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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Sacramento, CA
December 4, 2013

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, J. Keith Gilles
Mark Andre
Stan Dixon
Bruce Saito
Susan Britting
Mike Miles
Stuart Farber
Mary Rickert

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS ABSENT: Rich Wade

BOARD STAFF:

George Gentry, Executive Officer
Matthew Dias, Executive Officer, Forester's Licensing
Eric Huff, Regulations Coordinator
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Janet Barentson, Chief Deputy Director
Janet Upton, Deputy Director of Communications
Bill Snyder, Deputy Director, Resource Management
Duane Shintaku, Asst. Deputy Director, Forest Practice

The Board's Mission:

To lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

Call to Order

Chair Gilless called the meeting of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to order.

Announcement of Actions Taken in Executive Session- none

Approval of Minutes

- 12-13-01** **Member Saito moved to approve the October minutes. Member Rickert seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention, Member Britting (absence).**

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chairman

Chair Gilless announced the Road Rules would require some additional action this month.

Report of the Director/Department-Janet Barentson - Full Report available on the Board's website.

- Succession Planning: Janet Barentson announced that succession planning is still underway. Keith Larkin is the New Assistant Region Chief for the Northern Region. Thom Porter is the New Assistant Region Chief for the Southern Region. Phyllis Banducci has been Appointed Assistant Deputy Director of Cooperative Fire, Training, and Safety
- Fire Season: Dry conditions in the state continue. Cal Fire expected to have down staffing for winter preparedness completed by December 9. The average SRA averages for the past five years is 4,700 fires, this year there have been 6,900 fires to date. The number of fires and fire starts are up significantly mostly due to conditions. However, the acres burned on a five year average are 169,000 acres, this year it was only 120,000 acres. The department has been able to catch many of the fires on initial attack.
- SRA Fee: Current billing cycle has been completed. A total of 60 million has been collected out of the roughly 80 million that was scheduled to be collected. 43.4 million has been collected this billing cycle.
- Fire STEPP and SB 1241 process are progressing in the implementation of the programs. Pre requisite training for new hires will be in February. The department has had discussions on the allocations of the VMP dollars that are in the FireSTEPP BCP. A meeting was held with contract county partners to discuss how the funds will be allocated throughout the state. The Fire Plan will be the focus and the driving factor on how VMP dollars will be allocated. The project will have to be identified in the unit's Fire Plan. The department is in the process of putting together an allocation committee for the funds. The committee will include program, region and county representation.
- Legislative Hearing: Director Pimlott, Chief Shintaku and Board Chairman Gilless spoke at the legislative hearing on Fuels Treatments on Forestlands. Assembly members Chesbro and Dalhe committed to work on Air Resources Board requirements and forest practice rules and regulations.
- 2014 Arbor Day Poster Contest is underway for school grades 3 – 5. It is sponsored by the department, California Re-Leaf, and California Forestry Association. The final filing date is February 14, 2014. Winners will be featured at the State Fair and the State Capitol.

Report of the United States Forest Service. Sherry Hazelhurst, Director, State and Private Forestry and Christine Nota, Regional Foresters Representative

Ms. Nota reviewed Forest Service activities. Jerry Bird is now acting as a liaison to the Board, replacing Mike Chapel. A high number of fire starts for the year was noted. USFS has spent \$385 million dollars on suppression. Rim Fire totaled 257 thousand acres, with the American fire totaling 27 thousand, and the Aspen Fire 25 thousand. Planning and execution of 414 prescribed fires is underway. She announced Bruce Goings retirement. Ms. Hazelhurst reviewed the grant programs of the USFS. \$4.4 million went to California, of which \$1.4 million went to CAL FIRE. She also discussed the surveys for forest pests and disease, and noted increases in the areas affected.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator- George Gentry for Eric Huff

The Class II L and the Eucalyptus rules have been approved by OAL and will be effective January 1, 2014. The MTHP and Road Rules were not approved by OAL, The Executive Officer and the Regulations Coordinator will proceed with a 15-day notice.

Report of the Executive Officer

The Executive Officer is still researching locations for possible field tours for the 2014 schedule. Two possible state forests would be Soquel and Boggs. A meeting in Visalia or Fresno would be an informative tour for the Board, given the intensity and impacts of the Rim Fire. Another trip would be to Idyllwild to see the impacts of GSOB and other issues related to fuels treatment.

Report of the Board's Standing Committees

Forest Practice, Mark Andre, Chair

No Action Items

Discussed the Department proposal to Amend 14 CCR § 1052 to require Native American notifications. This is an ongoing discussion. The meeting adjourned so committee members could attend the Fuels Treatment and Forestlands Hearing at the Capitol.

Resource Protection, Bruce Saito

No Action Items

Reviewed AB 744 Regulatory language. The Executive Officer plans to prepare a 45-day notice for the January Board meeting.

