CALIFORNIA LICENSED FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 – 6:00 PM

Board Minutes

Joe Starr called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Members present: Matt Bissell, Jeremy Wright, George Gentry, Jason Wells, Mark Pugsley, Ariel Roughton, Charll Stoneman

Member’s not present: Ricky Shurtz & Bob Broderick

Others present: Kathleen Burr, Andrea Eggleton

Joe Starr moved with a second by George Gentry to approve the agenda with the addition of FIRST contract. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Treasurer’s Report – Kathleen Burr &, Mark Pugsley reported:

* Profit & Loss – Net Income $18,012.02
* Balance Sheet – Total Assets $319,603.03
* Budget vs. Actual:
  + Income – 82.36% of budget
  + Expenses – 71.33% of budget
* Managed Accounts:
  + Archaeology - $33,335.96
  + CLFA Scholarship - $31,500.28
  + Roy Richards - $10,806.62
  + Hazel Jackson - $6,648.69

George Gentry moved with a second by Jeremy Wright to approve the financials as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Archaeology 5-day class review – Kathleen Burr reported:

* October class is full as well as first class of 2022 that is tentatively scheduled for March 2022.
* The teaching cadre is having Beth Bagwell back to teach, as well as a new contractor who will be teaching a class entitled “Familiarize foresters with different types of flaked-stone debitage”.
* Due to the added expenses for the 5-day class, costs will need to be raised to cover shortages. The increased cost will take place for the October 2022 5-day class since the March class is already full with ½ of the students paid in full.
* The Board Discussed renewal of Andre Eggleton’s contract. Charll Stoneman moved with a second by Joe Starr to renew Andrea’s contract retroactive from May 2021 to expire May 31, 2022. Motion passed Unanimously.
* All contracts for independent contractors will be reviewed at the March board meeting each year.

Correspondence: None received.

New Members: No new members were presented to the Board this month.

* Membership renewals are down this year. The Board discussed potential reasons why. Kathleen reminded the Board that in 2016 launched a membership program that was not successful. Covid and lack of in-person meetings could be a large contributing factor.
* George Gentry is revising his study group program into a one-year program. The price of the program will be a one year CLFA associate membership.

Board of Forestry: Andrea Eggleton reported:

Committee Reports

* Management Committee
  + This month’s [draft rule text](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/1lxd0wgb/mgmt-2-a-crop-of-trees-895-1-amendments-rule-text_ada.docx) changed the definition of Crop of Trees to remove the areas within 30’ of a building or structure; a [summary](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/ipipdxur/mgmt-2-b-september-2021-management-committee-staff-report-v3_ada.docx) of potential amendments made by Board staff.
    - Cal Fire expressed concern over multiple aspects of this rule plead including LTO requirements, sawmill utilization, and inconsistencies throughout the FPRs. Other commenters expressed similar concerns, as well as Yield tax concerns, what defines a ‘structure’, etc. Following this discussion, Cal Fire urged the Board to consider ‘going big’ and addressing the issue of conversion, what constitutes a conversion, etc.
    - The Board will continue to look at this issue.
  + This month’s Meadows and Cutover Land [draft rule text](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/fmwpthqe/mgmt-3-meadows-and-cutover-land-rule-text_ada.docx) incorporates the State Water Board’s definition of Wet Area; changes made in past months to remove ‘cutover land’ and create a definition for ‘meadows’ remain.
    - Cal Fire, CDFW, and RWQCB all had no concerns.
    - Public commenters, including CLFA representative, expressed areas of concern where the changed definitions have unintended impacts. Agency agreed with these issues.
    - The Board will continue to review and vet possible issues in this rule plead.
  + A presentation on Reconstructive studies of historic forest structure in the Southern Cascades was presented by Brandon Collins in which historic inventory data from pre-logging era west of Lake Almanor was compared to current stand structure. The data showed that TPA was less than half as much as presently, and basal area was significantly less. The most resilient stands are those with no competition. Among many conclusions, one present was the idea of moving beyond the concept of full stocking and rethink the idea of MSP.
    - Three papers were referenced: (1) [Mixed-conifer forest reference conditions for privately owned timberland in the southern Cascade Range](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/km3bwfyd/mgmt-4-c-collinset_ecolappl_21.pdf); (2) [Historical and current landscape-scale ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest structure in the Southern Sierra Nevada](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/nu4jyrdo/mgmt-4-b-stephenset_ecosphere_15.pdf); (3) [Novel characterization of landscape-level variability in historical vegetation structure](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/2i1ezmwp/mgmt-4-a-collinset_ecolappl_15.pdf)
  + An update from the Basal Area Stocking Standards and Uneven-Aged Work Group was provided by George Gentry.  A review of technical issues with uneven stocking standards were addressed, as well as possible solutions that are in the beginning stages. The Committee requested either a rule plead or summary document of findings be prepared for next month. Additionally, a new working group will be created to work on the Southern Subdistrict stocking rules as they are currently restricted to only uneven-aged management but due to the CZU fire they will now largely be managed as even-aged.
* Forest Practice Committee
  + A [draft rule text](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/p3replns/fpc-3-a-class-ii-l-sunset-repeal-rule-text_ada.docx) changes the definition of a Class II-L (large) watercourse to be a watercourse with a contributing drainage of >100 acres in the Coast District or >150 acres for the Northern and Southern Districts. The other definition of having an active channel width of greater than 5 feet is removed. The Committee will keep this open for comment; they are specifically looking for input from professionals working with this designation.
    - The [EMC assessment](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/f33ah2hh/fpc-3-b-completed-research-assessment-for-emc_2015_ada.docx) of the Class II -L determination study, which was presented on in the July BOF meeting
  + The [draft Botanical Resources Guidance Memo](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/zcaptf1z/fpc-4-a-draft-botanical-resources-guidance-memo_ada.docx) was presented on, including a [Staff Report](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/wakdflsi/fpc-4-b-staff-report-re-guidance-memo-revisions_ada.pdf) on this Memo’s revisions, which includes changes from public comment letters. Comment letters were received from [CNPS](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/jwrfzwyh/fpc-4-c-cnps-comment-letter_ada.pdf), [CDFW](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/i3qhe5xa/fpc-4-d-cdfw-comment-letter_ada.docx), and [CLFA](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/wu0b34bz/fpc-4-e-clfa-comment-letter_ada.pdf).
    - Cal Fire did not provide written comment but shared some concerns and comments during this meeting. The Board will incorporate suggested Cal Fire changes, as well as review any further CDFW comments, and hope to bring this to the full Board next month.
  + Cal Fire brought forth concern about the usage of Tractor/Cable Option yarding system designation. This issue will continue to be discussed, and the Board will review whether interpretation of existing language or new language will be necessary to resolve this issue.

