CALIFORNIA LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – 6:00 pm

GoToMeeting

Board Minutes

Jason Wells called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Members present: George Gentry, Jeremy Wright, Charll Stoneman, Joe Starr, Mark Pugsley, Ariel Roughton, Bob Broderick, Matt Bissell,

Board members absent: Ricky Shurtz & Matt Bissell

Others present: Kathleen Burr, Andrea Eggleton, & Brita Goldstein

George Gentry moved with a second by Charll Stoneman to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

* Profit & Loss – Net Income $68,145.47
* Balance Sheet – Total Assets $344,561.71
* Managed Accounts:
	+ Archaeology - $22,014.55
	+ CLFA Scholarship - $30,805.52
	+ Roy Richards - $10,407.04
	+ Hazel Jackson - $7,573.69
* Currently memberships are:
	+ Associate members – 80% of budget – 48 paid members
	+ Contributing members – 15% over budget - 23 paid members
	+ Sustaining 100% of budget – 10 members
	+ Voting is at 79.3% of budget – 240 paid members
		- Currently CLFA is at 79.3% of total membership paid to date from budgeted numbers.
* Charll Stoneman moved with a second by Joe Starr to approve the financials as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
* Kathleen reviewed a pending invoice from Kaufman Legal group. This was the firm that KP Public Affairs recommended to complete our quarterly Lobbying report to the State of California. They charged $400 per report. Previously KP Public Affairs CPA completed for no charge. Kathleen will pay the two quarters and she has been filing since then.
* Kathleen received emails for the 10 new RPF’s that recently passed their licensing exam. Each person on that list received an invitation letter to join CLFA for the one-year free membership. The only ones that responded were:
	+ Christopher Daunt – already a member
	+ Tristan Cole
	+ Evan Mahony-Moyer – already a student member
* YG suggested that Jeremy reach out to the ones that work for Green Diamond.
* Mark Pugsley will follow up with Joe Wright

Archaeology – Kathleen Burr reported:

* Len Nielson requested that the CalFire attorney review the pending MOU.
* Charll informed the Board that CalFire had previously had their attorney review the MOU in the past.
* October 5-day class is full and the waiting list has 10 people currently on the waiting list.

Correspondence –

* None received by Kathleen.
* Andrea Eggleton received an email from Zeke Lunder. He is “collaborating with Tehama County RCD to develop funding for a prescribed fire training program directed at foresters and other professional land managers. The potential funder is the CAL FIRE Workforce Development Grant Program. We are proposing to use fire on Crane Mills land in Tehama County, and hopefully with other partners elsewhere, to rehabilitate and/or site prep areas substantially damaged by the 2020 August Lightning Complex, and demonstrate the utility of fire in various forestry activities including pile burning, under burning large units which burned with low-severity in the 2020 fires, and using fire to site-prep salvage-logged areas. We are proposing a 3–4-year program which helps qualified participants complete coursework and training assignments toward certification under the new California State Fire Marshal 'CA-RX' California-Certified Burn Boss Program. We are asking the funders (CAL FIRE) to fund approximately 120 days of burning on private timberlands with a training module of 2 contract fire engines and a 20-person module of qualified firefighters/trainers. Also, we plan to offer classroom instruction in the prerequisite wildfire training courses for the CA-RX certification. To reduce liability of the landowners, we plan to be partner with the Forest Service to provide Federal burn bosses when we are burning on units adjacent to USFS lands. We are looking for letters of support (see attached template), and have received them from CalForests, Beaty, Collins Pine, and the Mendocino National Forest, so far. Would it be possible for you to take this to the CLFA Board to see if we could get a letter of support from them”?
	+ Jason wanted to make sure this would benefit our membership with the hopes that RPFs would be considered for this program.
	+ George Gentry’s organization has already provided a letter of support and feels this is a good program to support.
	+ Jason will work with Andrea to write a support letter.
* George Gentry reached out to Dennis Webb & Bill Kleiner from correspondence submitted with their membership.
* Matt Bissell – asked if there have been any updates to the “Certified Burn Boss” program. Ariel said she had heard that this program was progressing and people have been getting certified.

New Members:

* Tristan Cole
* Connor Evans
* Evan Mahony-Moyer
* George Gentry moved with a second by Charll Stoneman to approve the new members. Motion passed unanimously.