Management, Stuart Farber

No Action Items

Reviewed AB 904 Regulatory language. The committee is working on a draft rule plead. Time was spent discussing the small landowner approach, which didn't make it through AB 904. Member Farber has met with Cal Fire and Department of Fish and Wildlife to discuss certain issues to come up with a rule plead for the small landowner practicing uneven age management as well. The committee directed the Executive Officer to work on a structure for a process tailored after the NTMP. Chair Gilless suggested Member Mary Rickert take the vacant seat on Management Committee left by Member Dixon's retirement from the Board.

Report of Board's Advisory Committees

- Forest Pest Council

Held their annual meeting in November. Director Pimlott spoke on Fire Season 2013 and future trends. A GSOB Task Force was formed

- California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF)

In 2013, 136 California waterway sites distributed throughout Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and San Benito Cos. were monitored for *Phytophthora ramorum*. Stream monitoring is led by Heather Mehl, UC Davis, Rizzo laboratory and conducted with assistance from over 10 cooperators.

In Humboldt Co., *P. ramorum* was detected for the first time in Roaring Gulch, an upper tributary of Redwood Creek located in Redwood Valley. With the exception of a site on Redwood Creek, all watersheds monitored in Redwood National Park remained negative.

In Mendocino Co., a new site on a tributary of the South Fork of the Eel River, Hollow Tree Creek, tested *P. ramorum* positive once in March. The South Fork of the Noyo River (SFNR) watershed in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest was intensively sampled this year to pinpoint the source of inoculum detected in the watershed in 2012. *Phytophthora ramorum* was recovered from the North Fork of the SFNR and from a small tributary of the South Fork of the SFNR, Peterson Gulch. The Little North Fork of the Big River (LNFB), sampled in Mendocino Woodlands State Park, tested *P. ramorum* positive for the first time in May and June.

Katie Palmieri attended a Native American sponsored event that brought stakeholders who interact with Native American communities to find out what their needs might be as it relates to Sudden Oak Death and other invasive species and how agencies might better serve their needs. One thing that was found to be needed was integrative pest management training. The Forest Pest Council will be offering IPM training in the spring of 2014.

Monitoring Study Group- Pete Cafferata (Full report can be found on the BOF website)

- **Research and Science Committee- George Gentry**
- No Report
- **Committee on Criminal Trespass- George Gentry**
- George Gentry mentioned that Member Rickert suggested that RPC have a more proactive approach with the issues that were raised during the Symposium on Marijuana.
- **Range Management Advisory Committee- George Gentry**
- No report
- **Professional Foresters Examining Committee – Matt Dias**
- Matt Dias received confirmation from Dr. Peter Stein, Pacific Southwest Research station and Bernie Gyant, USFS, participated with PFEC on December 12. gave a presentation on All Lands Management, Bernie Gyant will discuss how the RPF community may engage in that type lands management to increase the pace and scale that the Forest Service is trying to attain.

Special Presentations

Assemblyman Chesbro presented Stan Dixon with a resolution of recognition for 14 years of service with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Board staff and the public made additional presentations honoring Mr. Dixon's career and contributions to the Board, which spanned 15 years.

SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS

Carol Rice, Wildland Resource Management Inc.: Presentation on Land Use Planning and Effects on Fire Hazard and Response Effectiveness. Ms. Rice focused on elements to address through planning:

1. Topography

2. Fire Weather
3. Fuel
Structure
Vegetation
4. Utilities
5. Fire Response & Recovery

She explained what the possible goals of this approach were:

- Minimize the Number of Ignitions
- Install/maintain Defensible Space (Reduce Fire Intensity Next to Structures)
- Safe Access and Egress
- Limit Fire Size
- Promote Ecosystem Health
- Work Cooperatively on Projects
- Develop/update Wildfire Plan

Board Review of 2014 Board Priorities and Objectives.

The Executive Officer outlined the broad topics that have priority for the year:

- AB 1492
- SRA Prevention Fee: Draft regulation for grant program, SRA report to the legislature.
- Small Landowner Regulatory Improvement
- Working Forest Management Plan
- Stewardship lands and State Forests
- Soquel Management Plan and Boggs State Forest
- 1490 Safety Element Review
- Vegetation Treatment Program
- Research Science Committee
- Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
- Cumulative Effects
- Committee on Criminal Trespassing

Public Comment

Richard Gienger Working Forest Management Plan should include important details that aren't spelled out in legislation and make a difference in recovery on California State Forests.

CONCLUSION

Public Forum

Richard Gienger, Mattole Restoration Council held their annual meeting on November 19.

Kevin O'Meara, CDF Firefighters Union, 48th Annual CDF Firefighters Convention, December 12-15. 170 delegates will be in attendance.

Bill Keye, California Licensed Foresters Association, announced that would be his last meeting as the CLFA, Government Affairs Specialist.

New and Unfinished business

None

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

George D. Gentry
Executive Officer

Keith Gilles
Chairman

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