

California SAF Executive Committee/Board of Directors Conference Call June 11, 2020 - Minutes

1. Call to Order (All) – by Chair John Todd at 1100.
2. Introductions/Establishment of Quorum (All) – All BOD members present on call. Quorum established. Present: John Todd, Tim Robards, Jane LaBoa, John Bradford, John Kessler, Josh Soderlund, Nick Dennis, Tamara Hanna, Alex Flores, J Lopez, Kathleen Burr, Mike De Lasaux, Rachelle Hedges, Ricky Satomi, Keith Gillless, Thibault Hoppe-Glosser.
3. Approval of April 9th, 2020, Meeting Minutes (Todd) – Per Mike De LaSaux: Diane had conducted an interview for a coordinator but a coordinator was not hired. John Kessler moved to approve the minutes as corrected, 2nd from Josh. Motion approved.
4. SAF Board of Directors Report (Dennis) – Nick’s notes in italics.

The 2020 SAF convention, scheduled for October 29-31, will be a virtual convention. Moving to a virtual convention was necessitated by the operators of the Rhode Island Convention Center, who cancelled their contract with us because the facility will be needed as a pandemic hospital during that time period. National SAF convention staff, led by Carol Redelsheimer, is working to organize this new convention format. Portions of the convention will be pre-recorded and portions will be broadcast live.

The 2021 convention will be held in Sacramento. Cal SAF member (also chair of the state Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and U.C. Berkeley dean emeritus) J. Keith Gilles will serve as the convention’s general chair.

The board of directors authorized CEO Terry Baker to proceed with a lease agreement for a 3,400-square foot office space at 2121 K Street, Washington, DC. The average annual rental cost (including amortized initial costs) over a 10-year lease period is \$188,000. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Project Learning Tree occupy offices in the same building. Terry expects the move to occur in September.

A “statement of solidarity” on the ongoing George Floyd protests will be emailed to the membership today. It was signed by the CEO, president, vice-president, and immediate past president. The letter emphasizes SAF’s commitment to welcoming, affirming, and valuing all voices.

Position statements on forest management, carbon, and climate change; parcelization, fragmentation, and loss of private forest land; and regulation of genetically modified organisms were renewed by the board of directors at our April meeting.

Nominations for all national awards were approved at our June board meeting. Cal SAF and Southern San Joaquin Chapter member Brian Rueger will receive the Presidential Field Forester award for District 3 “at” the convention in October. The District 3 fellows committee declined to nominate any members for fellow this year, and no Cal SAF members will be honored with national awards this year. Appalachian SAF regularly nominates several of its members for national awards, and usually several of these nominations are approved. Cal SAF should consider nominating more deserving members for national awards. A conference call with all chairs of the district fellows committees will be hosted by Lori Rasor and the chair of the Committee on Professional Recognition to promote consistency across districts regarding evaluation of the two criteria applicable to evaluating fellows.

National staff's application for a federal Paycheck Protection Plan loan/grant was accepted, but the board of directors voted to terminate our application.

The SAF audit committee's review of the certified forester program was accepted by the board of directors. It includes approximately 25 recommendations. These recommendations will next be vetted by staff to develop an action plan to re-invigorate the CF program.

5. Chair Report (Todd) John's notes in italics.

Opening Comments

I hope the new GoToMeeting format works for everyone. COVID-19 will continue to impact all in-person planned activities for the remainder of 2020 (and beyond). FIT has been cancelled for 2020 and FCD will be scaled back or cancelled. We need to discuss what dates in the Fall may work for our traditional 'Summer Meeting.' Potential dates are October 8-9 and October 22-23. Tim mentioned that the later dates are probably to close to the dates for the Virtual National Convention.

Introduction of new Cal SAF Chief Executive Officer – Kathleen Burr

Since our last meeting we were successful in contracting with a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Kathleen Burr, who resides in Acton, California, replaced Executive Director Kevin Locke, effective May 11, 2020. Kathleen has been working on the transition of duties with the Chair, John Bradford, and Kevin Locke. We are excited to have her on board!

Update on Education Program Coordinator position

We were also successful in finding a new Education Program Coordinator. Lisa Fischer of Davis, California signed a contract on May 11. However, on May 26 she contacted me asking to be released from her contract. At this time, with limited FIT and FCD activity planned for 2020, Mike De Lasaux will continue in the role of Interim Education Program Coordinator.

SAF Virtual Town Hall

As SAF Virtual Town Hall was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. SAF President Tammy Cushing and DAF CEO Terry Baker were Town Hall guests. They discussed SAF's diversity and inclusion efforts and provided an update on the sale of the SAF Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. There was also an important discussion about SAF policy statements. See link for a recording of the Town Hall.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWuYVF2Gh5o&feature=youtu.be>

California SAF (Cal SAF) Formal Abbreviation

The need to adopt one formal abbreviation to represent California SAF has become apparent since the reunification of NorCal SAF and SoCal SAF. This is important as we open new accounts, apply for grants, and sign other official documents. Several abbreviations have been in use, including CSAF, CaSAF, CA SAF, CalSAF and probably a couple of others. After an informal poll of the Executive Committee, Cal SAF has been adopted as the formal abbreviation for California SAF. Mike De Lasaux made a motion to accept the official abbreviation, 2nd Tim Robards. Motion passed.

