**CALIFORNIA LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION**

**March 5, 2020 Board Meeting**

**Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA**

Chris Dow called the meeting to order at 11:15 am.

Members Present: Gwyndolyn Ozard, Harlan Tranmer, Robert Little, Jason Wells, Joe Starr, Ricky Shurtz, Tony Gomez, Ariel Thomson Roughton,  Elicia Goldsworthy, Paul Violett,

Conferenced in: Robert Little

Member absent: Emil Mason

Others present: Kathleen Burr, Mitch Hunt, Andrea Eggleton, Matt Greene, and Len Lindstrand

February Meeting minutes – Gwyndolyn Ozard moved with a second by Tony Gomez to approve the February minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasures report – Paul Violett

* Profit & Loss – Balance as of March 1, 2020 - $55,341.47
* Balance Sheet – Total liabilities & Equity - $314,078.1
* Managed Accounts:
  + Archaeology – Balance $35,219.86
  + CLFA Scholarship – Balance $29,778.78
  + Hazel Jackson – Balance $750.00 – opened in February
  + Roy Richards – Balance $11,069.75
* Paul Violett reviewed some budget vs. actual items that are over the initial Board approved budget.
  + Archaeology Speakers – over $6,500 for the March class – this is due to an outside presenter whose fee is $6,000 and two Native American speakers.
  + Contributing membership is almost doubled in income from previously years.
  + Supplies are increased due to order of envelopes/copy paper/and office supplies that have previously been used from Kathleen’s other job ordered in same budget year.
  + Postage – paid for two years is the same year.
* Tony Gomez moved with a second by Harlan Tranmer to approve the financials. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

* Thank you note from John Heissenbuttel regarding the Boards work with Cal Fire archaeology department.
* Matt Greene – CFIP – Matt is on the agenda to discuss CFIP and Attachments A & B.

New Members:

* Student members:
  + Lewis Campbell – UC Berkeley
  + Kane Russell – UC Berkeley
  + Will Bruce – College of the Redwoods
  + Hudson Northrop – UC Berkeley
  + Azalie Welsh – UC Berkeley

Tony Gomez moved with a second by Gwendolyn Ozard to approve the new student members. Motion passed unanimously.

Spring 2020 Conference

* Helge Eng to join during archaeology presentation.
* Saturday spotted owl experts chose not to be on the panel, there will be others present in the room encouraged to speak.

Archaeology Program Update:

* Kathleen let the Board know that Chris Browder mentioned, for 2021, they may only have one 5-day class that year. Browder feels holding two classes may be a burden on his staff.
* CLFA will need to meet post the October course to discuss number of courses for the next year and costs associated. CLFA feels two classes are necessary for foresters and CDF employees.
  + Potential for a CDF only course? Arch staff currently stretched thin.
* Suggestion of having an RPF participate in the discussion – letter has been sent and it is being considered. Likely to occur in the future when course material is more on track and concrete.
* Waiting for response from CDF. Dow and Burr will work towards scheduling meeting. Due to low staff levels in the arch program, CLFA will try to allow time to get things organized before asking for more.

Committee Reports:

Education

* Fall Brown Bag Ideas
* Back to basics, watercourse classifications, post fire rehab (Oregon state research).

Outreach

* Invite FLC to breakfast meetings. Larry Camp and Ariel Roughton will work to coordinate this.
* No video scholarship applications have been received. The Board feels there needs to be more outreach.
* Elicia will send info on the scholarship to Yana and Ricky to forward to FIT participants

Forest Practice – Andrea Eggleton reported:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Joint Committee Meeting – March 3, 2020

Joint Committee Meeting of Forest Practice and Management Committees

* Permanent rule text for 1052.4 Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction
  + CLFA provided some additional comment to clarify fuel treatment standards (reminded the Board that the 9” surface fuel height rule was only intended to apply to dead brush, not live brush)
  + Was brought to the Board for a vote on Wednesday and passed unanimously to go to 45 day public notice
* Ground-based steep slope logging
  + Three separate potential rule packages were presented to the Committees by the Board Staff

