

California Society of American Foresters
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2021, Shaver Lake, CA

1. Call to Order (All) 0910
2. Introductions/Establishment of Quorum (All) John Mount gave an overview of the museum. Tim Robards, Rachelle Hedges, John Bradford, Jane LaBoa, John Todd, Kathleen Burr, Nick Dennis, J Lopez, Dave Bakke, Gary Brittner, Rick Satomi, Patrick Osborn, Josh Soderlund, ten Reedley College students, Renaldo Arroyo, Javier Garcia. Quorum established.
3. Review Agenda
4. Posting of June 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes (Robards) – need to send out and approve via email.
5. National SAF Board of Directors Report (Dennis) – From September newsletter:
At our July Board of Directors meeting, we unanimously approved CEO Terry Baker's request to depart from our established maximum annual draw from our investment fund, which is capped at 3.5% of fund value, by an annual increase of approximately \$400,000 in 2022-2024. Our investment fund was formed largely from the proceeds of the sale of the Bethesda Wild Acres property several years ago, and this fund has increased along with the stock market and with the recent sale of the SAF headquarters. In 2018 the board established the allowable annual draw of 3.5% to supplement annual operating revenues, allowing for departures from this ceiling based on a two-thirds vote of the board. This super-majority requirement was intended to ensure that departures from the cap on the allowable draw would only be allowed under special circumstances and after due consideration by the board. In my opinion, the requested increase in the allowable draw is justified primarily because (1) our investment fund increased by more than \$4 million in 2020 fueled by the bull stock market, and (2) Terry presented a compelling case for the need to capitalize on opportunities to advance the mission of SAF by making strategic staff additions. I firmly believe that, rather than having our investment fund grow indefinitely, we should actively use our resources to strengthen SAF in the service of the forestry profession and the nation's forest resources. Based in part on the resulting increase in operating funds, SAF intends to fill two existing open positions and seven new positions over the next year.
Another major administrative initiative was approved by the board in July: national SAF will begin helping state societies incorporate under their state's statutes. Recent discussions between national and a state society regarding federal tax filing provided strong evidence that national SAF's 401c3 non-profit status could be threatened by state society failures to properly file federal income tax returns. Currently four state societies, including California SAF, are independently incorporated and thus required to individually file federal tax returns. The Internal Revenue Service considers the remaining state societies to be subordinate entities to national SAF, each of which is required to file a post card-type tax return. However, some state societies have been negligent in this regard (Hawaii SAF, for example, which ultimately resulted in its being deactivated last year), and national SAF has concluded that such negligence poses a potential serious threat to our tax-exempt status. This board action will not require any state society to immediately seek incorporation. Rather, it allows national to begin encouraging and helping state societies to incorporate, including providing legal resources to facilitate incorporation. The good news for Cal SAF is we're already incorporated, so this initiative won't affect us!
The board was unfortunately reminded of the divisiveness that rents the nation when District 11 (Texas) representative Buddy Stalnacker resigned from the board last month based on

what he perceived as the embrace of “the LGBTQ lifestyle” _by national SAF, as evidenced by a Pride Month greeting that had been posted on national’s Facebook page. In accordance with the bylaws, Buddy has been replaced by Eric Gage, who was runner-up in the 2019 election for the District 11 board seat. This episode underscores that furthering SAF’s mission means focusing on the science and practice of forestry, while promoting broader societal goals, such as achieving greater diversity, equity, and inclusion, only through careful, deliberate, respectful, and majoritarian positions and actions.

The appointment of a district representative runner-up to complete the term of a resigning board member shows the importance of having at least two candidates run for each district representative seat. To my recollection, District 3 has not fielded more than one candidate in our district elections for well over a decade. However, that will change this year, as District 3 has two candidates running to succeed me on the board: Karin Linnen and John Todd. Thanks to Karin and John for stepping up!

A final note from the July board meeting is that District 2 (Oregon) representative Mark Buckbee and a few other members complimented Cal SAF on our webpage and especially on our oral history series chronicling the careers of long-time SAF members. Thank you to Wendy Snyder and her team for your extensive contributions to this excellent project!

SAF has joined with 85 natural resource organizations in supporting the leading current forest resilience legislative initiative, the Resilient Federal Forest Act, sponsored by Arkansas representative Bruce Westerman, the only forester now serving in Congress.

SAF formally welcomed Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsak’s appointment of long-time Region 5 Regional Forester Randy Moore as the 20th chief of the U.S. Forest Service and the first African American chief. SAF is committed to collaborating with Chief Moore to address the pressing issues facing the national forest system.

SAF will be playing a larger role going forward as a Silver Sponsor of the Capitol Christmas Tree program. This year’s Capitol Christmas Tree will be harvested from the Six Rivers National Forest, and national is working with Cal SAF to create ornaments and conduct events as the tree travels enroute to Washington.

Chair Tom Martin will lead a House of Society Delegates meeting on Tuesday, September 14 starting at 12:30 Pacific Time. The meeting will be devoted to progress and developments regarding business structure and governance.

Convention registration will remain open until November 1. SAF is seeking donations of items to the upcoming convention’s virtual auction to support Foresters Fund and the Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund grants. September 15 is the deadline for the current round of Foresters Fund grant applications.

