**California Licensed Foresters Association**

Minutes October 16, 2018

GoToMeeting

CLFA President Harlan Tranmer called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Directors present: Jason Wells, Ariel Thomson, Kieran O’Leary, Paul Violet, Emil Mason, Elicia Goldsworthy, Ricky Shurtz, Tony Gomez, and Sara Taddo Jones

Directors absent: Chris Dow, Alex Stone, and Ron Hutchinson

Others present: Kathleen Burr

The September Board minutes where not complete and will be sent out via an email vote.

**Correspondence -** Harlan Tranmer reported:

**CAL TREES**

The CLFA Board (Board) received a letter by Lance Purdy, from the Sonora/Jackson breakfast group leader, John Heissenbuttel, that reflected their feelings relating to the new CALTREES System for electronically filing THPs.  They feel the new system is flawed, no beta testing has been completed, and the timeline set by Cal Fire is not feasible. The breakfast group believes this is exactly the type of issue CLFA should be working on to correct.  Harlan responded via email to John Heissenbuttel stating that “plan writers, those who depend on them, and some Cal Fire folks are in agreement with your letter”. Everyone Harlan has dealt with will be submitting on the old form for now. The situation is in flux so we cannot report on anything for sure. No official word from Cal Fire”. Most people are submitting on the old form and not the new one.

CLFA will submit a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Forestry (BOF) regarding this issue to ensure that it is a formal part of the BOF binder for the November 7th meeting. This letter will be sent to the CLFA membership.

**Treasurer’s Report -** Kathleen Burr reported:

Financials were presented as of October 15, 2018:

* Balance Sheet - $258,094.73
* Profit & Loss - $44,905.95
* Budget vs. Actual:
  + Income at 98.2% of budget
    - This amount includes some monies for the February 2019 5-day archaeology class
  + Expenses at 55.69% of budget
    - This amount does not cover all costs for the October 2018 5-day archaeology class
* Expenses increased for the amount of color printing that is now required for the 5-day class - $4,985.00.
* Budget for the 2018/2019 budget year will be presented at the November 8th Board meeting.
* Transfers from money market into checking to cover expenses were $10,000 & $30,000 – to cover the remaining archaeology classes and year-end expenses.

**Membership –** Harlan Tranmer reported:

Sara Taddo Jones moved with a second by Emil Mason to approve the new members listed below, motion passed unanimously.

* Daniel Namyst – student
* Dana Dysthe – student
* Ryan Foote – associate
* Brady Dubois - associate

**Education** - Sara Taddo Jones reported:

Sara thanked Elicia, Ariel, and Harlan for all of their hard work on these two field days.

Harlan let the Board know that members of the BOF will be attending both workshops. CLFA sent our previous poll report on stocking standards to Dan Stapleton. Eric Hedge, BOF Regulatory Coordinator, reached out to Harlan asking if CLFA had a position on this subject. Elicia noted this was one of the reasons for the field days, is to obtain member feedback.