1. Addition of a separate tethered section
   1. CLFA voiced support for this approach based on past conversations at CLFA board meetings
2. An aggregated plead that eliminates separate rule sections for tractor/ground-based and cable yarding and integrates all restrictions together in a generalized “Operations” rule section
   1. this is the most likely proposal to move forward due to a lack of published scientific literature on environmental impacts of steep slope ground-based systems
   2. It requires the RPF to propose exceptions to the more standard tractor or cable rules – this is how they get around the lack of literature. Since the Board has to analyze the environmental impacts on their rulemaking as a certified regulatory program under CEQA, this essentially puts the analysis back on the Plan Submitter.
   3. I emailed Hunter Harrill at HSU and got him in touch with the Board Staff so that he might be able to provide some additional publications or resources for them
   4. Gary R of GDRC points out that the first and third options are not inclusive enough of a variety of ground-based steep slope yarding techniques and technologies that are in use currently, as these rule pleads only reference exceptions for tethered logging systems
3. A plead that modifies the current tractor and cable yarding rule sections to include exceptions for tethered yarding
   * The board will also pursue still making updates to the cable yarding rules in regards to clarifying restrictions of tractor use in cable areas and other outdated language
   * Board Member Wade also wants to clean up a few other oddities in the rules
     + 955.1(d) – allowance of terracing in the Southern District
     + 934.2(c) – a special exception for the Northern District that should be applied to all districts

* Commercial Species discussion – just got an update from board staff on the workshop that had occurred but did not really conduct any business beyond that because there were no management committee members there
  + The Board Staff did present a written Problem Statement.
  + This item will be revisited in April
* LTO amendments – clarifications to A, B, and C classifications
  + Clarifies the A, B, and C designations which were previously called such for the rule sections which authorize them but now actually names each classification
  + Limits B licensees from engaging in road and road crossing construction, reconstruction, abandonment, and deactivation, as well as conversion activities
  + C license does not include these limitations
  + Was brought to the Board for a vote on Wednesday and passed unanimously to go to 45 day public notice
  + CAL FIRE commented that they are happy with these changes for now but are still working on a more comprehensive proposal that they will continue to pursue in the future
* Most of state is only at 25-50% of annual precipitation than normal for this date in the water year

Snowpack is below normal and we have above normal fire potential developing in portions of the state

Executive Officer’s Report – Matt Dias

* Forest Practice Committee has now prioritized revisiting the NSO regulations
  + The Board Staff is working to identify the path to success in this effort
  + Attachments A and B have been revised, Matt attended the workshop in Eureka
  + Nothing else substantive was shared with the Board

Final Statement of Reasons for Southern Sub-district and Marin Co Stocking Amendments, 2020 – motion to adopt the FSOR and regulatory text passes

Report of the Standing Committees

* Joint Management and Forest Practice Committee
  + 2 Action Items
    - Recommendation to put 1052.4 rule text and ISOR out for 45 day notice (public comment period) – motion passes unanimously
    - Motion to put the LTO amendments rule text and ISOR out for 45 day notice – motion passes unanimously
  + 4 Agenda Items
    - Permanent rule text for 1052.4
    - Ground-based steep slope logging
    - Commercial Species discussion – just got an update from board staff on the workshop that had occurred but did not really conduct any business beyond that because there were no management committee members there
    - LTO amendments – clarifications to A, B, and C classifications
* Resource Protection Committee
  + Considerations of updates to Defensible Space Guidelines and Regulations, based on a bill that is currently being considered to update defensible space law (based on the 0-5 foot non-combustible zone around structures)
  + Fire Safety Survey – a compilation of information about groupings of houses 30 or more which may or may not technically be subdivisions and whether they have more than one point of ingress/egress

