CALIFORNIA LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

Granzellas Inn, Williams, CA

May 18, 2019

CLFA President Harlan Tranmer called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

Directors present: Chris Dow, Paul Violett, Tony Gomez, Jason Wells, Elicia Goldsworthy, Kieran O’Leary, and Sara Taddo Jones

Directors absent: Emil Mason, Ariel Thomson, Ron Hutchinson, Alex Stone, and Ricky Shurtz

Others present: Kathleen Burr, Andrea Eggleton, Joe Starr, Rob Little, Gwyndolyn Ozard, Dan Stapleton

New and old Board members introduced themselves and gave a brief bio.

Minutes

* March minutes – Tony Gomez moved with a second by Jason Wells to approve the March minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.
* April minutes – Paul Violett moved with a second by Tony Gomez to approve the April minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report – Jason Wells reported:

* Profit & Loss:
  + CLFA Accounts:
    - CLFA Checking account - $2,310.70
    - CLFA Money Market - $214,165.69
* Managed Accounts:
  + ARC - $26,683.74
  + CLFA Scholarship - $30,338.49
  + Roy Richards Scholarship - $11,067.23
* Budget is on target.
* The audit committee met on May 17 to complete the annual CLFA audit of the financial records. Present for the audit was Tony Gomez, Kieran O’Leary, Harlan Tranmer, and Jason Wells.
* Items noted in the audit:
  + A check was issued in November for $25.00 as a refund for the November brown bag that had been voided and then cashed five month later.
  + There was a transposition of numbers that resulted in Kathleen being reimbursed for $9.00 extra.
  + Other than these two items, all checks and deposits were in order.
  + The audit committee recommends approving the audit.
  + The audit committee recommends obtaining a CLFA credit card with a limit of $10,000. Kieran O’Leary moved with a second by Sara Taddo Jones to apply for a Wells Fargo Credit Card. Paul Violett asked if a $5,000 limit was more appropriate.
  + Paul Violett moved with a second by Chris Dow to begin charging a credit card convenience fee to cover the loss of income when credit cards are used. Motion passed unanimously.
* Tony Gomez moved with a second by Chris Dow to approve the audit and financials. Motion passed unanimously. Jason Wells abstained.

Membership - Tony Gomez reviewed the new member applications.

* Ryan Tompkins – Associate
* Michael Jones – Affiliate
* Brad Ellis – Student
  + Paul Violett moved with a second by Chris Dow to approve the new members. Motion passed unanimously.
* Chris reviewed the non-paid member list and Board members were assigned to contact specific members and report back to Kathleen.

Archaeology Classes - Tony Gomez and Kathleen Burr reported:

* Gerrit Fenenga is no longer with CALFIRE. Currently there is no replacement for his position. A hiring process will take place hopefully sometime this year.
* The June 13th filed trip will still be held on the coast for the CAL Fire archaeologists. Tony Gomez is handling this.
* Chris Dow reviewed, for the new Board members, CLFA relationship with CAL Fire regarding to the MOU and classes held each year.
* Kathleen reported that Chris Browder and she will be working on the MOU over the summer to be presented to the Board later in the year.
* Due to the change in personnel, the October 5-day initial class may need to be postponed. Chris Browder will let Kathleen know once the decision has been made either way.
* The November refreshers will remain on the calendar.
* The Board discussed potential instructors and Rick Jackey, State Park Archaeologist and Karen Grantham’s names came up.

Forest Practice – Andrea Eggleton reported:

1. Discussion on the Potential Revision of Stocking Standards within 14 CCR 913 et. seq.

Stocking Standards

* Minor changes to stocking standards plead- directed staff to draft ISOR
* Do math on the new points per tree sizes and survey methods – Chris Chase wants to make sure everyone is comfortable with it
* Goal is to ensure the site is occupied
* Commercial thin – goes down to 60 TPA for pine stands <14”
  + Need to do math to see at what average size trees a stand with 60 trees will reach 100 sq. ft.
* Scheduling a workshop on the post-harvest survey standards – CLFA to participate to make sure the surveys work
* Provide Rachel with some water yield assistance
* Provide guidance on changes to point count within Southern Sub-district of the Coast
  + Don’t want to set a precedence that regions should be left out because they are politically contentious
  + Letter will come from the Southern Subdistrict