* Fall Field Days:
  + Both November 2nd (Coast) and November 9th (Sierra) field days were discussed and final details reviewed. Elicia Goldsworthy informed the Board that Green Diamond would be providing a continental breakfast for the November 2nd field day at no cost to CLFA. Elicia will send the Board the field day packet that she will be handing out to participants.
  + Ariel let the Board know that Blodgett has sleeping accommodations for those that will be attending the Board meeting and then attending the field day the following day.
  + Reminder emails will be sent weekly to the CLFA membership.
* RPF Prep Exam:
  + Class is scheduled for November 26th at Granzella’s in Williams.
  + To date there are only four registrations, but the class is still five weeks away.
  + This class is never closed for registrations.
  + CLFA’s cost is the binders, room rental, and lunch.
* Between now and March – CLFA is hosting eight trainings/events.
* The Women in Timber table has been paid for and Board members need to RSVP to Elicia.
* Initial archaeology classes:
  + The October class will begin on the 22nd and everything is finalized.
  + The February 25, 2019 class is full with a waiting list of seven.
  + The Board discussed, due to the current popularity of this class, is there a way to qualify participants based on his/her work necessity.
  + This program offers two scholarships to tribe members annually.
  + This class is limited to 40 participants.
    - The Board discussed increasing the number of attendees and Kathleen informed the Board that class numbers are kept at 40 due to field days and classroom work.
    - Registrations are based on first come basis.
* Spring 2019 Conference & workshop:
  + The Gaia has offered their bungalows at the same room rate.
  + Kathleen let the Board know the conference flyer needs to be completed by December 15th.
  + Topics discussed were:
    - Permit synchronicity; SB 901 implementation; CAL TREES presentation and demonstration; Yana Valachovic offered to present on oak woodland special prescription and maintenance; use of exemptions for fuels treatment; and a field trip to cogeneration plant.
    - This will be finalized at the November Board meeting.

**Forest Practice -** Harlan Tranmer reported:

Board of Forestry met right after CLFA’s last Board meeting so the update that appeared in the October newsletter covered the majority of information.

* The field day taken during this meeting resulted in excellent feedback. They were looking for environmental issues, but found none. They reviewed dead/dying, diseased tree and drought mortality exemptions.
* The emergency exemption has been extended for the Mendocino/Napa/Sonoma Counties and will probably be extended to Redding and other northern areas.
* CLFA will provide comment on the 1038 exemptions as the process develops.
* SB 901
  + More details next month. Addressing 4584.1 (the most pertinent part of SB 901 to Forestry Regulation) – Provisions in the bill for providing consistency between exemptions are expected to address 10-12 pieces that the Forest Practice Committee and the Board will have to take up and apply to each exemption. It was noted that it may be fairly difficult to address these changes with regulatory text, emergency regulations are likely the first step in the process. No emergency clause would be allowed, so nothing can be done until January 1, 2019, which would provide some time to develop plans on how to address these changes.
  + These emergency rules will not have an expiration date – they will be permanent, but can be amended.
  + Paul Violet will try and attend the next meeting regarding SB901 discussion.
* NSO is moving slowly.
* Feller-bunchers within WLPZ’s
  + Discussing whether to use the BMP process to allow as an in lieu practice that is more accepted by agencies overseeing Plan approval, or adopt regulation that would allow for the use of feller bunchers within WLPZ’s as a regulatory rule. CLFA will be providing comment on this, specifically advocating for regulatory rule changes that would be similar to those for equipment use based on slope, and erosion hazard rating, as well as silviculture type.
  + Chris tried to send email comments during the Board online – but it did not appear his comments were received. CLFA will submit a formal comment letter prior to the next BOF meeting. Kieran will assist Chris in writing this letter.

**CLFA Regulatory Representative**

This new position will begin in January 2019.

**Permit Synchronicity -** Harlan Tranmer & Kieran O’Leary reported:

* No follow-up meetings have been scheduled as of this Board meeting.
* One observation is that all non-operational wording has been moved out of section two to section five.
* Each department still wants their own permits, this could work, if time frames were feasible.
* This could be a topic for the spring conference.

**Governor’s Task Force –** Harlan Tranmer reported:

* Harlan is following the Regulations Working Group – they are working on a matrix of the regulations for the pubic for guidance on landowners situations, what exemptions would apply, and whether or not an RPF would need to be involved. The initial document looks good at this point in the process. One issue Harlan sees is the current matrix alludes to a permit requirement for any fuels reduction and this is not correct – this issue is being revised.
* Jason Wells is following Forest Management and Restoration Working Group – This group’s task is very large, and they are working on narrowing down what their scope of interest and focus should be; while addressing the carbon sequestration from the major fires. Stuart McMorrow is the chair of this group, was a previous CLFA Board member, and is chair of the CFIP program.