Education – Joe Starr reported:

* Kathleen is working on the conference brochure.
* Joe reviewed the program agenda with the Board.
* The Board discussed the issues with the ½ day workshop on Saturday and the annual membership meeting’s low attendance.
* Charll & Kathleen reviewed past recommendations and previous recommendations on how to fix this low attendance with different configurations of events.
* The Board discussed different scenarios and ideas for this conference.
* Thursday Board meeting will begin at 1:00 pm and go through dinner.
* Kathleen suggested having breakfast on Saturday and business meeting following.
* Charll suggested possibly having an early-bird session from 7:00 to 8:00 am.
* George suggested taking nominations for the Board positions during the Friday lunch.
* Kathleen recommended beginning the Thursday board meeting at 1:30 and change from lunch to dinner.

Forest Practice – Andrea Eggleton reported

Management Committee Business

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)
* The Committee discussed a [draft rule plead](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/ylyibey3/mgmt-2-b-draft-less-than-3acre-conversion-rule-text_ada.docx) that would change the Less Than Three Acre Conversion Exemption in a number of substantive ways including but not limited to:
	+ Amending the [“Crop of Trees” definition](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/5juhvmhz/mgmt-2-g-crop-of-trees-895-1-amendments-rule-text_ada.docx) to exclude “those trees within 30-feet of an approved and legally permitted structure” (or potentially an even larger buffer area). This was also addressed in a [Board Staff Report](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/ydhk3yiv/mgmt-2-c-september-2021-management-committee-staff-report-ada.pdf) after the September 2021 Meeting.
	+ Allowing the exemption to be used once per parcel instead of the current “contiguous land ownership”
	+ Extending the valid time period for the exemption to include 5 years (currently 1 year) for timber operations and 2 years (currently 1 year) for the conversion activities to be complete after timber operations. A potential extension of 2 years for both activities was also included in the rule plead for consideration.
* Agencies and stakeholders raised a number of wide-ranging concerns and questions over the potential revisions.
* The Board would like to receive written comments on the issue before the next meeting in order to address the concerns one last time in a revised rule plead.

Unevenaged Stocking Revisions Update

* Rule revisions the working group will be bringing forward for Board consideration in April Meeting.
	+ Consideration of snags and hardwoods in unevenaged stocking
	+ Group B species revisions
	+ Revision of the 8-18s standard
* Southern Subdistrict of the Coast-specific group
	+ Specific issues, as timberland in this district has been managed for the last few decades in unevenaged methods but now after the CZU complex, much of the subdistrict is now defacto evenaged.
* Sierra/Cascades-specific working group
	+ Considerations of Dixie and other fires in the region
* There some other groups (CLFA Annual Meeting, Multiage Planning group) working on potential proposals or additions as well.
* There is still much work to be done, needs to be an ongoing effort. Not something that will be wholly addressed this year, aside from the three items listed initially.

Forest Practice Committee Business

Class II-L Determination Amendments

* This item has been within the Committee’s business for a few months. As a reminder, the rules for determination of Class II-L sunset in 2022, so the Board must decide whether to revise or readopt the rules. The Effectiveness Monitoring Committee has suggested that the watershed size method be maintained and the channel width method be removed based on [recent rigorous research](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/q3nd51lz/fpc-3-b-emc-class-ii-l-studies-bof_ada.pdf). After the January meeting, the Committee directed the Staff to prepare the [rule amendments](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/f1gh1fln/fpc-2-a-draft-class-ii-l-determination-amendments-rule-text_ada.docx) for rulemaking, including preparation of the [Initial Statement of Reasons](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/1m1cn33h/fpc-2-b-class-ii-l-determination-isor_ada.pdf).
* This rule package will be brought to the Full Board for 45-day notice.

Northern Spotted Owl Update – Stacy Stanish

* Ideas for rule changes
	+ No changes
	+ Potential other likely items beyond this list
	+ 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, 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.