1. Chair Report (Robards)
 - a. 2021 New Member Outreach – Tim sent personal letters to student members.
 - b. 2021/23 SAF National Conventions – virtual in 2021, 2022 in=person in Baltimore, 2023 in-person Sacramento
 - i. General Chair for 2023 needed. Tim is compiling a list of potential candidates. National will contact people on that list.
 - ii. Stipend payment options for hosting the convention. Usually is \$10,000. National is proposing to give Cal SAF \$5000 for work on the 2021 convention then another \$10,000 in 2023. Voted to accept the \$5000 now and put in the general fund. Discussion about earmarking use of the \$5000 for Baltimore convention expenses such as the booth and stipends for travel.
 - iii. HSD: Legal organization of state chapters & D&O insurance. Cal SAF is in a strong position because of our reorganization from the merger. Discussion about being covered by national’s policy for directors’ and officers’ insurance. Gary Brittner made a motion to have Cal SAF covered by national SAF’s D&O insurance. 2nd by John Bradford. Motion approved.
2. Chair-elect Report (Hedges)

- a. 2021 Summer Meeting update – 65 registered for dinner, 60 registered for the field trip.. Masks will be required on the bus. A reporter from National Geographic will be present on the field trip.
 - b. 2022 Winter Meeting planning. Looking for suggestions for topic and location. Possible joint meeting with CLFA? Dates and location would need to be compatible with both organizations. Ricky Satomi suggested a job fair if the meeting was held earlier than March.
 - c. Mentoring Program update. Last year a successful pilot program was launched at UC Berkeley with 21 mentorship pairs. This year the program was opened to several more colleges in CA.
3. Past Chair Report (Todd)
 - a. Strategic Planning – national SAF has a new strategic plan that John Todd has been waiting on so that Cal SAF can tier to that plan.
 - b. Grants- John applied for a Cal Fire CCI grant for FIT and the grant was recently approved. Pays for 60% of eight sessions of FIT (two years). \$160,000.
 - c. Election of next vice-chair – will be making an announcement at the summer meeting. Looking for candidates to try to meet election deadlines.
 4. Executive Director Report (Burr)
 - a. Operations update – website needs maintenance. Will be working on the state next meeting.
 - b. Newsletter just went out. Goal is a newsletter issued every two to three months.
 5. Treasurer’s Report (Bradford) – see handout. We’re in good financial shape, largely because we have prior year funds that haven’t been spent. All bank accounts are now migrated to US Bank. SoCal dues issue has been solved per Tamara Hanna’s request.
 6. Secretary’s Report (LaBoa) – nothing to report other than a request to get the website maintained.
 7. Committee Reports
 - a. Audit (Brittner) – Ongoing audit of positions (key officers and consultants). Gary will then conclude the audit and mail it out. Nick suggested we consider hiring a professional auditor. Discussion.
 - b. Awards (Lydick/Robards) – will be awards ceremony at the winter meeting. Successful with CFPC for the Francis Raymond award at the next in-person BOF meeting. John A. Beale award to Tom Catchpole. The award is for promotion of forestry through voluntary service to SAF.
 - c. Communication
 - i. The website needs a new website administrator (person to update). We are satisfied with the platform Carlin developed. Gary Brittner will put an item in the next Sac-Tahoe newsletter. Gary’s knows of a local person who may be available. John Todd will send the latest version of the webmaster contract. Dave Bakke and Jane LaBoa are willing to do the work as volunteers if they can get a download meeting with Thibault.
 - d. Education
 - i. FIT (Todd) – John recounted the recent history of the Education Committee Chair position and funding. One session held in 2021 (Shasta) because of the pandemic. 16 participants.
 - ii. FCD (Todd) – not sure if FCD will continue. Need to get a new coordinator, probably by this fall so that FCD 2022 can be held. Potential for Reynaldo to become coordinator. Discussion. Tom Catchpole gave a history of FCD and FIT.
 - e. Membership (Todd for T. Hanna) – See handout. 484 members in Cal SAF. Membership has stabilized. Majority are retired, rest are diverse occupations.
 - f. Policy/Legislation (Vacant)

- i. Engagement at federal and/or state level for legislation regarding wildfires?
Discussion about Cal SAL's role.

8. Chapter Reports

Dave Bakke, Bay Area Chapter – newsletter just issued. Holding off on in-person meetings for a while, but virtual meetings will continue at least until the end of the year. Working on a future job fair for local job opportunities once in-person meetings resume.

Gary Brittner, Sac-Tahoe – virtual meeting in March. In-person meeting in April focusing on local fuelbreaks. Field trip to McClellan airbase. Fieldtrip to the Tahoe Donner subdivision in Truckee. Next month a presentation by a SPI forester on tethered logging. November's meeting will feature a presentation by the executive director of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Diane Dukleth, High Sierra – haven't been as active this year, but have held a joint meeting with South San Joaquin chapter and plan to do more in the future

Josh Soderlund, Reedley College – still dealing with pandemic issues, but hoping for an in-person meeting in October.

Rachelle Hedges, Cal Berkeley student chapter – good attendance at last meeting.

John Todd, SoCal – have not been active lately. Tamara is moving to northern California.

John working on getting the chapter going. J Lopez is a new member of the Board of Forestry.

9. New Business

- a. Position descriptions and meeting guide

- b. 2021/2022 Cal SAF meeting schedule (executive and board meetings) John Todd explained the difference between the different sets of officers and the objectives.

- c. Executive Committee positions

- d. Fund raising for general operations – discussion on various suggestions.

10. Motion to adjourn by John Todd, 2nd Rachelle Hedges Adjourned at 1530.