

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

KEITH GILLESS, CHAIR

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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING MINUTES

Cal Poly Campus, San Luis Obispo, CA

July 18, 2019

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEMBERS:

Present:

- Keith Gilless, Chair
- Darcy Wheelles, Vice Chair
- Marc Los Huertos
- Chris Chase
- Rich Wade
- Susan Husari
- Mike Jani

Absent:

Katie Delbar

BOARD STAFF

- Matt Dias, Executive Officer
- Eric Hedge, Regulations Program Manager
- Linda Cano, Executive Assistant
- Laura Alarcon-Stalians, Budget Analyst
- Dan Stapleton, Licensing Officer
- Jeff Slaton, Board Counsel
- Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager
- Katie Harrell, Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation
- Brandi Goss, Environmental Scientist
- David Ludwig, Forestry Assistant II

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

- Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management
- Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director
- Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program

Announcement of Action(s) Taken in Executive Session:

- a) Coast Action Group vs. California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Case No. RG17860755)
 - i. No reportable actions were taken.

Consent Calendar Items:

- a) Approval of May and June Board Meeting Minutes (with minor edits if requested by members of the Board); and
- b) Review of the Board's Rulemaking Matrix; and
- c) Approval of RPF and CRM Withdrawals and Voluntary Relinquishments

07-19-01 - Chairman Gillless removed the May and June Meeting Minutes from the Consent Calendar and moved to approve the remaining items on the Consent Calendar. Member Husari seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

- Wheelles aye
- Los Huertos aye
- Chase aye
- Wade aye
- Husari aye
- Jani aye
- Gillless aye

The motion carried, with one Member absent.

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chairman, Dr. Keith Gillless:

Chairman Gillless thanked the Unit Chief, Unit Forester, State Parks Service Environmental Scientist, and Dan Turner with the local Fire Safe Council for the information provided during the Field tour. He also expressed that the participation from stakeholders such as the Coastal Commission allowed for open communications that represent progress on addressing vegetation treatment projects focused on ecological restoration and fire prevention in California. Finally, Chairman Gillless thanked the Dean and Chair from Cal Poly for hosting the Board and providing the tour of fire-related science happening at Cal Poly.

Report of the Director, Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management on behalf of Director Thomas Porter:

- The Deputy Director thanked the Board for making the long drive and attending the field tour. He addressed the Coastal Commission permitting process and stated that the Department will be happy to facilitate any necessary follow up with the Coastal Commission.
- Many fuel crews are up and running, including one seen yesterday on the field tour, and the Department hopes that these crews will also bolster the ranks of Registered Professional Foresters in future years.
- It has been a tempered fire year to date with about 21,000 acres burned on SRA

and LRA, in comparison to last year where there were 150,000 acres burned by August 1st. The 5-year average for acres burned is approximately 90,000 acres by August 1st. Fuel driven wildfires are expected in mid-August.

- For the 35 fuel reduction projects in vulnerable communities implementation is ongoing and satisfactory progress is being made toward meeting the goals CAL FIRE is working with the Office of Emergency Services on processes for public utility shutdowns to prevent fire ignitions during high fire risk weather conditions. Notices from utility companies are likely to become more common. However, utilities are only one source of ignition and CAL Fire is concerned with all ignitions regardless of source.
- State Forests have sold 35mbf to date, an improvement on historic levels of harvest. However, this is still only half of growth on the State Forests and CAL Fire is working to get closer to harvesting most of the growth.
- CAL TREES is moving forward and electronic submissions for exemptions and emergencies should be accepted by August. CAL FIRE is also working on the inclusion of geo-referenced maps that will be available via the CAL TREES system.
- CAL Fire is looking at improving field protocols for the Ex/Em Monitoring and will visit 44 sites this summer.
- Caspar Creek study entering its 3rd phase and next 5-year contract has been fully executed. Dr. Pascal Berrill has moved to the University of Maine, but is periodically returning to Jackson Demonstration State Forest to complete his contractual commitments.
- CAL FIRE has awarded 64 million dollars for forest health grants and a similar amount for fire prevention grants for this fiscal year. Grant applications will be opened again in September, 2019. CAL FIRE is considering revising the methodology for grant proposal evaluation.
- The Computer Aided Dispatch is progressing on time and on budget.
- The first C130 air tankers have been painted with CAL FIRE colors, but installation of retardant delivery systems is still ongoing. CAL FIRE aims to have several new airframes in service this calendar year.
- There is still a statewide shortage of inmate fire crewmembers. However, it is anticipated that the new fuels crews will help to fill this gap as it relates to wildland fire prevention projects.
- CAL FIRE has renewed an inter-agency agreement between CAL FIRE and Parks and Recreation for fire prevention.
- Draft Unit Fire Plans are being submitted for regions review. 23 of the 27 Draft Fire Plans have been reviewed and will soon be provided to Headquarters for final review.