Public Forum

* Comment by Richard Gienger – not able to hear his comment with the audio issues

Eastside Spotted Owl Resource Plan (ESORP) – Stacy Stanish, Jon Ramaley, and others

* + BOF had a field tour in Nov 2018 in NE part of state to discuss spotted owl issues
  + Goal of presentation is to inform the Board of progress since that time
  + The ESORP is a data driven, site-specific information process which allows landowners to engage on a property-wide assessment, versus a project by project analysis that has to be done each time
  + See a lot of owls located along streams and rivers
  + Derived PAC data from Spotted Owl DB (CDFW)

CLFA board discussion on BOF report:

* Aggregated option would put responsibility to explain and justify back on the RPF which is was we were originally trying to avoid. May be difficult to achieve that due to some good points brought up including potential for new technologies and different types of tethered logging.
* Why not trigger ground vs cable based on the type of tether logging and what it most resembles? The rule packages already exist that have gone through CEQA so why not use them.
* Draft rule package will be sent to the board for review. Comments need to be to Andrea by 3/30.
* Commercial Species discussion – just got an update from board staff on the workshop that had occurred but did not really conduct any business beyond that because there were no management committee members there
  + The Board Staff did present a written Problem Statement, which can be found on their website.
  + This item will be revisited in April.
* Problem statement will be revised to include sequoia and black oak per – Larry Camp.
* Coastal Commission and Board of Forestry issue that needs to be resolved. Currently landowners are limited in access to programs due to commercial species definitions. CLFA board will continue to watch and see what direction the BOF takes on this issue.
* Larry Camp expressed desire to separate sequoia and black oak issue in the northern district from the coastal issue. Can’t use Option C currently if you use Group B species for stocking. It is a relatively simple fix in the northern district that could be addressed.
* LTO amendments – clarifications to A, B, and C classifications
  + Clarifies the A, B, and C designations which were previously called such for the rule sections which authorize them but now actually names each classification
  + Limits B licensees from engaging in road and road crossing construction, reconstruction, abandonment, and deactivation, as well as conversion activities
  + C license does not include these limitations
  + Was brought to the Board for a vote on Wednesday and passed unanimously to go to 45 day public notice
  + CAL FIRE commented that they are happy with these changes for now but are still working on a more comprehensive proposal that they will continue to pursue in the future.

Water & Wildlife – Gwyndolyn Ozard reported:

* North Coast Water Board is going to be revising their discharge waiver. Matt   
  Greene suggested that CLFA will need to pay close attention to this upcoming revision. Process should begin within the next month. This will have implications for salvage operations.
* Mountain lion will receive Department’s 90-day evaluation report for the petition to list mountain lion as a threatened or endangered species under CESA. This will only affect the coast in Harlan’s area.
* Shasta snow-wreath will receive Department’s 90-day evaluation report for the petition to list Shasta snow wreath as a threatened or endangered species under CESA.
* Larry Camp – Is there room for CLFA and others to request that mitigations measures for listed species be developed by the department. Guidelines that were presented in the past were opposed by this organization because they were presented as underground regulation. This is a slippery slope and asking for mitigations implies that mitigation measures are needed

Communications: Ariel Roughton presented:

* Website tutorial

Legislation:

* Legislation will be discussed at the legislation meeting that will be held after the Board meeting tonight.

