

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, March 17, 2015
 Sacramento, CA

RMAC Members Present	RMAC Members Absent
Co-chair, Lesa Osterholm John Van Duyn Cole Bush Bart Cremers Sheryl Landrum Via Conference: Co-chair, Marc Horney Ed Anchordoguy Mary Rickert Aaron Lazanoff Bill Burrows	Chris Marengo Chuck Pritchard
RMAC Staff	Department Staff
Kevin Conway Edith Hannigan	

Items appear in the order they were presented on the agenda.

Approve January Minutes

Chair Horney put forward a motion to approve the minutes with no changes, Member Landrum second the motion, and they were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

Administrative**a. Membership****i. Extension of terms for Members Cremers, Anchordoguy, and Burrows**

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection approved at their January 28, 2015 meeting a renewal of Member Cremers's appointment for four more years (expiring January 2019) and approved an extension of Members Burrows and Anchordoguy's terms for one more year (expiring January 2016).

ii. CCA Representative

Mr. Conway has been speaking with Kirk Wilbur from the California Cattlemen's Association and will have an update at the next meeting regarding their representative members.

Focus Group Updates**a. Rangeland Water Quality****i. GRAP Update**

The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

There were no updates from Members or colleagues regarding the Bishop Water Boards listening session.

Co-Chair Osterholm and Mr. Conway are meeting with Water Board members tomorrow, March 18th, and Member Rickert via conference, to wrap up/close loops between RMAC and the Water Boards since the private stakeholder meetings, public listening sessions, and Rustici Symposium are over.

ii. Rustici Rangeland Science Symposium March 3, 4 UC Davis

Co-Chair Osterholm and Member Van Duyn were in attendance, and Noelle Cremers (California Farm Bureau) and CeCi Dale-Cesmet (Natural Resource Conservation Service) also gave updates. Attendees felt positively about the Symposium and the science and messages presented. The presentations from the Symposium are available online at http://rangelandwatersheds.ucdavis.edu/main/symposium_RSS_2015.html.

UC Davis is continuing efforts in this arena by reviewing the data supporting 303(d) listings in the state and whether the impairment could reasonably be caused by grazing. They also published a Policy Brief on this issue.

The California Farm Bureau Federation, California Wool Growers Association, and California Cattlemen's Association is holding a meeting of their GRAP Advisory Committee on April 6 to develop a strategy for their next steps in addressing the GRAP.

Member Rickert is hosting a tour on April 3 for Water Board members and staff to view ranches and range water quality in context with the larger watershed and neighboring land uses. She is hosting the tour as a member of the public in the ranching industry.

b. Land Management Tools

i. Approve final draft of prescribed herbivory for VMP white paper

Staff will circulate a Word version for members to edit and send back with changes. Member Osterholm will make some small additions to assist with understanding longer livestock movements and utilizing cattle. Over the next 30 days RMAC members will make edits and distribute the document for comments before Members and Staff create a final document for review at the May 19th meeting.

There will be no statewide VMP forester meeting at which this document could be distributed; there is the potential for some targeted presentations or meetings, as well as email distribution, to spread the word about this document.

ii. Potential Pilot Project on Mountain Home or LaTour State Forests

Mr. Conway has been discussing with CAL FIRE potential pilot project locations in the State Forests and/or with units familiar with grazing projects and they have identified Mountain Home and LaTour State Forests and the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit as possible locations.

c. Rangeland Conversion/Forest & Resource Management

Member Van Duyn sent to RMAC members, through Ms. Hannigan, a write up on H.R. 644, permanently expanding a tax break for farmers, ranchers, and other landowners who agree to spare their properties from development. It was passed by the House of Representatives and a version has been introduced in the Senate.

d. Public Land Grazing

i. CAL FIRE/BOF policies for State Forests

Mr. Conway presented to the group CAL FIRE Policy 5052 on Grazing, Mining, Water, etc, and Public Resources Code 4656, referenced in the policy, as an opportunity for RMAC to review other state policies on grazing on public land and potentially assist in updating them.

e. VTP Program EIR

The VTP Program EIR team is still working on an April 1 deadline with anticipated public review in late May or June.

f. Drought

Members discussed the imminent State Water Board Curtailment orders primarily limiting urban irrigation and domestic uses.

New and Unfinished Business

Co-Chair Horney and Member Cremers attended the national Society for Range Management meeting in early February in Sacramento. Both have heard good feedback about the conference and gave RMAC members an overview of the topics covered, including managing for wildfire, ecological restoration, technology, and others.

Mr. Conway has a list of projects funded by the SRA fee, including an East Bay Hills project using goats. He will send out the list to members.

Member Landrum is still looking for opportunities to contribute via focus groups and will work with Mr. Conway and Ms. Hannigan to find a valuable project.

Member Cremers asked about any updates regarding the CRM regulations; they have not yet been noticed. A short discussion of California versus national Certified Rangeland Manager requirements followed.

Member Updates

Members' Bush and Burrows's Grazing for Change event was a success with about 350 people in attendance; a future yearly or bi-yearly event is planned.

Meeting Adjourned.