Other Comments

* CDFW, Elliot Chasen: work directly with NSO Working Group before moving forward with any rule revisions. Rich Wade concurs.
* SPI, Cedric Twight: Need to consider the agencies’ commitment to millions of acres that can’t be managed by smaller private landowners because they don’t have a take avoidance mechanism to be used. This is a concern for climate change, fires across landowner boundaries. State should work to provide a solution to small landowners in light of this, not to ask small private landowners to fix it. The SORP doesn’t meet the requirements. Conservation effort for NSO has moved way beyond what the species needs, agencies are stuck on their turf, and we need agency leadership to move forward, not make small landowners unravel the situation.
* Rich Wade: direction for moving forward
	+ Board Staff reach out to Stacy to frame more of her suggestions for discussion in committee
	+ Cedric’s comments really resonate because we need to provide avenues for small landowners to be able to manage their forests
* Mike Jani: Board might want to put together a group to talk about Stacy’s recommendations amongst many different stakeholders, including the NSO Working Group and small landowners

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.
* This [rule plead](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/q1slhsuu/fpc-5-draft-notice-of-intent-rule-text_ada.docx) would require all Silvicultural Methods within a plan to be listed on NOIs. This is a very modest and simple rule change.
* This rule package will be brought to the Full Board for 45-day notice.

[CAL FIRE Letter](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/2sbphxjr/fpc-3-board-rules-report-to-bof_ada.pdf) to the Board with Suggested Rule Modifications in response to the Board’s Annual Call for Regulatory Review and development of the Annual Committee Priority List

* Start by commenting on the Committee’s Third Priority items on their [2022 Priorities List](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/xhtejxee/fpc-6-2022-priorities_ada.pdf) to share which items they would support staying on the list and which are not pressing enough from Department’s perspective to stay on for 2022 in consideration of other more important items.
	+ Request for Domestic Water Supplies item – not pressing for CAL FIRE, would not support a move to shortening of the noticing process from 10 days to 5 days, as is listed on the work item.
		- OK to pull this from the priorities list to make room for more pressing items
	+ Review of Regulations pertaining to Archaeological Training, Identification and Protection of Sites (14 CCR 929 et seq)
		- Len Neilsen feels strongly that this is an item that needs to remain as a priority, 3rd priority is ok because CAL FIRE still working on it
	+ 14 CCR 1034 Contents of Plan – ok with this being pulled off of the list for this year
* Other Items on the 2022 List
	+ Site Preparation Addendum – CAL FIRE would like to retain that item and provide a more comprehensive report on it to the Board.
	+ Treatment of Slash to Reduce Fire Hazard
		- In one documented instance on the Dixie Fire this year, multiple Slash piles created by Timber Operations that had been awaiting chipping for multiple years adjacent to a public road were ignited and became part of the fire.
		- CAL FIRE would like to retain this as a priority to prevent this situation from occurring again.
		- Rich would like to move this item to Priority 1 for the year
* Other Comments on Priorities List
	+ SPI, Cedric Twight: Move WLPZ Rule Review up to priority 1 to start working towards thinning out our WLPZs; move Geospatial Completion Reporting Requirements for Exemptions and Emergencies down to priority 3 or off of the list.
	+ Richard Geinger: disagrees with Cedric about the Geospatial Reporting, much needed.
	+ Rich and Mike agree to move forward with only the changes that Eric Huff suggested (see above)

Full Board Meeting

Actions taken during the Executive Session (closed): None.

Regular Session

-Consent Calendar Items: approved (Rulemaking Matrix, Reappointment of the [Joe Desmond](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/jgklco5z/full-7-c-a-resume-jdesmond-redacted_ada.pdf) and [Tim Robards](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/dujn5wy3/full-7-c-b-cv-robards-redacted_ada.pdf) to the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation Advisory Committee, Appointments of Al Lawrence, Joanna Nelson, and Reno Franklin to the [Jackson Advisory Group](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/irejenw0/full-7-d-2022-jag_bof_confirmation-memo_ada.pdf), Reappointment of [Frank Mulhair](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/vhuffgcp/full-7-e-a-frank-mulhair-reappointment-to-the-pfec_ada.pdf), [Dan Sendek](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/bruhtpq0/full-7-e-b-sendek-reappointment_ada.pdf), and [Jim Hawkins](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/rpbiwoyu/full-7-e-c-hawkins-reappointment_ada.pdf) to the PFEC, [RPF Withdrawal Requests](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/epumevwq/full-7-f-rpf-crm-vital-statistics_ada.pdf)).

