

MINUTES – California SAF Executive Committee Meeting September 14, 2023 (virtual)

1. Call to Order at 12:30 pm.
2. Introductions and Establishment of Quorum: Jane LaBoa, Julie Lydick, Karin Linnen, John Todd, Dave Bakke, Reynaldo Arroyo, Julianne Stewart, Kathleen Burr, Helena Murray, Rachelle Hedges, Ricky Satomi, Elizabeth Buhl, Eden Eliahou, Tamara Hanna.
3. Review Agenda
4. Approval of June 8, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – motion to approve by Rachelle Hedges, second by John Todd. Minutes approved.

Reynaldo (who couldn't stay for the whole meeting) had two volunteer requests: FCD in a couple of weeks; volunteers to work the Quiz Bowl at the convention.

5. National SAF Incorporation & By-laws (John Todd) –John explained the background of the incorporation effort, actions to date, and next steps: *California SAF has begun the work to update our Bylaws and to file Amended and Updated Articles of Incorporation. John Todd is taking the lead on this project with assistance from Karin, Kathleen, Lori Rasor, and the team at National SAF. There are several steps that will need to be followed to complete this process prior to the end of 2023. John reviewed the documents that are in the shared folder and the project timeline. Specific Bylaws for California SAF are being updated and the first step will be for the Board of Directors to pass a unanimous resolution initiating this process. John will follow up today's meeting with a comprehensive message and more documents for the Executive Committee to review. An article, introducing this project, has been written for the newsletter and a Zoom meeting will be set up in early October to brief Cal SAF members and answer questions. Approving these necessary changes will require an affirmative vote from members.*

Timeline of Events (handouts in Google drive)

Resolution vote by Board of Directors – Today we have 5 of 7 BOD members present, we need 7 of 7 to approve resolutions. See handout. Documents added to Shared Google folder. Discussion and Q&A with people on the call.

6. Chair Report (Karin Linnen)
New shared Google Folder/Communication in Google Drive. Kathleen is the administrator of the Google Drive. Tentative cost for Convention. Current costs are about \$5,000, which are covered by previous funding from National SAF. Delegate ballot for SAF national vice president is former bay area local.

7. Past-Chair (Rachelle Hedges)

Cost for Thursday evening CA alumni event/Community College students: Rachelle was just sent the menu choices and costs yesterday so she doesn't have an update yet. Estimate is \$50-\$60 per person for food and room cost. All of the community colleges have reached out to Cal SAF. Karin had about 40 CC students respond earlier, so a rough estimate is \$2000.

Rachelle has a few ideas about 2024 chair elect candidates but welcomes more input.

8. Chair-Elect Report (Helena Murray)

Winter meeting Planning – Probably SLO for location. Encouraged people to participate in student mentoring at the convention.

9. National Convention (Buhl) – opening ceremonies video is done and approved. About 1,100 people registered so far which is very good turnout. About 1/3 to 1/2 of volunteer slots filled. Other updates. Q&A. Karin will put together a Cal SAF “dog basket” for the fundraiser. Estimate cost \$150.

Field Tour Update (Dave Bakke) – several tours are full. Everything going ok.

10. Education (Ricky Satomi]

FIT Update – just had a wrap up meeting. Altogether a good year with 4 sessions. Moving up registration to fall so teachers can do easier planning. El Dorado FIT is replacing Plumas FIT. There will be a mini FIT/FIT refresher for FIT grads this October 27-29 which will focus on an individual topic. Austin Roughton is the new education coordinator, but he couldn't be on today's call.

11. Policy & Communications (Julie Stewart)

AB 338 Update – we need to be quicker to respond when a bill changes. We may want to authorize the policy chair to respond. Discussion.

Dave Bakke mentioned HR 2989 Save our Sequoias, which has bipartisan support. Should we be supporting?

Bill Keye (not on the call) has been working on convention outreach. Working with Cal Matters reporter.

12. Website (Dave Bakke) – FCD is straightened out. Convention volunteer link is fixed. Dave emphasized that people who are running programs need to look at their content and the links.

13. Chapter Updates

Sac-Tahoe – (Jane LaBoa) – August field trip on prescribed burn association (PBA). Went to private land outside of Colfax that had been burned last winter.

Bay Area – (Dave Bakke) – Oct. 5, virtual meeting. Topic is PBAs. Will have November joint meeting with UCB students. Have +11 members since June.

15. Secretary Report (Jane LaBoa) – discussed organization of the Google drive folder for minutes and handouts.

16. District 3 Rep Report (John Todd)

Fraud Alert

Recently, hackers used Cal SAF public information to ask Executive Committee members to complete payments to a third party on behalf of our Treasurer. The scam states that John Bradford is not available and can the email recipient pay an invoice on his behalf. Be aware of these sophisticated phishing attempts, and double check with your fellow SAF member before responding to any unusual or suspicious messages.

National Convention Update

- *We heard a lot of great reports about the upcoming National Convention in Sacramento. With over 1100 registrants and over 100 exhibitors already signed up, it looks like SAF 2023 will be a fantastic event. Volunteers are still needed! Go to the California SAF or the National SAF website to sign up.*

<https://eforester.org/safconvention2023>

- *The 2024 National Convention will take place in Loveland, Colorado. Dates are September 15-19.*
- *The 2025 National Convention will take place in Hartford, Connecticut. Dates are October 22-26.*
- *The 2026 National Convention is scheduled to be a joint event with Canada. The location for the event will be announced soon.*

Grant Update

The current CAL FIRE grant that is supporting FIT closes in March 2024. The application that was submitted for a new CAL FIRE grant in March of this year was not approved.

Cal SAF Forestry Youth Education Coordinator

Cal SAF will again look at contracting with a Forestry Youth Education Coordinator in early 2024. This contract will require the EPC to engage with the existing UC FIT team and the educators and natural resource leads that guide the program and the individual FIT sessions. Coordination will be needed with Ricky and Austin to tailor this role so it will assist where most needed. Searching for, applying for, and managing any successful education grants will also be an EPC responsibility.

17. Executive Director Report (Kathleen Burr) – need articles for this newsletter ASAP. The newsletter will be on the Cal SAF table at the convention. SAM is working ok now, but Kathleen had to reinstate our old email. Any changes can cause problems. There will be training for those staffing the volunteer table. She doesn't have updated financial information because she is out of town. We need to start working on the 2024 budget soon. Kathleen will start a new Evenbrite account because she can't access the current account.

18. 2023 Awards update (Julie Lydick)
Convention-Awards presented, upcoming deadlines/events. Added info to Google Shared folder. Julie will submit an article for the newsletter today. Karin and Julie discussed outreach to Golden members regarding the convention. Discussion of fellow nomination process.

19. New Business/Announcements
Karin and Kathleen would like to get a banner for the welcome table at the convention and for state meetings. Would cost about \$200.
John Todd showed a fraud email he received with four officers mentioned and a request for money. Tamara received similar emails with fake email addresses. Apparently our data has been mined ("web skimming") using AI. Everybody needs to be extra careful.

Motion to adjourn by John Todd , second by Tamara Hanna. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.