Public Comment: Richard Geinger, Forests Forever (online comment): The industry is concerned that the THP process is longer now than in 2012 due to the AB1492 program. Dennis Hall, CAL FIRE Assistant Deputy Director indicated that the 1492 Program is near in completion of the Annual Report that will provide information to address this concern.

Report of Executive Officer, Matt Dias:

a) Legislative Update

The legislature is in recess for a month and this will be a good time to look at the staff's legislative report and provide comments on bills.

b) Budget Update

The budget has been fully executed for a total of 4.5 million dollars. This budget will include three new positions: an attorney 3, an AGPA, and a planner. Another significant portion of this budget is a one-time allocation for support of the Draft CalVTP.

c) Contracting Update

Mr. Dias communicated that the timeliness of decisions with relation to contracts and agreements is critical because the contracting process is a challenge Board staff recognizes this challenge and will be conveying to all advisory committees the necessity to engage early in contracting efforts.

Public Comment: Richard Geinger, Forests Forever (online comment): When will the EMC be established as the sole route for adaptive management of the Forest Practice Rules? Executive Officer Dias stated that the EMC will continue to be an advisory body to the Board, but serving as the sole route for new rule development is not the purpose of the EMC. There other mechanisms available for this kind of action such as the annual call for regulatory review.

d) CalVTP Update

The comment period will be ending prior to next Board meeting and staff is hoping to have those comments summarized for the Board by the August meeting. Staff is on track to have a final document by end of the calendar year and preliminary discussions have begun regarding an implementation schedule.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator, Eric Hedge, Regulation Program Manager reported out on the following rulemaking efforts:

a) Board consideration of authorization of 15-Day Notice of revised regulatory text and Supplemental Statement of Reasons for “Registered Professional Forester and Certified Specialty Amendments, 2019”, regarding amendments to portions of 14 CCR §§ 1600 *et. seq.*

a. This regulation passed earlier in the year. Upon submission to OAL, several issues of clarity were identified and the rule package was withdrawn. A new Statement of Reasons and rule text were developed and address those issues identified by OAL. Section 1611.5 was struck and other clarifications and amendments related to capitalization and consistency of defined terms were included.

07-19-03 - Chairman Gillless moved to authorize the necessity statement and rule text for 15-day noticing. Member Los Huertos seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

- Wheelles aye
- Los Huertos aye
- Chase aye
- Wade aye
- Husari aye
- Jani aye

- Gillless aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

Report of the Standing Committees:

Chair Gillless discussed the items covered at the full Board Committee workshop including:

1. Basal Area Stocking Standards Revision
2. Revision of Stocking Standards for Marin County and Southern Sub-District
3. Utility Right of Way Amendments to 14 CCR § 1250-1258
4. Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction Amendments
 - i. Mr. Hedge discussed the changes to the Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction Amendments draft rule text that were identified at the full Board Committee workshop.
 - ii. Comments:
 - a. Mandy Culpepper – There are several items that deserve further discussion prior to permanent rulemaking.
 - b. Cedric Twight – A flexible approach for this rulemaking is important for it to be successful in addressing fire threat in the State.

07-19-04 – Member Wade moved to authorize the Declaration of Emergency. Member Jani seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

- Wheelles aye
- Los Huertos aye
- Chase aye
- Wade aye
- Husari aye
- Jani aye
- Gillless aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

07-19-05 – Member Wade moved to adopt the Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction draft regulatory text and necessity statement. Member Jani seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

- Wheelles aye
- Los Huertos aye
- Chase aye
- Wade aye
- Husari aye
- Jani aye
- Gillless aye

The motion passed unanimously with one Member absent.