2. Discussion of status of “Exemption Emergency Regulations, 2019” 14 CCR 1038 et. seq.

* Three options were presented, and the committee chose to move forward with language which allows for any wildfire-damaged tree to be cut within 300 feet of a structure (structure does not have to be damaged). It also has an expanded geographic scope to include use within gubernatorial proclamation of a state of emergency or executive order OR if none exists, a certification by the RPF that the trees are dead or dying as a result of wildfire.
* CLFA provided support for this option

3. Discussion of potential revisions to 14 CCR § 1401.1(d) within “State Forest Regulations, 2018”.

4. Discussion of potential revision to Categorical Exemptions within 14 CCR § 1153.

**Forest Practice Committee**

* **No action items brought forward**

Botanical Surveys – Presentation by CDFW

* A very vague statement was presented by CDFW - “Updates [to the botanical scoping, survey, and protections] are needed to increase efficiency”
* State listed plants can be in Safe Harbor, CDFW does not have consensus on federal species
* Follow up: workshops with stakeholders to potentially develop “more consistent and robust language” ; Elicia Goldsworthy volunteered to be involved in the effort
* Gary Rynearson would like some additional clarity around how the CNPS listing program works, how plants are added or removed, etc.
* CDFW is saying they are always willing to address by a case by case basis
* Board Member Katie Delbar is concerned about costs and how much CDFW wants to see of the area on the property outside of the THP, especially for small landowners
  + ACF needs to be in working group
  + CDFW – “most efficiency for least cost”
* F&G code 1913 – shared from YG, keep in back pocket
* “CDFW is very interested in people being able to manage their lands. We understand this is very expensive.”
* Next steps: small working group with E. Goldsworthy participation; Member Delbar notes that this is not on the Committee’s priority list so they will not be addressing it immediately

Emergency for Fuel Hazard Reduction

* + Continued discussion about QMD standard – questionable utility/appropriateness; Eliminating requirement altogether
  + Relying on several stand structural requirements instead
    - Canopy cover
    - Basal area
    - Maximum tree size to be cut
  + No diameter limit (except for the large old tree) - CLFA want to be proponent for loose upper diameter limit?
  + Rich wants Board Staff to research how to get down to 50 square feet on Site I
  + Staff recommendation is to have this be Emergency Rulemaking; Chairman Gilless agrees
  + Husari has “a lot of comments”
  + Issues to discuss for the Board are:
    - No QMD
    - No hard diameter limit
    - 50 square feet for Site I
  + Schedule another workshop in which Husari and Gilless can attend and can be open and transparent; scheduled for May 23

Operations in the WLPZ

* Report is in draft form

Update on Reporting to Legislature on Exemptions and Emergency Notices

**Resource Protection**

* Utility ROW
  + Good turn out from “all” utilities
  + Will continue to work towards consistency with CPUC and making regulations updated to current utility equipment/technology

**FULL BOARD MEETING**

* Camp Fire tour – many parties were really impressed with SPI’s fuel breaks.

Helge Eng reported:

* Cal Fire is working on an NSO Safe Harbor Agreement with USFWS for small landowners and making good progress
* Have found more barred owls than NSO at JDSF
* CFIP – page 4 of report
  + Gilless asked Helge about the status of the problems with the CFIP program (landowners are waiting 3-4 months to get reimbursed with the new financial system)
  + “They’re working on it”

Licensing – Dan Stapleton addressed the Board:

