an RPF to be involved with the teaching cadre and course curriculum ASAP. The RPF would be compensated and enter into a contract with Cal Fire.
  + Robert Little recommended soliciting the membership for this person.
    - Gwyndolyn Ozard moved with a second by Paul Violett to appoint Robert Little to this position for the first year. Motion passed unanimously.
  + This curriculum development funding will not come out of managed archaeology account, it will come from CALFIRE funding to update. This point needs to be made clear so that course monies are not used inappropriately.
  + This should be address in the MOU will Cal Fire.
  + The new MOU may also want to include that an RPF be a member of the cadre.

**Fall Conference**

* Currently there are 8 registrations for the fall workshop.
* Two options will be offered for the field day after the ½ day workshop:
  + SPI Biomass plant tour – Chris Dow will organize the tour, or
  + Major fuels reduction/roadside project of HWY 44 - 45 minute drive. Joe Starr will confirm the availability and update Kathleen.
  + Kathleen will revise the flyer and send out with the October newsletter.
* Kathleen will arrange rooms at the Gaia for two of the speakers Brandi and Melody – CLFA will cover their room costs.

**Spring Conference/Workshop**

* Ariel Thomson will create a short survey to send out to the membership requesting topics for the Spring Workshop on “Back to Basics”.
* NSO/CSO - If guidance document has been completed, this may be a good topic for the Annual Conference panel discussion on Saturday. Even if the document is not finished this could still be a valuable discussion.
* Another idea would be to have Brian White present to the membership at some point during the workshop/conference if he is available to address AB 5 or have Brian recommend an employment lawyer.
* Forest Health could be a potential future conference topic.

**Outreach**

* **FFA Program – Harlan Tranmer reported:**
  + The test for the national annual competition indicates that the questions are overly simple and that it is a group assignment. The Board discussed whether or not CLFA should be giving a certification to a group? Probably not.
  + After discussion, the Board felt there are too many obstacles to the certification process. This discussion has been ongoing for 2 years without resolution. The Board felt CLFA needs to drop our efforts on this project.
  + Harlan will follow-up with our concerns and that we cannot certify based on the information we currently have.
* **Harold Biswell Scholarship – Kathleen Burr reported:**
  + 3 applications received. Kathleen will send out to grade and award to one.
  + Graders will be Ricky, Jason, Chris, Harlan, and Tony.
* **Video Scholarship (Hazel Jackson) – Chris Dow & Tony Gomez reported:**
  + Diane Dealy-Neal has an example video to present to teachers and students who will be attending the Forest Challenge upcoming events. There should be a Board representative at each event to present what the scholarship is and a sign-up sheet.
  + Scholarship should be open to all students regardless of planned area of study and will not be limited to natural resource studies.
  + No limit on number of people in a group. Reward will be given to the group to be divided amongst members.
  + Awards –
    - * Best Overall Video - $2,000
      * Most Creative - $1,000
      * Most informative - $1,000
    - One group can win multiple awards, but that decision will be up to the review committee.
  + Video should be 1.5 to 2 minutes
  + Topic - Forestry for the Future
  + Give them Forest Stewardship series for reference and tell to contact local extension forester.
  + CLFA will need a disclosure that we will own the content of video created once submitted. CLFA reserves the right for ownership and distribution. A parental release form will also need to be required.
  + Submission due date will be January 17th, with the winner announced February 7th, and invited to attend the Spring Conference.
  + CLFA will provide food to students and parents, but not travel expenses or rooms. Shasta Forestry Challenge event is next week and Gwyndolyn will be in attendance to present this scholarship. Following Board members will be presenting:
  + El Dorado – Chris and Ricky
  + Santa Cruz – Harlan
  + San Bernardino – TBD
* Chris and Ariel will work on flyer to get to Gwyn for Wednesday.
* Paul Violett informed the Board that the Forest Foundation and CFA will have the David Bischel scholarship which will be available next year.

**Forest Practice – Andrea Eggleton reported:**

<https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/media/9003/9-final-september-2019-agenda_ada_revised.docx>

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:

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Potential Revision of Stocking Standards for the Southern Subdistrict 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 unevenaged 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.**

RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

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

**Stocking standards**

* YG has organized a group that will be looking at uneven aged stocking standards issues to develop a recommendation to the BoF for their November meeting. The group members are; Nadia Hamey, Ariel Thomson, Larry Camp, Matt Greene, Jim Able, Neil Fisher, John Mills, and John Anderson.

**Legislation – Jason Wells reported:**

* AB5 passed.
  + Letter sent requesting LTO and RPFs be recognized as exemptions, it was not heard. Sent before out of committee. Could have talked about then or on senate floor. No last minute additions were looked at basically.
  + Business to business included in the bill. That will require contracts being amended to comply with legislation.
  + One shop type organizations will have the most trouble. Independent truckers, etc.
  + Invite someone from Department of Labor to talk to the membership in March. Need to know what the enforcement and implementation will actually look like. Contractor liability as a topic – landowner/business employee relations.
* SB 182
  + Conservation easement language that watered-down language in SB 901. Threatened to change language that would promote forest management for lands under conservation easements.
  + It was carried over for next year. Will need to watch and comment on for next year.