Monthly Board Reports

Report of the Chairman (Chair Gilless):

* Celebrated that in-person meetings will be back next month; not ready to move forward with Fire Safe Regulation rule package at this meeting; Susan Husari’s last meeting.

Acting [Director’s Report](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/vhpocw2u/full-9-march-2022-director-s-report-final_ada.pdf), Daniel Berlant and Matthew Reischman, Cal Fire:

* FRAP 2022 assessment is underway
* Uptick in bark beetle activity this year (ips bettle), especially in the Sierra
* $4 million of grants are available for business and workforce development in the nursery sector
* Forest Health Program opened their 7th grant application cycle that closes in March
* 47 Type 1 fire crews are presently available out of the 174 that are funded

Report of the USFS Regional Forester, Liz Berger, Deputy Regional Forester:

* 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy: increase 4x the amount of fuels and forest health treatments
* FY22 Regional Priority Emphasis: post fire recovery and disaster relief, fuels reduction and forest resiliency, visitor experiences and public access. Permanent priorities: safety, diversity, fire suppression.
* New NEPA Authority (1) Categorical Exclusion for Fuel Breaks: up to 1,000’ feet wide and 3,000’ acres; maintain and establish fire breaks adjacent to or along existing linear features. (2) Emergency Action Authority (available later in 2022) intended for immediate response to emergency situations.
* Post-Fire Emergency Funding: $595M allocated in Sept 2021 (hazards, facility repairs, restoration)
* 3-phased Post-Fire Recovery Vegetation Management Strategy: (1) hazard tree mitigation, (2) general forest restoration, and (3) maintenance.
* 2021 Fuels Reduction: 115,000 acres of mechanical and 47,000 acres of prescribed fire in region
* CCI Forest Health Grants awarded $74 Million dollars to USFS and partners in 2021; 83,000 treated with this funding
* Wildfire Suppression: increasing capacity and use of technology, continued aggressive initial attack, increased required rest periods from 2 to 3 days after 14-day fire assignments and increased pay.
* Reforestation: accomplished 10,189 acres last year; need more seeds, more seedlings, and more capacity. Reforestation needed on 1.6 million acres. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included REPLANT act which promotes effective reforestation treatments.
* USFS Region 5 timber volume (MMBF); they are predicting to sell 430 MMBF this year.

 

* Habitat specifies conservation planning; habitat (land, water bodies, and streams) improved
* Range Management: 317 active permits, fixing fencing
* Biomass Infrastructure: invested $4.2million from USFS for Wood Innovation and Community Wood Grants since 2018; work with industry on solutions for forest restoration and post-fire recovery of material, including rail transport.

[Executive Officer Report](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/yeia3t3w/full-11-a-executive-officer-legislative-report_ada.doc), Edith Hannigan:

* The BOF [Annual Report 2021](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/1ddptr4f/full-11-b-1-draft-2021-annual-report_20220302_ada.docx) was accepted.
* In person meetings in Sacramento in April; broadcasting and remote participation will still be allowed.
* Board staff is still working with CDFW on the Botanical Memo for Forest Practice Committee to review, hopefully at their April meeting.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator:

* Board is not prepared to discuss State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, 2021 today
* Eric Hedge presented on the readoption of [findings of emergency](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/swqebwgd/full-12-b-1-sc-sm-emergency-readopt-notice-of-proposed-emergency-action_ada.pdf) and [rule text](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/seef1i10/full-12-b-2-sc-sm-emergency-1st-readopt-rule-text_ada.docx) for the “Santa Cruz and San Mateo Weekend Emergency”, which was requested by these counties; it was readopted.
* Jane Van Susteren presented on the Emergency Notice Fuel Treatment & RPF Responsibilities [Rule Text](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/fionku44/full-12-c-1-emergency-notice-fuel-treatment-rpf-responsibilities-rule-text_ada.docx) ([FSOR](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/k3jfha5v/full-12-c-2-rpf-responsibility-fsor_ada.docx)); they were approved by the Board.