* Renewal fee increase will definitely take place due to a declining roster and aging RPF demographic. Renewal fees have not increased in 28 years.
* Dan estimates that 48% of RPFs will be retiring in the next decade and about 23% will just let their licenses go.
* Next PFEC meeting will be June 27th from 1 to 5 pm with the open session starting about 2 to 2:30 pm.
* There will also be an increase in penalty payments.
* PFEC discussion of RPF license fees to $350 bi-annually – estimate loss of 20% of potential retiring
* They will be looking at the emeritus status. Dan said not many of the members of the PFEC were in favor of an emeritus status.
* CLFA felt they could retain their license as long as they were not signing plans.
* Chris Dow felt the emeritus would become much more viable within the next 10 years.
* One suggestion was to have a senior discount - $100 off their licensing renewal fee for those RPFs who have held a licenses for 30+ years.
  + Kieran O’Leary made a motion to write a letter to the PFEC recommending a reduced fee of $100 per renewal for RPFs who have held their licenses for over 30 years. Jason Wells seconded – motion passed unanimously.
* Elicia called for a discussion regarding the 30-year.
* Exam proctors – Elicia would like to see exams held in different parts of the state. The Board discussed potential locations and what being an exam proctor would entail.
  + A proctor does not need to be an RPF
  + They need to be able to sign-in those sitting for their license and assign their exam number.
  + Read off the necessary requirements for the test.
  + Only one person taking the test can be excused at a time.
  + Dan would like to see the test offered at multiple locations.
  + Yana has offered her building as a location, which complies with all the necessary handicap and other facility requirements.
  + May be able to hold the test on Saturdays
  + CLFA members & Board members would like to help.
* Professional standards Code was also discussed with Dan Stapleton:
  + 1611.5 – most directed to CRM – one CRM issue – began in 2012 – update details as a registrant we are limited to the violations listed in 1612. Outlines all the regulations & laws that apply by law that are outside the BOF regulations – there are laws that apply outside of the licensing regulations. It is currently law, and this section just re-states what these laws are.
* The PFEC wants to maintain a level of $50,000 for legal costs.
* Eric Carlson has been pushing for the 757 – landowners to do forestry on their own lands. Forest practice act prevents owners from signing their own THP.
* Bill SB 462 – encouraging course work at community colleges to learn forest fire restoration. This course work would prepare them to work for CAL Fire and their burn teams. There is currently no requirement for RFP oversight. CLFA wrote a letter.
* Reviewing for the next exam and results from April should be available at the July meeting.
* Dan is available for outreach opportunities.
* PFEC may receive money from the state PIA. They have until March 2020 to reach a decision.
* Any RPF license rate increase would be effective in 2020.
* Elicia asked how long it would take to obtain a new location – location should be secured by mid-August.
  + Elicia Goldsworthy will work on securing a new location.
* Dan will be sending out a licensing newsletter in July 2019.

Legislation – Harlan Tranmer reported:

* SB 69 – Has removed a good number of the portions CLFA was in disagreement with. The water board oversight has been removed. This would have given water boards the authority to deny a THP. Section 25 remained. What is left are the rules that came out of the scientific research. Harlan testified at the committee hearing.
* Floor votes have not happened and bills remain in their house of origination.

Governor’s task force – The regulations and management working group meetings were canceled for May and were rescheduled for June.

2019/2020 Board nominations:

* President – Chris Dow - Jason Wells moved with a second by Tony Gomez to nominate Chris Dow. Motion passed unanimously.
* Vice President – Jason Wells – Chris Dow moved with a second by Tony Gomez to nominate Jason Wells. Motion passed unanimously.
* Secretary – Ariel Thomson – Chris Dow moved with a second by Jason Wells to nominate Ariel Thomson. Motion passed unanimously.
* Treasurer – Paul Violett – Chris Dow moved with a second by Elicia Goldsworthy to nominate Paul Violett. Motion passed unanimously.

The new Board thanked the outgoing Board member who was in attendance.

* Kieran O’Leary – left the board meeting.

New Board members were voted in.

* Joe Starr
* Rob Little
* Gwyndolyn Ozard

Committee Assignments – Chris Dow:

* Chris Dow reviewed the committees and Board members volunteered as follows:
* Forest Practice – Ariel Thomson-Chair, Rob Little, Andrea Eggleton, Harlan Tranmer
* Legislation – Jason Wells-Chair, Harlan Tranmer, Paul Violett, Joe Starr, Kieran O’Leary-Member
* Water & Wildlife – Gwyndolyn Ozard-Chair, Elicia Goldsworthy
* Education – Elicia Goldsworthy-Chair, Ariel Thomson, Sara Taddo Jones, Gwyndolyn Ozard, Rob Little
* Outreach – Tony Gomez-Chair, Jason Wells, Rob Little, Joe Starr, Emil Mason
* Audit – Tony Gomez-Chair, Joe Starr, Harlan Tranmer
* Licensing – Ricky Shurtz-Chair, Elicia Goldsworthy, Tony Gomez
* Communication – Gwyndolyn Ozard-Chair, Jason Wells, Ricky Shurtz

Chris Dow reviewed the 2019/2020 Board meeting schedule. GoToMeetings will now take place on Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Next Board meeting will be June 22nd – GoToMeeting.

Newsletter articles are due to Kathleen by May 27th.

Closed Session

Harlan Tranmer moved with a second by Paul Violett to move into closed session at 2:07 pm.

Harlan Tranmer moved with a second by Tony Gomez to move back into open session at 2:18 pm.

Action taken during closed session:

* Paul Violett moved with a second by Tony Gomez to increase Andrea Eggleton’s hourly fee to $90.00 per hour and work completed by a technician will be paid at $70.00 per hour. Motion passed unanimously.

Tony Gomez moved with a second by Jason Wells to end the meeting at 2:25 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Burr