

California Society of American Foresters
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting August 13, 2020

1. Call to Order (All) at 1100.
2. Introductions/Establishment of Quorum (All) John Todd, Tim Robards, Nick Dennis, Jane LaBoa, John Bradford, John Kessler, Josh Soderlund, Kathleen Burr, Julie, Lydick, Thibault Hoppe-Glosser, Mike De Lasaux, Rick Satomi, Dave Bakke, Alex Flores, J Lopez.
3. Approval of June 11th, 2020, Meeting Minutes (Todd): Correction: BOD decision not to pursue the 2020 grant (i.e., was the consensus of the BOD). John Bradford moved to approve with the correction, John Kessler 2nd. Motion approved.
4. SAF Board of Directors Report (Dennis) – Brief report. Had recent BOD zoom meeting. Approximately 15 standing committees, charters are being reviewed. Staff changes. What to do with Hawaii/Pacific Islands SAF (possible merge with Cal SAF?). Only 16 current members. Now in the information gathering phase. Nick is in favor of inviting Hawaii SAF to join Cal SAF. Discussion. John Todd likes the idea but is concerned about possible legal/paperwork issues after having just gone through the NorCal/SoCal merge. J Lopez concerned about another consolidation of a state society. Nick said there are no other state societies looking at merging now. Jane asked if it was possible to have the HI members as a new chapter of Cal SAF, a “out-of-state” chapter. Nick suggests having a decision (motion) at the next/October EC meeting.
5. Chair Report (Todd) – Chair’s notes in italics below
Enhanced Communication to Cal SAF Members

I have been discussing with Thibault and Kathleen how to enhance our communication to Cal SAF members, and at the same time, encourage individuals to frequent our website for the latest forestry information.

Thibault has some ideas about how we could enhance our website’s job and project listing. Kathleen can provide information that is regularly shared in the CLFA newsletter. While we discussed re-starting a Cal SAF newsletter, this can be a heavy lift as it requires a Newsletter Editor to frequently hound others to provide content.

Instead of going with a revised newsletter, I envision short email message sent directly to members email addresses (like the one that was sent on August 5). This update would also include timely messages from other EC members (CEO, Awards Chair, Chapter Chairs, etc.) pertinent to members interest. After being sent to members, the short email messages would then be posted on the website on a page titled ‘Messages from Cal SAF Leadership’ or some other appropriate name. The Chair could provide an updated message every other month (6 per year). Other EC members could be asked for quarterly updates (4 per year) but probably would not need to provide that many. The goal is to provide timely info to Cal SAF members, so they know what is happening with SAF and forestry around the state. If members miss a message or two, they can refer to the website where all recent messages would be posted.

2020 SAF National Convention

Please encourage all members to attend the 2020 SAF Virtual National Convention that will take place on October 29-31, 2021. This year promises to be a unique event. You will have an opportunity to review all concurrent sessions that interest you as they will be recorded. Registration cost is about half the normal National Convention cost.

Considering our limited budget for 2020 and the fact that registration is my only cost, I will forgo any reimbursement from Cal SAF for convention expenses this year.

House of Society Delegates (HSD) Meeting Update:

The HSD Meeting will take place preceding the National Convention on October 27-28. Both myself and Chair-elect Tim Robards have taken part in conference calls and planning for this annual meeting of State Society Leaders and SAF Leadership. Items that have been discussed to date include changes to the HSD Charter and submission of Success Stories and Issues and Actions forms.

Regarding the name of Executive Director position: Email discussion about not changing the name to "CEO" (reference notes from the 2019 EC summer meeting at Mammoth about being in alignment with the current organization). Per Bill Snyder, the CEO title is not required per the bylaws. Mike De Lasaux pointed out that the position was advertised and filled as "CEO." John Todd would like more discussion prior to the next meeting and possibly make a decision at the next meeting.

6. Vice Chair Report (Robards)
 - a. 2020 Fall Meeting Update (summer meeting replacement) – Thursday Oct 1 EC meeting, Friday Oct. 2 for virtual field meeting at three locations. Tim is still working out the technological logistics, especially interaction among participants. Unclear what we should charge for the meeting.
 - b. 2021 Winter Meeting planning – Tim is assuming the meeting will be virtual, but there may be options. Would like to do a job fair as part of the meeting. Kathleen mentioned planning for the FVMC (veg conference) meeting.
7. Treasurer's Report (Bradford) – see handouts
 - a. Budget presentation (last 5 years overview) – Expenses up, income down. John Todd encouraged everybody to reduce expenses as much as possible.
 - b. Updated 2020 budget – FCD 2020 is cancelled. Discussion – Summer/Fall meeting will charge at least enough to cover the software costs. The national convention could provide guidance on how to charge. Jane encouraged the organizers to ask members to donate extra to support the organization this year. John will make more changes in the budget and sent it out again for approval by the BOD. Later in the meeting, Kathleen suggested a closer look at FIT expenses with the objective of closing the gap between income and expenses that has occurred in the last few years. She would also like to rearrange the Quickbooks accounting categories. She will work on that with our accountant/CPA and treasurer. Kathleen supports sending more emails (personal messages), not just relying on the website.
8. Secretary's Report (LaBoa) – nothing new to report.
9. SAF National Convention 2021, Sacramento, CA (Gillless)
10. Committee Reports
 - a. Audit (Gary Brittner as presented by John Todd)
 - i. 2019 Audit Report – John reviewed the recommendations.
 - b. Awards (Lydick) – See handouts.
 - i. Steam Donkey Project Update – donations reached \$1350. John Nicoles will present the check to Turtle Bay.
 - ii. California SAF Awards Program – Nominations need to be submitted to the BOD by 31 October for awards at the winter meeting.
 - c. Communication (Hoppe-Glosser)
 - i. 2020 Communication Plan – Thibault would like a committee that includes other officers.
 - ii. There's a new contract for the website. He is willing to volunteer as necessary, but he hasn't had much feedback or new content from the board. John Todd said now when Thibault has questions, John will send out emails to involve EC members. Nick and John Todd emphasized that EC/BOD members need to

submit updates to Thibault for posting on the website. Mike De Lasaux suggested that Thibault set and enforce deadlines for update submission, similar to what the newsletter editor did in the past. Nick suggested working on this issue and providing an update at the next EC meeting.

d. Education (Todd)

- i. FIT (De Lasaux) – See handout. Budget concerns for 2021 sessions. Reviewed status of grants.
 - ii. FCD is cancelled for 2020.
 - iii. Funding/Grants: Per Mike De Lasaux, Tad Mason is doing the private donations. Tad sent out a couple of letters to donators as the 2020 FIT sessions situation changed.
- e. Membership: Tamara Hanna is assigned to a fire.
- f. Policy/Legislation - Todd: Ryan Foote is the new policy chair but our EC meetings conflict with his schedule. John Todd and John Kessler will reach out to Ryan.
- g. Sub-Committee Report
- i. How to sustain Student Involvement in CA SAF...*job fair at Winter Meeting (All)*

11. Chapter Reports

Bay Area (Dave Bakke) – see earlier discussion about the virtual meeting in the Chair Report. Dave is still receiving comments about the success of the meeting.

Alex Flores updated Cal Poly Student Chapter activities which have been minimal. They organized a book club. They are working with Tim Robards on the SLO part of the Fall/Summer virtual meeting.

12. Motion to adjourn by John Kessler, 2nd by Tim Robards. Meeting adjourned at 1307.