

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
FULL BOARD OF FORESTRY MEETING**

Sacramento, CA

January 11, 2012

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stan Dixon, Chairman
Bruce Saito
Mark Andre
Jim Ostrowski
Susan Britting
J. Keith Gillless
Mike Miles

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS ABSENT:

Richard Wade

BOARD STAFF:

George Gentry, Executive Officer
Eric Huff, Regulations Coordinator
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dixon called the January 11, 2012 meeting of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

01-12-01 **Member Saito moved to approve October and November 2011 minutes. Member Andre seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Committee structure: The chair will review committee structure and make assignments by the next meeting.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – Janet Barentson

- CAL FIRE was included in what is termed the Trigger Cut in the governor's tax initiative. If the governor's tax initiative does not pass, additional cuts will have to be made which will amount to 60 million for fiscal year 2013/2014. For fiscal year 2013 it will be 15 million. The department is evaluating what affects it will have; a group is looking at how Cal fire will implement the cuts. The governor noted in his message that it will affect the Emergency Response portion of the department's budget.
- The Governor has taken an interest in the Timber Harvest Plan process issue and wants stakeholders to have an opportunity for input in the reform process. Caroline Godkin, Deputy Director, Legislation has taken the lead on this directive from the governor. She reported no firm proposals had been made public and will keep the Board informed as details become available.
- Significant increase in fire activity due to unseasonably dry conditions. 2011/2012 has been the driest in 20 years. CAL FIRE has worked on over 55 fires since the beginning of the year with a reduced level of staffing. Because of the dry conditions many of the units within central to southern California are banning prescribed fire burns. Janet Barentson is in the process of forming a group with the Resources Agency and the Department of Water Resources to put out a joint statement regarding weather conditions.
- Time reporting for federal grants has come under an audit review by the Office of Inspector General (OIG). The department will have to review and report time for billing packages back through 2006. OIG is asking for a full accounting of time spent on projects. Janet Barentson will meet with Gene Williams and his staff with the U.S Forest Service in January to discuss the issue.

REPORT OF THE US FOREST SERVICE – Jeanne Wade Evans

Report included in binder.

REPORT OF THE REGULATIONS COORDINATOR – Eric Huff

Mr. Huff gave the status update. Report included in binder.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SB 455 passed out of committee and was referred to committee on appropriations for a hearing on January 17. It is a 20 year watershed THP. AB 1005 will require the secretary of Natural Resources to form a timber harvest working group to consider refining operations for streamlining and providing additional revenue for the THP program. The working group will be comprised of representatives from environmental organizations and the timber industry. The chairperson and vice chairperson will authorize the secretary of Natural Resources to appoint individuals from Cal Fire, Fish and Game, Coastal Commission, CGS and State Water Board to serve on the working group. George Gentry noted there was no mention of a representative from Non-Industrial timberland owners, it was probably an oversight but should be brought to their attention.

Forest Practice – Mark Andre

No Action items

Discussion on Road Rules package. There will be a meeting on January 19th and 20th in Ft Bragg to discuss the 8 or 9 points that are left on the rule package.

Resource Protection – Bruce Saito

01-12-02 Member Saito moved to approve certification of Fire Safe Regulations for San Diego and Tuolumne Counties. Member Ostrowski seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE (COMTF) – Katie Palmieri

Report included in binder

Monitoring Study Group – George Gentry

Working on a agenda for a February Meeting one of the items on the agenda is Monitoring efforts.

Reserch and Science Committee – George Gentry

A meeting is scheduled for February in Davis. Items to be covered are a potential research plan for the Jackson Demonstration State Forest, state research plan that the Board is required to review and approve, presentation on actions by the Green Diamond Resource Company on adaptive management.

Interagency Forestry Working Group

Member Andre gave an overview of the IFWG meeting the report has been deferred to February. Task 2 will be presented to the Board in February. An update on the progress of Task 1 will be presented by Richard Bode from ARB in the following month.

Committee on Criminal Trespass

The group has not met recently. Madeline Melo from Ft Bragg will address the Board in February on the Ft. Bragg efforts of the Jere Melo Foundation.

RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RMAC)

RMAC has not met due to staffing constraints.

PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE (PFEC)

Examining Committee is scheduled to meet mid-February

Board registration is requested for the following six (6) applicants who successfully completed an examination administered on October 21, 2011:

Mr. Garrett Kleiner	RPF No. 2946
Mr. Madison Thomsen	RPF No. 2947
Mr. Chris Eades	RPF No. 2948
Mr. Scott R. Stephenson	RPF No. 2949
Mr. David Haas	RPF No. 2950
Mr. Kyle Holland	RPF No. 2951

The following Registered Professional Forester's have been "Lost in the Woods."

Noel Ivar Olsen	RPF 429
James William Timmons	RPF 1181
Harold F. Sebring	RPF 1247

The Forester's Registration program was recently notified of the passing of
Mr. William H. Kuphalt RPF 966 December 16, 2011

There are 1226 valid RPF's and 76 valid CRM's.
There are 154 withdrawn RPF's and three withdrawn CRM's.
Three RPF's are delinquent.

01-12-03 **Member Ostrowski moved to approve registration for the listed candidates. Member Andre seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

Hearing: The Board will consider revisions to previously adopted Emergency Regulations for State Responsibility Area Fees. Possible Action Item: The Board may adopt revisions and authorize staff to submit regulations for further processing.

And:

Hearing: The Board is soliciting public comment and review of permanent regulations for State Responsibility Area Fees. Possible Action Item: The Board may authorize staff to issue a 45 day notice for rulemaking.

Public Comment

Joe Guardino, Chairman, Wilton Fire Protection District, expressed that they would like to have the section of Wilton that falls within SRA removed.

Jim Little, Long Valley FPD, expressed concerns regarding SRA designation.

Cathy Barankin, CCFY, expressed concerns on how the SRA fee will negatively affect organized camps.

Bobbie Winn, Wilton resident, would like to see the fee waved and SRA boundaries changed.

Terry Mowers CCCA, asked that non-profit camps be given consideration regarding SRA fee.

Joanne Drummond, Nevada Co. Fire Safe Council, would like to see the grant process be kept in an open forum. She added they would also like to see the definition of Fire Safe Council clarified in the regulation.

Rick Nolle, expressed thoughts on the structure of how the regulation can be implemented effectively.

Lee Adams, Sierra County expressed that the application of the fee is unequal.

Cara Martinson, California State Association of Counties expressed opposition to the fee, and feels that the recent amendments still leave uncertainty and need further clarification.

Erin Gilbert, San Diego Board of Supervisors opposes the fee and would like further clarification regarding public buildings such as jails, hospitals and fire stations.

Evan Winn, Wilton resident, opposes the fee and also expressed that the section of Wilton that falls within SRA be excluded.

Joyce Hayward, Wilton resident, agreed and expressed the same points as other Wilton residents.

Bill Fawx, State Retirees chapter 165, expressed that it would be a heavy burden for those who live on a fixed income. He also asked that the Board consider the fee amount and the exemption for those who are already paying taxes into a fire protection program.

Blair Springer, Association of Contract Counties, submitted two letters to the Board. He expressed there is no clear intent stated in the emergency regulations in relation to the benefits that are to be achieved and how the costs are tied to the services.

Kevin Hanley, Chairman for the Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council recommended that the Board change the regulations to put what is priority #3 as priority #1.

Staci Heaton, Regional Council for Rural Counties, opposes the fee and added there needs to be more clarification in the regulations in regard to what constitutes a habitable structure.

George Gentry invited those who commented to continue their interaction and dialogue with the Board, particularly with him, in forming a permanent regulation. He explained that this issue will be in front of the Resource Protection Committee and expressed his hopes for holding hearings in various locations as an outreach to other stakeholders.

**01-12-04 Member Gilles moved to approve the SRA Emergency regulations.
Member Saito seconded the motion.**

Chairman Dixon called for a Roll Call Vote

Ostrowski	No
Saito	Aye
Britting	Aye
Andre	Aye
Gilles	Aye
Miles	Aye
Dixon	No

The motion passed 5 to 2

PUBLIC FORUM

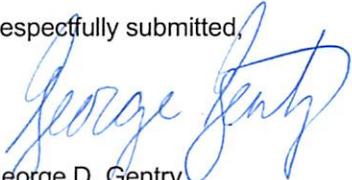
Richard Gienger, expressed concern over cumulative impacts assessment.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman adjourned the January 11, 2012 meeting of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,


George D. Gentry
Executive Officer

ATTEST:


Stan Dixon
Chairman

Copies of the attendance sheets can be obtained from the Board Office.