Report of Board's Advisory Committees:

Forest Pest Conditions Update – Katie Harrell, Program Analyst

- a. Update on *P. ramorum* (Sudden Oak Death) on behalf of the California Oak Mortality Task Force.

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) – Sue Husari, Chair reported out on the following matters:

- i. Release of Request for Proposals
- ii. Board Consideration of appointment of the following persons to the EMC:
 - a. Loretta Moreno as Agency Representative
 - b. Peter Freer-Smith, PhD, UC Davis, Sarah M. Bisbing, PhD, UN Reno, Leander Anderegg, PhD, UC Berkeley as Academic Representatives

07-19-06 – *Member Husari moved to approve the appointment of Loretta Moreno, Peter Freer-Smith, Sarah M. Bisbing, and Leander Anderegg as EMC Members. Member Wheelles seconded the motion.*

Roll Call:

- Wheelles aye
- Los Huertos aye
- Chase aye
- Wade aye
- Husari aye
- Jani aye
- Gillless aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

07-19-07 – *Member Husari moved to approve the appointment of Loretta Moreno as Co-Chair of the EMC. Member Wheelles seconded the motion.*

Roll Call:

- Wheelles aye
- Los Huertos aye
- Chase aye
- Wade aye
- Husari aye
- Jani aye
- Gillless aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

Professional Foresters Examining Committee – Licensing Officer, Dan Stapleton reported out on the following matters:

- a. Announcement of April 2019 RPF and CRM exam grading. The following applicants have been recommended for Board certification as

licensed Registered Professional Foresters or Certified Rangeland Managers. Anthony Melia – FPR No. 3078

- Meghan Breniman – FPR No. 3079
- Cory Drenon – RPF No. 3080
- Allison Emy – RPF No. 3081
- Lindsey Holm – RPF No. 3082
- Aaron Sawyer – RPF No. 3083
- Timothy Moreno – RPF No. 3084
- Jeremiah Steuteman – RPF No. 3085
- Brady Dubois – RPF No. 3086
- Kyle Mills – RPF No. 3087
- Jonathan Fitch – RPF No. 3088
- Ethan Coonen – RPF No. 3089
- Kristina Wolf – CRM No. 122

07-19-02 – *Member Wade moved to certify the results of the April 2019 RPF and CRM Examinations. Member Chase seconded the motion.*

Roll Call:

- Wheelles aye
- Los Huertos aye
- Chase aye
- Wade aye
- Husari aye
- Jani aye
- Gilless aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) – Marc Horny, Chair

- a. Targeted grazing is in the CalVTP now, so RMAC is very focused on education and outreach. Current priorities include:
 - i. Developing a list of individuals offering grazing services. After some initial research, staff discovered that this is already being developed with accompanying outreach materials by Dr. Stephanie Larson. RMAC continues to work with Dr. Larson to complete this effort.
 - ii. RMAC will be hosting a workshop on September 16th in the Natural Resources Building centered around grazing for fuel reduction.
 - iii. Kevin Conway, State Forests Manager is working with RMAC, staff, and UCCE to incorporate grazing in the Management Plans for targeted Demonstration State Forests.
 - iv. RMAC is continually working to develop annotated bibliographies and keep abreast of current rangeland science as it relates to California.
 - v. CLFA will be hosting its Fall Workshop on November 8th in

Anderson and RMAC will be providing a presentation at this event to encourage integrated vegetation management and collaboration between RPFs, CRMs, and Targeted Grazing services.

CONCLUSION

Public Forum

Andrea Eggleton, CLFA – Andrea read aloud a letter from CFLA's current president regarding the MOU with CAL FIRE which facilitates archeology training for natural resource professionals. The letter expresses concerns that the CAL FIRE archaeological program has lost key professionals which has presented challenges for continued training for CLFA membership.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
ATTEST:



Matthew Dias
Executive Officer



Keith Gilles
Chair