Licensing – Ricky Shurtz presented:

* In light of the positive feedback during last fall's RPF exam, the CLFA has written a letter to begin discussion for a long term agreement with the PFEC to collaborate in facilitating RPF exam locations and proctors.
  + Feedback was positive but PFEC didn’t want a legal binding agreement.  Is asking for a list from the CLFA for proctors.
  + PFEC would like to hold exam locations in Eureka, Redding at CAL-TRANS building, Santa Rosa (Need location) and Rocklin
  + Oct. exam will be in Eureka and Rocklin, CLFA proctors are being asked to attend for training.
* The PFEC has reviewed and sent the April exam applicants to the Board of Forestry for approval.
* The PFEC is looking for a grader to replace Len Lindstrand and hire one alternative grader to help with high exam numbers.
* The PFEC is also currently entertaining and looking into alternative exam options that allow for faster exam grading.
  + Exam soft & Scantron-assessment solutions
  + PFEC is open for outside suggestions.
* The new RPF fees and certification rates should be approved by OAL and effective April 1, 2020.
  + PFEC believes with the fee increase there will be plenty of money to fund Eureka and Rocklin.
* The PFEC is continuing to review and revise the professional forester’s law and the Role of the RPF.
* Ricky will write a note to be sent to the membership asking for volunteers to shadow proctors in October. Kathleen will send to membership.
* Don’t want too many proctors/trainees to distract test takers.

Len Lindstrand ’s presentation on an exam graders perspective:

* Addressed time lag getting test graded. There are a lot of tests, two graders.
* Time lag on last exam brought to the PFEC’s attention and they need to explore alternative test taking options and recruit more graders.
* Currently difficult to secure graders that are RPFs who are willing to take on the time commitment with required experience.
* With more graders two separate graders would still look at each test, not each grader would look at each test.
* Still seeking an alternate grader, likely have Len’s replacement secured but the contract not in place.
* $250/ exam to be grader. Exam fee is $200. Currently losing money. Cost of computer system (should it go that way) is more than the exam fee.
* Handwriting, grammar, sentence structure, & organization all lead to difficulty grading and are very time consuming.
* Len’s Mentorship Suggestions:
  + No substitute for studying!
  + Rounded out experience, particularly operations.
  + Don’t just assign a task when training, explain the how and the why of what they are doing. How does it fit into the rules? What cruise method/design is being used and why.

CFIP – Matt Greene discussed:

* CFIP budget this year was $8 million.
* Receiving near THP level reviews on components of CFIP projects (fish and wildlife, arch, etc).
* Need to sit down with CDF and express concerns with the state regarding CFIP.
* Request RPF training with CDF on CFIP to address implementation and application issue.
  + Could this roll into post fire rehab brown bag idea?
  + American Forest Foundation, FLC, Farm Bureau all could be allies to bring funding portion of the problem to the leg.
* Mendocino County is proposing an oak ordinance where qualified professionals are arborists, biologists, no RPF listed. Just came out. CLFA needs to notify the Board of Forestry regarding this.
* CFIP – Matt feels that CLFA needs to sit down with Cal fire and express the concerns coming out of the CFIP program. CFIP is not being recommend by RPFs due to the length of time the process takes. Sometimes applications are having to be revised 2 & 3 times. It appears that the program is being ran not per policy. Most of the staff is new and sitting down with Cal Fire may benefit the process. The discussion needs to come from CLFA to the CFIP – Cal Fire. We want decision to be made that correlates to the CFIP policy. Chris Anthony now has taken this position. Consistent funding is a legislative issue.
* Discussion of the problematic problems with CFIP vs. the actual application.
* Develop – we need to clarify the issues. CFIP is an individual program and there is no standard answer to what is required!!!
* Stuart mcmorrow is willing to go to the board and ask for increases in funding in projects.
* Andrea Eggleton, Matt Greene & Larry Camp will develop a problem statement & and bring to CLFA. Get comments & concerns - coming up with a workshop with all groups – getting a problem statement first?
* CFIP is important – individual landowners don’t have a shot for funding.

New Business

* Ridiculous questions are being asked during plan reviews and there seems to be no oversight of the questions being asked. While these questions can be addressed, it still takes time of the RPF and isn’t accessible.
  + Based on questions and answer tomorrow CLFA board will decide to write a letter or not to the BOF.

Gwyndolyn Ozard moved with a second by Tony Gomez to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen Burr

Ariel Roughton