Full Board Meeting

* Executive Session – During closed session the Board upheld the Administrative Law Judge Proposed Decision on Civil Penalty CP-20-08 Shurtz and reduced the penalty to zero for the Proposed Decision on Civil Penalty CP-20-11A Lawrence.
* Consent Calendar Items –Motion confirmed unanimously to approve all consent calendar items, including approval of the January 2021 and July 2021 meeting minutes, review of Rulemaking Matrix, the [appointment of Ben Waitman](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/bdjcf4qu/full-7-c-emc-waitman-loi_ada.pdf) to replace [Elliot Chasin](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/rjkjzse0/full-7-c-emc-chasin-resignation_ada.pdf) as the CDFW voting member to the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee, the request to appoint Chris Blencowe to the Jackson Advisory Group, and approval of the [RPF-CRM vital statistics](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/f5nh5nks/full-7-e-rpf-crm-vital-statistics_ada.pdf).
* Monthly Board Reports
  + Chairman’s Report (Chair Gilless): BOF welcomes two new members – Elizabeth Forsburg-Pardi and Jose de Jesus Lopez (J Lopez)
  + CAL FIRE [Director’s Report](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/vu2bupqq/full-9-sept-2021-director-s-report.pdf) (Chief Thom Porter): This report covered the current staffing of firefighters throughout the state, the acres burned, number of incidents, and number of arson arrests, as well as nighttime flying trials. Additionally, the report discussed conditions at JSDF; Cal Fire requests that the Board review the JSDF Management Plan, even though it is not technically up for review. The goal of this review would be to address concerns displayed by the public due to the Casper 500 THP, support the mission of research, and address Governor Newsom’s request for the forest to support tribal access and dialogue about culturally important plants and animals.
  + Executive Officer Report—Edith Hannigan
    - [Legislative Update](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/rmldvee2/full-10-a-executive-officer-legislative-report_ada.doc)
  + Report of the Regulations Coordinator
    - The Southern Subdistrict and Broadcast Burning [FSOR](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/4srbgkgl/full-11-a-southern-subdistrict-and-broadcast-burning-fsor_ada.docx)  and [Rule Text](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/2hklqpqu/full-11-a-southern-subdistrict-and-broadcast-burning-rule-text_ada.docx) were approved, which removes the restriction of broadcast burning in the Southern Subdistrict, as well as changes the definition of broadcast burning away from being solely associated with site preparation.
    - The Fire Risk Reduction Communities List [FSOR](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/yyikmyuf/full-11-a-b-ii-fire-risk-reduction-communities-list-fsor_ada.docx)  and [Rule Plead](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/p3zb52fg/full-11-a-b-i-fire-risk-reduction-communities-rule-plead_ada.docx) were approved.
  + Report of the Standing Committees
    - Resource Protections Committee – Darcy Wheeles, Committee Chair: Committee discussed the Land Use Planning Program update, and Safety Element Review from the Cities of Menifee, Los Angeles, Whittier, Laguna Beach, Riverside, Yucca Valley, Temecula, Brea, Lake Elsinore, La Canada Flintridge, Simi Valley, San Marcos, and the counties of Riverside, Yuba and Plumas. The committee also welcomed new member J. Lopez.
  + Report of Board’s Advisory Committees
    - Range Management Advisory Committee – Marc Horney, RMAC Chair: The committee has two open membership seats and [requested to form a subcommittee](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/slvkntc4/full-13-a-2-memo-rmac-to-bof-grazing-licenses_ada.doc) to prepare grazing licenses for state lands.
    - Effectiveness Monitoring Committee – Sue Husari, EMC Chair: There is an open member seat due to Dr. Bisbing [resignation.](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/vpxpf4v1/full-13-b-1-emc-bisbing-resignation_ada.pdf)
    - Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation
      1. Presentation: Low-Carbon [Forest Biofuels](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/4xynzsm5/full-13-c-1-interim-research-gaps-report_ucb-biofuels_9-22-21_ada.pdf) in CA: State of Knowledge, Research Gaps and Near-Term Priorities Draft Interim Report – Dan Sanchez, UC Berkeley: This presentation presented findings on research done to see the viability (economically, technically, etc.) of further development of Hydrogen markets in the state using forest biofuels. In general, it found hydrogen markets and biofuels provide a positive financial return, partially due to available incentives and subsidies. Additionally, this production could be carbon neutral or carbon negative. At present nearly all hydrogen produced in the state is through natural gas; there is enough forest biomass in CA to produce 85% of the state’s current hydrogen demand. Many issues and questions will need to continue to be researched.
      2. Presentation: [Cross-Laminated Timber Layup Tests](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/nz5l3c0e/full-13-c-2-jiwpi-white-fir-clt-testing-project_osu-tallwood-design-institute_9-22-21_adapdf.pdf) Using White fir Species Group Draft Report – Ian Macdonald and Byrne Miyamoto, OSU and the TallWood Design Institute: This presentation looked into the viability of using lesser-utilized CA wood fiber to make cross-laminated boards. The researchers used SPI wood and made CLT samples using low grade, low value wood; then tested physical strength. The CTL samples had some physical testing issues but had good mechanical properties. Different adhesive types should be further investigated.
* Special Board Hearings/Reports –
  + [Barriers to Mass Timber and Other Innovative Wood Products](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/pmclsted/full-14-sierra-institute-mass-timber-report_9-22-21_ada.pdf) in CA, draft report – Jonathan Kusel and Lauren Redmore, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment: This presentation explored the possibility of mass timber (engineered, structural wood product (layers of wood fixed together)) production in the state. The research found that this product could provide market and carbon solutions for the state, and researchers encourage state agencies to coordination action to provide support for entrepreneurs developing community-scale wood product manufacturing capabilities.
  + Five-Foot Ember-Resistant Zone – Michael Jarred (consultant, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources), Yana Valachovic (UC Cooperative Extension), and Daniel Gorham (Research Engineer at UBHS Reach Center): This presentation discussed the 5-foot ember free zone around structures, which will become part of the defensible space requirements (coming out of AB 3074). The presentation talks about the three types of fire exposure: direct flames, embers, radiant heat. This topic and subsequent necessary changes to FPRs and Cal Fire graphics will likely be brought to the Board in the December meeting.

