

## Minutes – California SAF Executive Committee Meeting June 8, 2023

1. Call to Order at 12:30.
2. Introductions and Establishment of Quorum: Jane LaBoa, Karin Linnen, Rachelle Hedges, Kathleen Burr, Jon Jue, Elizabeth Buhl, John Bradford, Helena Murry, Dave Bakke, Renaldo Arroyo, Tom Francis, John Todd, Erin Kelly, Bill Keye, Valerie Elder. Quorum established.
3. Review Agenda. No changes to agenda.
4. Approval of March 31<sup>st</sup> ECM Meeting Minutes. Minutes approved.
5. Chair Report (Karin Linnen)  
Connecting with local chapters and organizations re the convention. Kathleen contacting outside organizations, too. Working on convention reception for 2-year colleges. Gift registrations are available. Have developed a list. Tamara Hanna can't attend this meeting. Her report is attached. Julie Lydick can't attend either. Julie Stewart was awarded the 2023 Field Forester award. Karin had to leave meeting temporarily for work. Rachelle taking over.
6. Chair-Elect Report (Helena Murray)  
National Convention Planning- student engagement at lunch event on first day. Looking for volunteer mentors for convention.
7. National Convention (Kelly/Buhl)  
Erin is working on the opening ceremony. Welcoming people to California and SAF. Putting together 30 second videos for collage. Videos can be in the field and on cell phones. Using a contractor to assemble the video, probably around \$1500, which will come out of our budget. Volunteer fell through.  
Elizabeth: Registration is open, please promote the convention.  
Jon Jue said the online volunteer sign up is live on the Cal SAF website.  
Dave Bakke said the tour planning is going fairly well. Still need volunteers, especially in the morning before the buses depart.  
Raffle/ Fundraising (Diane Savin-Dukleth) *As far as the Silent auction/raffle the planning is going great, I have one large item already it is a wine tasting at the Locke Winery in Murphy, CA off of Hwy 4. Plus they are donating some wine that they will ship to someone but it is limited to CA residences only because of licensing for shipping. There will be some advertising coming out soon for the convention and the silent auction showcasing a couple of the donors and the items they are donating. Some donations are coming in and I have been making a lot of*

*inquires with businesses. I have donations from Green Diamond, Sierra Pacific and Sierra Forest Products already. I have items that are promised as donations are; a wood bear carving, sweatshirts, and wood cutting boards from Reedley College to name a few. Please feel free to send me ideas of people and business to solicit for donations. I attached the donation form which has where to send items ahead of the convention and a brochure that has information the Forests and Kurt Gottschalk Science Funds. People can also bring items to the convention and turn them in at the registration table. Can't accept liquor per the convention venue rules but can donate gift cards.*

8. Education (Renaldo Arroyo)  
FIT & FCD Update – 112 participants for the four sessions. Still looking for funding for FCD. Everything running smoothly for now.
9. Policy & Communications (Bill Keye) The big update is the presentation to the BOF in April by Bill Keye, Jane LaBoa and Rob York, plus follow up press release. Bill is working on local communications for the convention.
10. Treasurer Report (John Bradford) – See handout. working with Kathleen on improving the format of profit and loss report and coding. There is also an issue with access for Kathleen.
  - a. Adjusted 2023 Budget – doing well financially. Discussed how to update current budget vs. noting changes for following year's proposed budget.
  - b. Taxes update. 2022 taxes are done and filed with the IRS.
11. Website (Dave Bakke)  
Please let know if you notice any problems with the website. Convention volunteer link is working.
12. Chapter Updates
  - a. Bay Area Chapter (Dave Bakke) – Had successful meetings in April and May, including burning at Russell Reserve. Meeting on 6/28 looking at goat grazing. The chapter sent a letter to Tomales Bay State Park supporting a proposal for vegetation management. Bishop pine forest health is declining. Concerns about fire risk.
  - b. Elder/Kelly - The inactive Jed Smith Chapter (including students) had a meeting last night. Discussed reviving the chapter. There is general interest. Possible name change. Need to find previous bylaws or write new bylaws.
  - c. Bradford - Sac Tahoe had a meeting with YG as speaker. About a dozen people attended. Will probably be our last speaker before the convention.
  - d. High Sierra (Diane Savin-Dukleth) – meeting held at Reedley College, Tom Catchpole was the speaker talking about his Peace Corps experience.
13. Membership (Tamara Hannah) see reports/rosters
14. Secretary Report (Jane LaBoa) nothing new to report

15. District 3 Rep Report (John Todd) –

**Presidential Field Forester**

*The 2023 Presidential Field Forester for District 3 is Julianne Stewart.*

**Fellow Award**

*The 2023 Fellow Award Recipient for District 3 is John Kessler.*

**2023 National Convention**

- *SAF 2023 will be October 25-28, 2023, in Sacramento, CA at the Sacramento Convention Center*
- *The theme is Forestry: It's in Our DNA*
- *The website is live and includes details in the schedule-at-a-glance, hotel rates, sponsor and exhibitor opportunities: <https://eforester.org/safconvention2023>.*

**SAF Responds to Mature & Old-Growth Forest Report**

- *Following the release of the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management's joint report on mature and old-growth forests, SAF issued a statement and sent a message to all SAF members.*
- *The statement continued our push to keep science-based forest management as the focus in conversations around carbon and climate.*
- *SAF also highlighted the 10-year strategy for combatting the wildfire crisis and stressed the need to overlay these efforts.*
- *The next phase of the directive calls for an analysis of threats to these forests.*

*SAF will continue to engage with the agencies and stakeholders as this effort proceeds.*

[READ THE STATEMENT](#)

**Forests in the Farm Bill Platform Unveiled**

- *The Forests in the Farm Bill (FIFB) Coalition Platform is finally ready to share.*
- *FIFB is a diverse coalition of more than a hundred organizations representing a range of interests across the forest sector, including forest owners, conservationists, hunters, anglers, forest industry, and natural resource professionals.*
- *The coalition worked over the past year to build consensus on a set of recommendations focused on improving the forest-related sections of the Farm Bill.*
- *SAF is proud to a part of this effort and fully endorses the platform.*
- *In the coming weeks, SAF will help to spread awareness and understanding of the platform and will continue to support coalition activities.*

**FIA Support Letter for FY 2024**

- *SAF led a coalition letter with 62 organizations supporting increased investments and improvement to the USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis Program.*
- *In FY23, we successfully advocated for a \$10 million increase in program funding.*
- *This request maintains that funding level but urges Congress to increase FIA salaries and expenses to help operationalize program expansion.*
- *In addition, the letter calls for measures to increase transparency for all stakeholders.*

- *Notably, we were also able to attract organizations from beyond our usual circles to support the program – including Environmental Defense Fund, Ecological Society of American, National Wildlife Federation, and The Wilderness Society.*

**Annual Report:**

- *Finished annual report, print copies shipped to office.*
- *Posted to our website and pushed out in marketing emails on April 18, 2023.*

**Capitol Christmas Tree**

- *Lori and Allie are teaming up as co-engagement leads for the [US Capitol Christmas Tree](#)*
- *The 2023 Tree has been announced and will come from West Virginia.*

16. Executive Director Report (Kathleen Burr)

- a. Newsletter deadline within the next 7 days. Will be last newsletter on the old format. Will be going to a new platform.
- b. Working on the shared folder.
- c. New Email address

18. New Business/Announcements – Next meeting is BOD in August 22 at 4:30 pm.  
Next EC meeting Sept 14.

19. Motion to adjourn by John Bradford, Rachele Hedges 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.