New Cal SAF Policy Chair

After several years as Cal SAF Policy Chair, John Kessler has asked me to find a replacement. I am happy to announce that Ryan Foote, who works in Operations for Mountain G Enterprises, Inc. in Folsom, will be appointed Cal SAF Policy Chair. Ryan is a young SAF member who is enthused about getting more involved in the Society. He has attended several recent Cal SAF meetings.

Cal SAF Letterhead and Logo

I included a copy of the Cal SAF Letterhead with the SAF sanctioned logo when I sent out the agenda. We can still use the logo Cal SAF developed for our 100th anniversary, but it should be used in conjunction with SAF sanctioned logo. I will send out an additional letterhead with both logos.

HSD 'Virtual' Conference Call

The annual House of Society Delegates (HSD) Meeting will be held virtually immediately prior to the 2020 National Convention. Our first planning meeting for HSD is scheduled for June 23, 2020. I will be participating as Chair of California SAF. Chief-Elect Tim Robards has also been invited to participate.

SAF statement regarding George Floyd/BLM movement

In the wake of recent national events, I was contacted and asked if Cal SAF would be sending out a statement of support and understanding. I also received feedback that SAF should remain neutral and not enter this discussion. I consulted with President Cushing and she confirmed National SAF would be sending a message to all members. The SAF Solidarity Statement was sent to all SAF members on Wednesday, June 10. Following a discussion, Mike De Lasaux made a motion to endorse the national statement. Josh Soderlund and J Lopez 2nd the motion. Further discussion. Voted on the motion. Motion passed. [Per the motion that was passed by the Board of Directors during the Cal SAF Executive Committee Meeting, John Todd sent a message to all Cal SAF member email addresses stating that Cal SAF strongly endorsed the SAF Solidarity Statement on Friday, June 12.]

Next meeting

*Our next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 13 at 11 AM.***

6. Vice Chair Report (Robards)
 - a. 2020 ~~Summer~~ Fall Meeting Update – May have a meeting in October as a traditional summer meeting is not practical this year. Looking at creative possibilities but there are many restrictions that we are be facing, as well as health considerations for older members.
7. Chief Executive Officer Report (Burr)
 - a. Self-introduction – experience with CLFA, Farm Bureau (Antelope Valley), Vegetation Management Conference. Suggesting Anderson for the fall meeting. Would be able to social distance at the facility she has in mind.
 - b. 2020 Francis Raymond Award – no nominations were received so the nomination period has been extended for a month.
 - c. She has been working on getting the files from Kevin Locke.
8. Treasurer's Report (Bradford)
 - a. Working on providing John T. and Kathleen account access to the new US Bank accounts. Bank of America accounts are still open until the transition to US Bank is complete. Mike De Lasaux made a motion to approve the transition from Bank of America to US Bank (for the record), John Kessler and John Bradford 2nd. Discussion. Mike also noted that John Bradford should not close the Band of America accounts until all the grants are closed out.
 - b. A few costs, but no income from grants or donations for FIT (all FIT sessions cancelled). Dues are the only source of income right now. As a result, we're -\$10,000 so far this year and we will have to dip into our reserves to cover the deficit. We will need to revise the budget to reflect the current (unique) situation. Tad Mason is working on deferring

2020 FIT donations to 2021. John Todd made a motion for John B to develop a revised budget, John Kessler 2nd. Motion approved.

9. Secretary's Report (LaBoa) – nothing new to report

10. Committee Reports

- a. Awards (Lydick) - not on call. Per her email, Julie is trying to get some money for the steam donkey maintenance.
- b. Communication (Hoppe-Glosser) – mostly worked on the website, but looking for direction on the communications plan.
- c. Education (Todd)
 - i. 2020 FIT Status (De Lasaux) – all sessions cancelled.
 - ii. 2020 FCD Status (Dukleth) – Josh had an email from Diane Dukleth. They are in contact with the schools and will decide at the end of this month (June) on if to proceed with 2020 FCD.
 - iii. FIT/FCD UC Endowment (Todd) – timing is off this year because of the pandemic. Other factors such as fundraising is complicated this year. Board members were feeling rushed, so John Todd decided that pursuing the endowment in 2020 is not the best action under the current circumstances.
- d. Membership (Hanna) – no information from Julie Lydick. Tamara doesn't have any new membership information since her report on the last conference call. The membership committee still exists, but the Covid situation stopped momentum. John Todd will be working with Tamara on the SoCal chapter dues issue.
- e. Policy/Legislation (Kessler)
 - i. New Policy Chair – Ryan Foote. Transitioning with John Kessler soon.
- f. Sub-Committee Report
 - i. How to Boost Student Involvement in CA SAF (Lydick/All) – Julie sent Tamara a briefing paper.

11. SAF National Convention 2021, Sacramento, CA (Todd/Gilless) - Keith Gilless will be the general chair for the 2021 national convention. He is already engaging with the national planning group and explained the current process. Some of the processes from the 2020 virtual convention may still be in place for the 2021 convention, which may be a hybrid. Keith will be writing John Todd a letter outlining the local (Cal SAF) needs for the 2021 convention, roles and responsibilities. There may be opportunities to recruit attendees who would otherwise be limited (cost, time off) by a traditional convention, but would attend a virtual convention. Keith will be reporting out to the BOD/EC after each meeting with the national group.

12. New Business

- a. Five-year Strategic Plan – John Todd will be working on it this summer and can use volunteers to help if they are interested.
- b. Diversity program discussion. Hiring at CalFire.

13. Adjourn – John Todd motion to adjourn. John Kessler 2nd. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1317. Note: Next EC/BOD will be August 13 at 11 a.m.