Outreach – Jeremy Wright – nothing new to report

Legislation – Joe Starr reported:

* Bill addressing THP extension has not been signed yet.
* Sunset date on the 300’ exemption bill has not been signed yet.
* Utility bill is now a two-year bill.
* Sierra Nevada Conservancy was signed. Trinity County is now included.

Licensing – George Gentry reported:

* Forestry Training Program - George Gentry is working on this program and should have something to present to the PFEC in 2022.
* Next exam is October 8, 2021.

Prep Exam

* Kathleen asked George Gentry if they had scheduled the 2022 prep exam. George will reach out to Dan Stapleton again and let Kathleen know.

Water & Wildlife – Mark Pugsley reported:

* State Water Resource Control Board - In response to Gov. Newsom’s [Drought Emergency](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/5.10.2021-Drought-Proclamation.pdf) declaration for 41 counties the state Water Control Board has begun the process of curtailing junior Water Rights from some of major watersheds. [Drought and Water Rights Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/faq.html) can be found here.
* Notice of Scott River & Shasta River Watersheds
* Emergency Regulation for Curtailment of water rights of Mill Creek and Deer Creek, Tehama County, have been approved. 23 claimants are impacted.
* US Fish & Wildlife Service

[Service to Initiate Status Review of Gray Wolf in the Western U.S](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=service-to-initiate-status-review-of-gray-wolf-in-the-western-u.s.-&_ID=36998).- Two similar petitions have been received by the Service to list a Distinct Segment Population(DPS) for the Gray Wolf in the western  US.  Both petitions proposed creating a northern Rocky Mountain DPS Consisting of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, eastern Washington, and eastern Oregon. The Petitions also propose an alternative Western DPS that includes California, Colorado, Nevada, and northern Arizona.  The 90 Day Review began September 17, 2021.

Scholarships – Charll Stoneman reported:

* Charll’s idea for the scholarship this year is to use one question for all three of the scholarships, except for Hazel Jackson. CLFA would be the primary scholarship and the runner up would be awarded the Roy Richards scholarship. For the Harold Biswell, the question would be revised slightly. Charll feels using this one question, it would prevent the problem of having one person potentially win both scholarships.
* George Gentry moved with a second by Charll Stoneman to approve the scholarship question and award money amounts for 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

November Conference

* The Board discussed options for the November conference and possibly changing to a field day due to the issues currently with Covid.
* Joe Starr will reach out to SPI and inquire if a mill tour is possible and get back to the board.

Newsletter articles are due to Kathleen September 30th.

Committee Chair’s

* Joe Starr volunteered to step into the Education Chair person.
* George Gentry & Ricky Shurtz will co-chair Licensing.

George Gentry moved with a second by Jeremy Wright to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Burr

Executive Director