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**Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC)**

**Ad Hoc Committee
Board Policy Statement & Strategic Plan**

**Minutes
May 19, 2009**

Attending:

RMAC:

Representing

Ken Zimmerman	California Cattlemen's Association (CCA)
Ed Anchordoguy	California Wool Growers Association (CWG)
Chuck Pritchard	California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD)
Scott Carnegie	California Forestry Association (CFA)
Mel Thompson	California Wool Growers Association (CWG)
Jeff Stephens	CAL FIRE / RMAC Executive Secretary

Members of the Public:

Representing

Tracy Schohr	California Cattlemen's Association (CCA)
Pelayo Alvarez	California Rangeland Conservation Coalition

Items 1 & 2 Call to Order and Introductions:

Mel Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and thanked Tracy Schohr and Pelayo Alvarez for their attendance.

Items 3, Rangeland Issues Pertaining to *The 2007 Policy Statement and Strategic Program of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection*:

Primary Issues Discussed:

Purpose: The *2007 Policy Statement and Strategic Program of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection* is a document that states Board mission, vision, values, and programmatic goals, objectives and strategies. The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee is to explore how RMAC may work within this framework to assist the Board in developing Rangeland Policy, and translating that policy into actionable items.

Clarity of RMAC's role regarding the Board's Policy and Strategic Program: Questions were asked regarding how this document may be used to better connect with the Board's mission and objectives regarding rangelands than what has been achieved to date by RMAC and producers.

Better Communications: RMAC expressed the need for information from its constituents which are of importance to them and would wish brought forward in a forum like the Board of Forestry. The response from constituents present was that this type of information is produced at the annual and biannual meetings, and it is here where RMAC needs to be more involved in

1 obtaining this information. Developing better methods of communications with constituents is
2 one of the best things RMAC can accomplish with this task. There is a need to build our
3 process in order to be more efficient communicators.

4
5 Issues Identified as Larger in Scope:

6
7 Redefining RMAC (who we are and where do we wish take the committee). It was
8 suggested that the producer groups represented be approached to provide several key
9 issues of importance, and this information could be used to establish a work plan for
10 execution of policy as it relates to the Board's strategic document.

11
12 There is a tendency to focus on the parts rather than the whole in regards to resource
13 management. RMAC should be focusing on the bigger picture of overall rangeland
14 health, the management practices that work, and with the help of the producer groups,
15 researchers, coalitions, etc., carry this message forward to the Board.

16
17 Effective Communications with the Board: Various proposals were considered in order to
18 conserve time and money: 1) Conference calls with a specific Board Committee, 2) Oral
19 reports presented by a single RMAC member, 3) Written reports submitted prior to the Board
20 meeting, or written reports also presented orally by the Executive Secretary. RMAC is included
21 on every Board agenda. In addition, include field trips for the Board on working landscapes to
22 communicate the issues of importance to producers and RMAC.

23
24 The Board's strategic document is general in nature by design giving the Board the latitude to
25 expand the issues as the need and opportunity arises.

26
27 Recommendations: Send the nine "Key Issues" to constituents and ask for their priorities or
28 additions to these items. It was recommended to send pages 5-7 as background material as
29 well. It was further recommended to send the material to Federal agencies (USFS, BLM,
30 NRCS).

31
32 RMAC expressed the desire to treat the Rangeland Coalition as its own entity for the purposes
33 of soliciting comment. The Coalition representative stated RMAC should regard the Coalition
34 as a resource for information and volunteered assistance with this and future issues where they
35 may be of help.

36
37 Constituents present stated that they do not really understand the Board's intent regarding this
38 document and rangeland policy, and this is a real concern.

39
40 Motions: Not Applicable

41
42 Tasks:

43
44 Item 1: RMAC shall reach out to constituents asking them to review the nine Key Issues found
45 on pages 10-11 of the Board's strategic document, ask them to rate them and/or add others,
46 and identifying the top five each believes RMAC should be addressing.

- 47
48 a. Responsible Group: Ad Hoc Committee Board Policy Statement & Strategic Plan
49 b. Task Leader: Mel Thompson
50 c. Assisting: Not Identified
51 d. Due Date: Prior to the July meeting.

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Task: Last Paper from Mel: Make as a living document to track progress check on relevance.
Mel will continue with the document.

Item 4, New and Unfinished Business:

Chuck Pritchard circulated an article from Range Magazine discussing climate change and rangelands as recommended reading for the Committee.

Item 5, Public Comment:

None

Adjourn