

## BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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### RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held Wednesday, March 17, 2010  
Resources Building, 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 1504  
Sacramento, California

#### Attending:

##### **RMAC:**

Ken Zimmerman, Chair  
Scott Carnegie  
Mel Thompson  
Marc Horney  
Edwin Anchoroguy

##### **Representing:**

California Cattlemen's Association (CCA)  
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

##### **Members of the Public:**

Joe Rawitzer  
Tracy Schohr

##### **Representing:**

Monterey-San Benito Range Improvement Assn.  
California Cattlemen's Association/ California Rangeland  
Conservation Coalition (CCA/CRCC)

*~ Items appear in the order in which they were discussed by the Committee ~*

#### **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 January 2010 Rangelands Focus Group and Full RMAC Meeting Minutes.**

**03-10-01** Vice-Chairman Carnegie moved to approve the January 2010 Rangelands Focus Group meeting minutes and Member Horney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**03-10-02** Member Thompson moved to approve the January 2010 RMAC meeting minutes with a minor correction and Member Anchoroguy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Item 4: Status of VTP EIR.**

Chairman Zimmerman reported that the Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report had been put on indefinite hold due to loss of Proposition 40 bond funding. Staff was directed to seek answers to questions regarding the current VTP EIR budget and the level of additional funding necessary to complete the document, as well as what it will take to get the EIR effort going again. Staff will report on the answers to these questions at a future RMAC meeting.

#### **Item 5: Review of Strategic Fire Plan Document.**

Vice-Chairman Carnegie reported on the Vegetation Management Focus Group's review of the draft RMAC comment letter on the draft Fire Plan. The proposed revised draft of this comment letter will include discussion of 5-6 main points focused upon pre and post fire suppression vegetation treatment, the role of resource managers versus fire control staff, and increasing the budget for vegetation management activities, among others. The revised comment letter will not seek to rewrite the draft Fire Plan. Rather, it will focus on the shortcomings of the current draft Plan.

**03-10-03** Vice-Chairman Carnegie moved that the revised Committee comment letter on the draft Fire Plan be posted to the Board upon the Committee Members' concurrence and approval by the Chairman. The motion was seconded by Member Anchordoguy. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Item 8: Focus Group Reports – Vegetation Management Focus Group.**

Mr. Carnegie reported on the Focus Group's activities of the prior day's meeting. In particular, he reviewed the proposed VMFG goals and solicited a motion to adopt them.

**03-10-04** Member Anchordoguy moved to adopt the proposed Focus Group goals and Member Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Item 10: New and Unfinished Business**

Dr. Susan Marshall of Humboldt State University's (HSU) Range Science and Wildland Soils Program reported on the status of the Range Science undergraduate degree program. The Program is again under review and subject to possible elimination due to university budget cuts. She expressed her appreciation for RMAC's letter of support and highlighted a number of the issues affecting the program's pending status. Dr. Marshall went on to suggest that RMAC send another letter to Member of the CSU Board of Trustees, Carol Chandler and HSU President, Rollin Richmond. The letter should emphasize that the HSU program is the only undergraduate degree program in range science left in the state and that it is complementary to the other resource oriented degree programs offered there.

Staff was directed to draft a letter, including the points provided by Dr. Marshall, and circulate it to the Members for their review and concurrence prior to posting by the end of the month. The Committee thanked Dr. Marshall for her time and participation in the meeting.

**03-10-05** Member Horney moved to send a letter as drafted by staff and approved by the Chairman. Member Anchordoguy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Item 6: Status Report Ad Hoc Committee.**

Ad Hoc Committee Chairman, Mel Thompson presented the Committee's draft follow-up letter to the Ad Hoc Survey Constituents. Discussion amongst the Members focused upon the draft letter and what questions should be asked of the survey constituents. Member Horney suggested that the letter focus upon the top three priorities identified by the constituents in the survey and how each of the issues impacts the constituent organization. Three prospective follow-up questions were then identified: *give examples of each issue and how they relate to your operation; how do the issues impact your operation; and what would you like RMAC to do about the issues?* The letter should also state that individual RMAC Members will be contacting the constituents to further discuss the issues and their respective effects.

Ms. Tracy Schohr of CCA suggested that RMAC send an email with the top 3 items and the questions that RMAC would like answered. The Members suggested that a letter be drafted as well as an email.

**03-10-06** Committee Chairman Thompson moved that a revised letter be drafted and circulated for review and concurrence by the Members, and approved by the Chairman prior to posting to the survey constituents. RMAC Vice-Chairman Carnegie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Chairman Thompson then presented the draft Ad Hoc Committee goals for 2010. The goals are centered upon maintaining consistent focus on achievement of RMAC's overarching priorities. Vice-Chairman Carnegie questioned whether or not the goals should be incorporated into the Policy Focus Group's goals. He went on to note that the goals appear to represent two broad themes. Chairman Zimmerman concurred with this assessment and Vice-Chair Carnegie suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee should finish up the constituent survey work and then be dissolved into the Policy Focus Group. The goals as drafted would then be incorporated as those of the Policy Focus Group. Mr. Thompson will continue his Ad Hoc work in the meantime.

**Item 7: Report of the Executive Secretary**

Staff suggested that the Board's conference phone line be utilized as an option for future meetings. He went on to explain the public noticing process for use of the phone. Chairman Zimmerman directed staff to incorporate the phone conferencing option into the agenda and meeting notice.

**Item 9: Comment submitted by Agency and Association Reports.**

Ms. Tracy Schohr reported on the activities of CCA and CRCC including active support for restoration of the Williamson Act subvention funds; the implementation of the state/federal Safe Harbor Agreement for agricultural operations; and ongoing efforts toward incidental-take coverage for tiger salamanders.

Mr. Joe Rawitzer asked if CCA would be commenting on the draft Fire Plan and Ms. Schohr responding affirmatively. Member Thompson offered that perhaps the California Wool Growers Association (CWGA) should likewise comment on the draft Fire Plan. Mr. Rawitzer noted that CWGA and CCA were both key supporters for the legislation that created the state's Vegetation Management Program.

**Item 8: Focus Group Reports Continued...Rangelands Focus Group**

RMAC Chairman Zimmerman reported on the previous day's meeting of this Focus Group. He noted that Members' Cremers and Pritchard would be drafting a letter/white paper and bulleted talking points on the status of the Williamson Act subvention funds for submission to Board Chairman, Stan Dixon. The Members were then provided copies of AB 1965 (Yamada) which proposes to retroactively restore Williamson Act subvention funds to counties.

Chairman Zimmerman went on to explain that Member Horney had been asked to communicate with the California-Pacific Society of Range Management (Cal-Pac SRM) about the Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) Program.

Member Cremers will be revising the RFG goals for 2010 and these will be formally adopted at a later RMAC meeting.

Chairman Zimmerman and Member Cremers are continuing to review Weed Management Area grant proposals.

**Water Focus Group**

Member Horney presented two issues for pursuit by this Focus Group: the status of Ranch Water Quality Protection Plans and the Range Water Quality Short Courses; and follow-up with Regional Water Quality Control Board staff on the status of various range-related water quality policies/regulations. Member Horney stated that he would provide RMAC with an update on the status of the Water Focus Group by mid-April.

**Item 10: New and Unfinished Business Continued...**

The Members continued discussion of AB 1965 and staff presented SB 1293 for review as well.

Member Horney noted that Range Camp is forthcoming and he provided an explanation of the history and purpose for this high school educational program in range science.

**Item 11: Public Comment.**

No comment was offered

On Member Anchordoguy's motion, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

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