**Legislation –** Jason Wells reported:

No new updates since the October newsletter.

CLFA was invited to the CFA legislative luncheon. Harlan, Kieran, and Brian White of KP Public Affairs will be attending.

**Outreach:**

* Harold Biswell Scholarships – Kathleen reported that disbursements have been sent to both recipients.
* Roy Richards Scholarship – Chris Dow would like the Board to come up with questions for the scholarships. Kathleen said the scholarship notification should be sent out before students go on their winter break. Elicia offered to work on two questions.
* 60 Second Forester – Kieran & Ron have been working on obtaining a grant from the SPI Foundation to sponsor KCRA 30 Second Forester commercials. Kieran and Ron will work on a budget for the commercials and then will submit to the Foundation. Ron is waiting to hear back on the SFA grant already applied for.
* FFA Program – Emil has taken this program over. Emil contacted Matt Madden who is the Executive Director of the California Teachers Ag Program. Emil will send out an email he received regarding the program. Matt is requesting the Board review the curriculum and make recommendations to the content of the program for these competitions. The Board is looking at what this certification would mean.

**Licensing -** Ricky Shurtz reported:

* Per last PFEC board meeting, Eric Hedge is looking into potential regulatory issues with signing documents and the limited RPF label.  If I understand it correctly, Cal Fire is worried about the title "Emeritus Limited RPF" as they are concerned about how much legislation needs to change to address this.  Currently all legislation and permit documents refers to the RPF.  So will the emeritus limited RPF still be called an RPF?  It seems ridiculous to me but sounds like it may require lots of edits to legislation to mention both types of RPF's.  I will know more next week and report back then.
* Another topic worth mentioning are the other California profession laws outside of the professional foresters law and what the PFEC can enforce.  Meaning that there may be some RPF’s taking fire for something that was unprofessional, but not considered unprofessional under the professional foresters law. Just something for us to keep in mind, the professionalism doesn’t start and stop simply at the forestry level.
* Elicia spoke to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ regarding holding RPF licensing tests at different locations throughout the state. This suggestion will be brought up at the next PFEC meeting.
* The next meeting will be October 24th.

**Water & Wildlife:** Elicia Goldsworthy reported:

* Not much to update since the last newsletter.
* North Coast Water Board has a vacancy that Mike Miles is working to fill. Difficulty will be finding someone qualified.
* Foothill Legged Frog – there was a paper released a few weeks ago - Population Genomics of the Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana boylii*) and RAD seq Parameter Choice for Large-Genome Organisms, written by Evan McCartney-Melstad, Müge Gidiş, H. Bradley Shaffer.
  + The paper outlines a very specific management of this species gene pool.
  + The Fish and Game Commission is unlikely to make a ruling in April as scheduled, in light of this paper.
  + It is unknown if the Commission will be able to obtain another extension on this ruling.
* EPIC is pushing hard to get the Pacific Fisher listed again as threatened.

**Communications:**

* The new website will be rolled out December 1, 2018.

**Nominations (Headhunter) Committee:** Kieran O’Leary reported:

Kieran informed the Board this committee has a GoToMeeting scheduled on October 30th at 6:00 pm. Kieran will report back to Board at the November Board.

**Old Business:** Harlan Tranmer reported:

The Strategic Plan will be reviewed at the January Board meeting to be presented at the March 2019 annual board meeting.

**New Business**: Harlan Tranmer reported:

* Rich Gordon will be holding a legislative meeting in Sacramento on October 23, 2018. The invitees include:
  + California Forestry Association
  + California Licensed Foresters Association
  + Forest Landowners
  + California Women in Timber
  + Associated California Loggers
  + Loggers Association of Northern California
* The November Board meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2018 at Blodgett.
* Newsletter articles to Kathleen by October 27, 2018.

**Closed Session**: None

Adjourn – Sara Taddo Jones moved with a second by Tony Gomez to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Burr

Executive Director