

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held Tuesday, January 5, 2010
Resources Building, 1416 9th Street, 15th floor, Room 1504
Sacramento, California

Attending:

RMAC:

Ken Zimmerman, Chair
Bart T. Cremers
Leonard Hale
Scott Carnegie
Mel Thompson
Marc Horney
Edwin Anchordoguy

Representing:

California Cattlemen's Association (CCA)
California Farm Bureau Federation (CFBF)
Watershed Council of Southern California (WCSC)
California Forestry Association (CFA)
California Wool Growers Association (CWG)
General Public
California Wool Growers Association (CWG)

Eric Huff (staff) California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
George Gentry (EO) California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Items 1 & 2: Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Zimmerman called the meeting to order and began with introductions.

Item 3: Review and Approval of November 2009 Rangelands Focus Group Meeting Minutes.

01-10-01 Member Hale moved to approve the November 2009 Rangelands Focus Group meeting minutes and Member Anchordoguy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

01-10-02 Member Cremers moved to approve the November 2009 RMAC meeting minutes with minor corrections, and Member Carnegie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Items 4 & 5: Update on Revision of State Fire Plan and Report from the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection; Review of Strategic Fire Plan Document

Board Executive Officer, George Gentry reported that the Fire Plan Steering Committee winding down their work on the draft fire plan revision. He noted that development of performance standards and metrics for measuring performance pursuant to the previous fire plan recommendations is ongoing. The Committee is working toward public circulation of a draft document on or around January 15, 2010.

The Range Management Advisory Committee is a statutorily authorized advisory committee appointed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Committee is responsible for assisting the Board in the review and development of statewide rangeland policy and serves as an advisor to the California Natural Resources Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Food and Agriculture on issues pertaining to California rangeland resources.

Mr. Gentry encouraged RMAC to undertake review of the draft fire plan at this time and prepare comments for the Committee's consideration.

Chairman Zimmerman noted that the constituent survey results indicate that wildland-urban interface issues were low priority and this has implications for RMAC's comments.

Mr. Gentry continued his report with an explanation of the Board's Committee Priorities Report for 2010. He asked RMAC to review the priorities for range lands as well as to contribute RMAC's priorities to the Report.

Chairman Zimmerman continued his comments on the composition of the draft fire plan and suggested that the draft document appears to be an action plan without specified action items. Mr. Gentry responded by explaining that this particular document is intended to be a broad policy document with the implementation document to be developed subsequently.

Item 6: Status Report and Review of Possible Response Document on Ad Hoc Committee Survey Results.

Ad Hoc Focus Group Chairman, Mel Thompson reported on the status of the survey effort to date. The Members discussed the survey participants' identified priorities and possible approaches to integrating those priorities with RMAC's strategic planning. The Members went on to consider alternatives for presentation of the survey results to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection during its meeting the following day. The consensus of the Membership was that the Board should be briefed on the survey results, but not be provided with a detailed report at this time.

Discussion continued with identification of the next step in the process. The Committee consensus was that a short letter explaining the results of the survey should be posted to the constituents who participated in the survey. The letter will also mention that Committee Members will be contacting them by phone or otherwise to discuss the results of the survey and follow up on the priority issues each identified. Members with particular constituent contacts were directed by the Chairman to handle the follow up communication.

Item 7: Report of the Executive Secretary.

Board staff discussed the matter of the ongoing vacancy of the Executive Secretary position and noted that the staffing shortage was likely to continue for an indefinite period of time.

Item 8: 2010 Officer Nominations.

01-10-03 Member Hale moved to continue the officer corps as it was composed in the previous year with the addition of Member Carnegie as Committee Vice-Chair and Chair of the Vegetation Management/Fire Focus Group. Member Thompson seconded the motion.

Member Carnegie nominated Member Thompson as Vice-Chair, but Member Thompson declined the nomination.

Member Hale's motion carried unanimously without modification.

Item 9: Focus Group Reports – Rangelands Focus Group.

Acting Focus Group Chairman, Bart Cremers presented the Group's draft priorities and noted that they had been slightly revised since the meeting of the previous day. The Committee Members undertook a thorough review of the draft document that included reordering a number of the priorities and considerable discussion.

At the conclusion of the Rangelands Focus Group priorities discussion, Vice-Chair Carnegie questioned when the other Focus Groups would complete their draft priority development. Chairman Zimmerman with concurrence of the Members directed that all Focus Groups should have their respective priorities to Board staff by January 25, 2010.

Item 10: Comment submitted by Agency and Association Reports.

Vice-Chair Carnegie reported that the California Forestry Association had let one of their staff attorneys go.

Item 11: New and Unfinished Business

The Committee unanimously concurred that they should draft and post a letter offering thanks to the Humboldt State University Provost and others for the decision to continue offering the Range and Wildland Soils undergraduate degree program.

Item 12: Public Comment

No comment was received.

01-10-04 Member Anchordoguy moved to adjourn the meeting and Member Horney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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