**Licensing – Ricky Shurtz reported:**

* PFEC approved fee increase for Board to vote on with minor changes for approval. $350 every two years.
* There are two new PFEC members Christian Eggleton (consulting) and Mike Bacca (public).
* Appeal process change to make it more procedural. Currently it is subject to individual interpretation, and they want to make it more prescriptive.
* Have not been able to receive a response regarding contact information of new RPFs. We’ll work on getting contact information for them each individually with known associates.
* PFEC is discussing professional forester’s law. Trying to update letter stating what an RPF does.
* Coast exam location is set up.
* Does CLFA want to add another location for spring? Will work with Dan to see the number of applicants and location to make decision. Would like to formalize sites and have them listed on the application to determine need.

**Wildlife and Water – Gwyndolyn Ozard reported:**

Melissa Miller-Hensen has been appointed as the new executive director to the Fish and Game Commission.

* Agenda for October 9th/10th released. Look at the FYLF is on the agenda. They will receive the report, vote will likely not happen until December at the earliest.
* Mountain lion candidate
* Bumblebee is still being watched.
* Pacific Seabird Murelet Protocol being updated – Harlan Tranmer reported:
  + Habitat definitions being updated. One account of utilizing a single stand alone tree with no cover, occurred at Swanton. Harlan is going to check out. Needs to be addressed.
  + Protocol will have more stations required for surveys.
  + All data based off of is from Oregon, Washington, not Ca.
  + Safe harbor being looked at as an option if habitat can be created.
* CNPS Fire Recovery Guide – Robert Little & Elicia Goldsworthy reported:
  + What is the audience for the publication? What type of traction will this actually get?
  + We need to contact people regarding direct conflict of recommendations made in the document with role of RPFs and guidance that conflicts with CALFIRE recommendations.
  + Warrants a response, we need to let them know that they are non-license and should cease and desist.
  + Robert, Elicia, Andrea, Chris will develop a response. Need to start by communicating with CNPS and see how we can contribute to make the document better. Board of Forestry should also be aware of the conflict.
  + Formal response to CNPS from CLFA board using Roberts comments as a draft – Robert Little, Elicia Goldsworthy, Gwyndolyn Ozard, & Chris Dow will have a draft ready by October 11th for the Board to review.
  + Add any further comments to Robert Little’s documents. Be sure to include positive feedback and where we have common ground.
* **Communications** 
  + Meeting minutes – voted to not post them to general public.
  + New website has the option of password protected sites and other features.
  + New website is still up and can be updated for the re-launch.
  + Paul Violett moved with a second by Gwyndolyn to change the CLFA website to square space. Motion passed unanimously.
  + New site launched for December 1st.
  + Instagram and Facebook accounts have received considerable more interactions and followers.
  + Forestry Friday – send Gwyndolyn pictures of themselves and others who are CLFA members.
* **Forest Management Task Force - Regulations Working Group - Harlan**
  + Still meeting. Our position is that landowners would be better represented by the RPF community than a government position. People need to be pointed towards a professional that is working for their best interests when required or desired.

**Old Business - none**

**New Business**

* 10/12 next meeting
* Newsletter articles due to Kathleen by 9/28.
* Meeting Efficiency
  + Gwyn feels that calling into meetings could be expedited in recognition of people’s time being valuable. Board could do a better job by being brief and staying on topic. Potential board members are concerned about the time commitment.
    - Bi-monthly call could be better suited for a weeknight to make them easier for folks to attend.
  + Chris Dow wanted to try the Saturday schedule and if it is not really working, we can change back to a weeknight.
  + Next meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday 10/15 at 6pm.
  + Committee chairs need to email the president agenda items, talking points, and brief written report by 10/11 to expedite meetings.
* Women in Timber meeting/table:
  + Table costs $400, but we can’t attend due to workshop. We will make a donation of $250 because we cannot attend.
  + Paul motions for $250 donation to Women in Timber, Gwyn seconds – Approved.
* Forest Vegetation Management Conference
  + Does CLFA want to be a sponsor for $300? CLFAs name would be displayed.
  + The Board will allow FVMC to solicit to our membership for registrations and sponsorship instead.
* CLFA Due Dates
  + CLFA & Roy Richard Scholarship questions. Questions due to Kathleen by October 15, 2019.
    - Responsible Board member:  Elicia Goldsworthy.
  + Spring Conference
    - Topic & outline due by October 15, 2019.
    - Speakers all confirmed by November 15, 2019.
    - Completed brochure ready to email out due by January 1, 2020.
    - Responsible Board members: Ariel, Elicia, Gwyn, Chris, Robert
  + Sierra Cascade Logging Conference – February 6, 7, & 8th, 2020
    - Confirm booth spot for CLFA – Kathleen.
    - Organize booth – due by January 25, 2020.
    - **Responsible Board member: No One assigned**
  + Initial 5-day Archaeology class – March 23 – 27, 2020. Board member to attend first day of class to welcome.
    - **Responsible Board member: no one assigned**.

Kathleen Burr left the Board meeting as the Board was moving into closed session.

Harlan Tranmer made a motion and seconded by Ricky Shurtz to move into closed session. Motion passed unanimously.

Elicia Goldsworthy moved with a second by Harlan Tranmer to move back into open session. Motion passed unanimously.

Action taken in closed session:

* CLFA will transition from PayPal to Venmo for all credit card transactions.

Elicia Goldsworthy moved with a second by Jason Wells to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen Burr & Ariel Thomson