

California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting - December 10, 2020

Minutes

1. Call to Order (All) at 1100.
2. Introductions/Establishment of Quorum (All): Quorum established. Present: John Todd, Tim Robards, Kathleen Burr, Josh Soderlund, Jane LaBoa, John Bradford, Julie Lydick, Dave Bakke, Tom Francis, Ricky Satomi, Alex Flores, Tamara Hanna, John Kessler, Bill Snyder, Rachelle Hedges, Keith Gillless, J Lopez.
3. Review Agenda
4. Approval of October 1st, 2020, Meeting Minutes (Todd) – Minutes were sent out for review. They will be approved at the next EC meeting.
5. Chair Report (Todd – notes in italics)

2020 SAF National Convention

For the first time, SAF held a virtual National Convention. While I felt the format worked, this is not how I would like to attend the Convention in the future. One of the pleasures of going to the Convention is going to a part of the country you might not otherwise have travelled to and learning about their forests, issues in the region, and taking in the local culture and flavor of the area. For this reason, I almost always go on a field tour at the Convention. I missed not being able to travel to Providence this year.

Technically, the program, which mostly consisted of webinars and zoom meetings, worked for me. Like the last few conventions, use of the Convention app was key in finding and attending content you wanted to view. While I was able to review some of the posters, the vendor fair was difficult for me to appreciate virtually. I did appreciate the later start on the east coast, so we did not have to start Zooming at 6 AM. I understand that some members had technical difficulties and found the program difficult to access. This is important feed back that needs to be shared with SAF leadership. Convention attendees can now access Convention content and on-line CFEs can be earned through December 31, 2020.

During the Closing Plenary session, it was announced that SAF was close to finalizing Baltimore, Maryland as the location of the 2022 National Convention. Co-Convention Chairs Keith Gillless and Damian Adams invited all SAF members to the 2021 National Convention in Sacramento, CA, where our theme will be “Forests for All.”

House of Society Delegates Meeting

The HSD meeting took place on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. One of the interesting programs provided was from Membership Director Steven Glover. Steven was honest about the state of current SAF membership and the need to revive efforts, data, and support in this area. Areas of concern include different membership types and the number of Golden members who no longer pay dues (14%). One of the State Society action items was a request to collect State and Chapter dues from willing Golden members. This proposal was tabled as Mr. Glover stated changes to membership classification will be forthcoming. At the close of the meeting, Kamran Abdollahi was elected HSD Chair-Elect for 2021.

Dissolution of Hawaii SAF

On December 5, 2020, the SAF Board voted to dissolve Hawaii SAF. As previously approved by the Cal SAF Board, the members of Hawaii SAF will be invited to join Cal SAF. If Hawaii SAF members want to join a Cal SAF chapter, their default choice will be the Southern California Chapter.

John appreciated everybody's support and help during this unusual year.

6. Vice Chair Report (Robards)
 - a. 2021 Winter Meeting (February 5, EC meeting on 2/4). planning – See handout. Fire theme, 9-4 with lunch break, focus on panels (which might be more interesting than 1 person speaking for an hour for a virtual meeting). Discussion. John Todd suggested a shorter meeting. Julie Lydick asked for time for the awards. Bill Snyder pointed out we need a business meeting per our bylaws.
7. Past Chair Report (Soderlund)
 - a. Officer nominations – Reached out to several people. Rochelle Hedges may be willing to serve. Ballot needs to go out asap. Goal would be to announce Chair-elect at the Winter Meeting.
8. Chief Executive Officer Report (Burr)
 - a. Fall Meeting Summary - \$1,300+ revenue from Fall Meeting.
 - b. December Newsletter – should be sent out within a few days. Mostly updates, a calendar of upcoming events, article by Alex about Swanton Pacific.
 - c. Ricky has the key to the storage unit in Redding. Kathleen would like to move documents to the storage unit. Ricky pointed out that the current unit is not climate controlled and we might have to upgrade to successfully store documents. Kathleen will be purging some of the documents she received from Kevin. She will scan photos.
 - d. Email update. Trying to get a new email server because MCN is so limited in sending mass emails.
9. Treasurer's Report (Bradford)
 - a. Proposed 2021 budget (see handouts) – Good news is that we are under our projected expenses for CY 2020 and are in good shape. Working on the 2021 budget.
 - b. Almost everything has been migrated from BofA to US Bank.
10. Secretary's Report (LaBoa) – Nothing new to report
 - a. Leadership Roster Updates – Jane will send the final roster when we have a new Chair-Elect.
11. SAF National Convention 2021, Sacramento, CA (Gilles) – We should plan for an in-person 2021 convention. The Program Committee has been pulled together. Keith was given many good suggestions for tours but moving forward on specifics and volunteers is a priority right now. John Todd offered to meet soon with Keith to help. Day tours should be 1.5-hour drive from Sacramento or less.
12. Committee Reports
 - a. Awards (Lydick) – Working on a Francis Raymond award nomination for CA Forest Pest Council. Julie needs nominations for regular awards now so she can order plaques.
 - b. Communication (Hoppe-Glosser)
 - c. Education – John Todd and Ricky Satomi mentioned that CCI grants might be a possibility for future grant funding.
 - i. FIT (De Lasaux – not on call) Ricky discussed possible strategies for FIT2.
 - ii. FCD (Dukleth – not on call)
 - iii. Funding/Grants (Mason – not on call)
 - d. Membership (Hanna) – see handout. Tamara encouraged the EC to look at Leadership Central. SAF total membership is <10,000 now. John Todd related membership information from the HSD meeting from Steven Glover. Tamara is frustrated that she is can't get information about new members from the SAF website so she can reach out and welcome them.
13. Chapter Reports

Bay Area – Dave Bakke: Virtual meeting about wood technology (10 members attended). Hoping to have a virtual planning meeting. City of Oakland has issued its draft vegetation plan and the chapter may be providing comments. Dave went out to a Rx burn in Orinda and would like to write an article about the project, which is a large fuelbreak in an urban area.

Forty Niner Chapter – Tom Francis: haven't had any meetings due to Covid. Will be recruiting new officers.

Cal Poly Student Chapter – Alex Flores – they have been having virtual meetings with good turnout. They will be resuming weekly meetings in January. John Todd encouraged members to get involved in the Cal Poly meetings.

14. New Business

a. Bill Snyder and J Lopez gave updates.

15. Motion to adjourn by Bill Snyder and 2nd by John Bradford. Meeting adjourned at 1300.