DRAFT BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING MINUTES

Sacramento, CA

March 4, 2020

# **BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEMBERS**:

## **Present**:

* Keith Gilless, Chair
* Katie Delbar
* Rich Wade
* Susan Husari
* Mike Jani

## **Absent:**

* Marc Los Huertos
* Darcy Wheeles
* Chris Chase

# **BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

* Matt Dias, Executive Officer
* Eric Hedge, Regulations Program Manager
* Dan Stapleton, Licensing Officer
* Jeff Slaton, Board Counsel
* Deniele Cade, SSA, Licensing
* Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager
* Brandi Goss, Environmental Scientist
* Katie Harrell, Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation
* Linda Cano, Executive Assistant

# **DEPARTMENTAL STAFF PRESENT**:

* Craig Tolmie, Chief Deputy Director
* Helge Eng, Deputy Director Resource Management
* Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director, Forest Practice
* Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program
* Bill Solinsky, Forester III, THP Administration
* Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection and Improvement
* Nadia Tase, Senior Environmental Scientist, FRAP
* Stacy Stanish, Forest Practice Biologist, Resource Management
* Suzanne Lang, GID Manager
* John Ramaley, Cascade, Sierra & Southern Regions Forest Practice Manager
* Rich Klug, Environmental Scientist

# NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY STAFF PRESENT:

* Jessica Morse, Deputy Secretary for Forest Management

# **Announcement of Action(s) Taken in Executive Session**:

Jeff Slaton, Board Counsel, reported that they discussed the items on the agenda during closed session. In regards to case CP-18-21A, the Board adopted the ALJ Proposed Decision with a modification deleting the payment plan language.

# Consent Calendar Items

1. Approval of December 11, 2020, December 30, 2020 and January Board Meeting Minutes (with minor edits if requested by members of the Board);
2. Review of Rulemaking Matrix

***03-20-01* Chair Gilless moved to approve the items on the Consent Calendar, with deferral of action on January minutes. Member Jani seconded.**

**Roll Call:**

**Wade aye**

**Husari aye**

**Jani aye**

**Delbar aye**

**Gilless aye**

**The motion passed unanimously with three members absent.**

# MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

## **Report of the Chairman, Dr. Keith Gilless:**

Chair Gilless reported on his trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the meetings of the Committee for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching and the National Association of University Forest Resource Programs, which is why he was unable to attend the committee meeting.

## Report of the Director, Craig Tolmie

* Chief Tolmie reported that Director Porter was at the Aerial Firefighting North America Conference at McClellan and that Director Porter sent his apologies for not being able to attend the Board meeting.
* Chief Tolmie also provided a PowerPoint presentation on the CAL FIRE Seasonal Outlook for 2020.

## Report of Executive Officer

* Staffing Updates: Mr. Dias introduced Daniele Cade who was recently hired as the Staff Services Analyst in the Professional Forester’s Registration office. It was also reported that candidate has also been selected for the Board’s Attorney III position. The Board also recently advertised a Staff Services Manager I position and Board staff looks to fill the position soon.
* Executive Officer Dias provided an overview of the Legislative Report, and
* Provided an update on the United States Fish and Wildlife Service public meetings focused upon the Northern Spotted Owl.

## Report of the Regulations Coordinator

1. Board consideration of the approval of the Final Statement of Reasons and adoption of the regulatory text for the rulemaking action entitled Southern Subdistrict and Marin Co. Point Count Amendments (14 CCR §§ 913.8, 926.1, 926.8, 926.25, 927.9, 927.10 & 927.16). The proposed rulemaking action is intended to make the stocking standards within the Southern Subdistrict of the Coast Forest District consistent with the recently amended minimum resource conservation standards of the Coast Forest District and to improve the clarity of the regulations.

**03-20-02Member Jani moved to approve the Final Statement of Reasons for the rulemaking entitled Southern Subdistrict and Marin County Point Count Amendments. Member Wade seconded.**

**Roll Call:**

**Wade aye**

**Husari aye**

**Jani aye**

**Delbar aye**

**Gilless aye**

**The motion passed unanimously with three members absent.**

**03-20-03Member Jani moved to adopt the draft regulatory text for the rulemaking entitled Southern Subdistrict and Marin County Point Count Amendments, and authorize staff to take all actions reasonably necessary to have the adopted regulations go into effect, including making appropriate non-substantive changes an any changes to facilitate OAL review and approval.**

**Roll Call:**

**Wade aye**

**Husari aye**

**Jani aye**

**Delbar aye**

**Gilless aye**

**The motion passed unanimously with three members absent.**

## Report of the Standing Committees

### Joint Management and Forest Practice Committee – Rich Wade

Chair Wade reported out on the issues discussed in committee, which included:

* Discussion of existing Forest Practice Rules within 14 CCR §§ 914.2 [934.2, 954.2], and 914.3[934.3, 954.3] pertaining to limitations on the use of ground-based equipment in cable and tractor yarding areas, and discussion of potential regulatory or non-regulatory actions,
* Discussion of regulatory amendments to 14 CCR §§ 1052.4 “Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction” for the purposes of permanent rulemaking.

**03-20-04Member Wade moved to approve the Initial Statement of Reasons for the Rulemaking entitled “Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction” and authorize noticing for the 45-Day comment period. Member Jani seconded.**

**Roll Call:**

**Wade aye**

**Husari aye**

**Jani aye**

**Delbar aye**

**Gilless aye**

**The motion passed unanimously with three members absent**

* Chair Wade discussed the re-assessment of existing “Group A” and “Group B” commercial species (14 CCR § 895.1), and
* Provided an update on discussion on Limited Timber Operators License and Timber Operator Education (14 CCR §§ 1022.1 and 1024).

**03-20-05Member Wade moved to approve the Initial Statement of Reasons for the rulemaking entitled “LTO Education and Limited LTO Amendments” and authorize noticing for the 45-Day comment period. Member Jani seconded.**

**Roll Call:**

**Wade aye**

**Husari aye**

**Jani aye**

**Delbar aye**

**Gilless aye**

**The motion passed unanimously with three members absent.**

### Resource Protection Committee – Member Sue Husari

Member Husari reported out on the issues discussed in committee, which included:

* Discussed Revisions to 14 CCR § 1299 Defensible Space Regulations, and
* Provided an update on Fire Safety Survey efforts.

## Report of the Advisory Committees

### Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation – Katie Harrell, Joint Institute Program Analyst

* Ms. Harrell reported that the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation “Literature Review and Evaluation of Research Gaps to Support Wood Products Innovation” report was finalized, per the Board’s recommendation at the January meeting. The report has been submitted to the Governor’s Office and is pending review prior to final publication.

# Special Board Hearing and Reports

**Presentation: Update on Forest Carbon Accounting Reporting –** Nadia Tase, Senior Environmental Scientist. Ms. Tase provided an update on the California Mill Efficiency component of the program.

**Presentation: Update on the ongoing Development of Regional Spotted Owl Resources Plan –** Stacy Stanish, CAL FIRE Senior Environmental Scientist; Bob Hawkins, DFW Region 1 Timber Program Manager; Suzanne Lang, CAL FIRE GIS Manager; Amy Atangan, CAL FIRE GIS Specialist

# CONCLUSION

## Public Forum

**Richard Gienger, Forests Forever**: Mr. Gienger commented that he enjoyed attending the Society of American Foresters conference. He would like to see standards and incentives developed to maintain healthy forests for future generations.

## Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Signature of Matt Dias, Executive Officer

Matthew Dias

Executive Officer

Keith Gilless

Chair