Report of the Standing Committees:

* Management and Forest Practice Committees – see detailed notes on Committee Meetings above
	+ Forest Practice Committee: The Rulemaking for Class II-L Determination was approved by the BOF.
* Resource Protection Committee, Sue Husari:
	+ Initial discussion on the [Defensible Space Zone 0](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/yamfolis/rpc-2-draft-zone-0-definition-and-working-interpretations_ada.docx) Regulations within 14 CCCR 1299.01
	+ Land Use Planning Program Update: Subdivision Review Program Update from Napa, Yolo, Solano, Colusa, Tehama and Ventura counties, and Ventura City.
	+ Safety Element Reviews for Cities of Lake Forest, Beverly Hills, and Shasta Lake

Report of the Professional Foresters Examining Committee, Dan Stapleton:

* Offered updates on licensing statics, including that 47% of the RPF registry has been working for over 30 years and are likely to retire soon and then discussed potential ways to engage future foresters.

Special Board Hearings/Reports: Public Hearing “Substantially Damaged Consistency Amendments, 2021”([Rule Text](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/knspw5fw/full-15-a-substantially-damaged-consistency-draft-rule-text_ada.docx), [ISOR](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/yoph0bvb/full-15-b-substantially-damaged-consistency-isor_ada.pdf)): No consequential public comments were made.

Outreach – Jeremy Wright reported:

* Jeremy reported he is suspending his study group until June. YG is still holding his.
* Mentorship program is asking for a donation of $2,000 again this year. The funds are used to pay for stipends for training, panel teachers, & travel reimbursements to students to meet with their mentors. Jason reviewed the mentorship program with the Board. George Gentry moved with a second by Matt Bissell to donate $2,000 to the Mentorship Program. Motion passed with one abstention from Charll Stoneman.

Ariel will reach out to Charll and bring him up to speed on this program.

Legislation – Joe Starr reported

* CLFA will be holding our annual legislative zoom meeting with Brian White. YG will host the zoom meeting. Everyone on the Board will receive an invitation to the meeting as well as CLFA’s legislation invite list. Meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2022 beginning at 3:00 pm.
* YG informed the board that at the deadline for bills to be submitted, a number of spot bills were introduced and we have no idea what will be involved with them at this point. Two bills we should be informed about are:
	+ AB1717 – Specifically says “fuel management projects are subject to prevailing wage”. This could reduce pace and scale by 2/3’s.
	+ SB396 – bill related to utilities and will directly affect the Public Resources Code. Basically, says utility companies have the right to enter your property and complete work they deem necessary. There is no mention of an RPF or timber operations. Originally this was a tool box bill several years ago.

Licensing – Jason Wells reported

* Jason & George attended the PFEC meeting where Robert Little presented his proposal for his Certified Forester program. George had originally proposed a program called Apprentice Professional Forester. The standards for this program would be setup by CLFA. Once you enrolled in this program you would go through a training that was set-up and executed by CLFA. Course material would be developed by CLFA with an abbreviated test given upon completion of the program. The same experience would be required currently to set for the RPF test. Robert’s proposal advocates that a person would be able to set for the RPF exam upon college graduation.
* The other issue discussed is the poor handwriting of those taking the RPF test and if there is an electronic application to use for the test.
* 47 applicants have registered for the upcoming RPF exam.

Water & Wildlife – Mark Pugsley reported

Communications – Nothing new to report

Scholarships – Charll Stoneman reported:

* CLFA received 7 applications for the CLFA & Roy Richards scholarships. Charll thanked Joe and George for scoring the applications. Three of the applicants were children of current RPFs.
	+ Roy Richards Scholarship was awarded to Erin Burk.
	+ CLFA Scholarship was awarded to Zachary Schall.
		- Both of these students will try to be at the May meeting.
		- Charll notified each application that submitted an application and he sent each of those applicants a $100 from his personal funds for their submission.
* Harold Biswell scholarship has been sent out and due back April 30th.

Nominations for Board members:

* The Board discussed nominations and the fact that a Board member can be appointed to a different region then the one they reside in.
* George Gentry nominated Britta Goldstein with a second by Bob Broderick for a position on the CLFA Board for the years 2022 – 2024. Motion passed unanimously.
* Joe Starr nominated Cory Munger with a second by Jeremy Wright for a position on the CLFA Board for the years 2022 – 2024. Motion passed unanimously.
* Board members coming off the Board will be Ariel and Ricky.

Next board meeting will be a GoToMeeting to be held on April 19, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Newsletter articles are due to Kathleen & Jason, March 29, 2022.

Charll moved with a second by George to end the meeting at 8:42 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Burr

Executive Director