

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12th, 2019
Sacramento, CA

RMAC Members Present

Chair Marc Horney
Rich Ross
Don Watson

RMAC Members Absent

Katie Delbar, ex officio member
Vice Chair Lesa Osterholm
Andrée Soares
Billie Roney
Bart Cremers
John Van Duyn
Sheryl Landrum
Lance Criley

RMAC Staff

Brandi Goss
Edith Hannigan
Matt Dias

Department Staff

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

Report of Chair Marc Horney and RMAC Staff

- a. Approve August and September 2019 Minutes
 - i. No action was taken on this item because a quorum was not present.
- b. Report on the November 8th Presentation to CLFA
 - i. This outreach effort was a success with 90 foresters in attendance. Chairman Horney and Dr. Larry Ford discussed prescribed grazing, the September workshop, and the white paper produced by RMAC and answered questions about working with CRMs. Ms. Goss also discussed a project that SPI is working on regarding the applicability of using grazing as a fuel reduction tool in areas where endangered species are of concern. A discussion of quantifying any air resources effects of grazing and how those are handled at a policy level may stem from this research.

Strategic Plan Revisions Discussion

Member Watson brought up the concept of continuing education for CRMs, particularly related to the impacts of increased fire activity and how land is managed to accomplish multiple resource goals in a fire-prone landscape. This discussion also culminated in a possible effort to address modern methods of addressing Residual Dry Matter (RDM) standards at a finer scale that are more attentive to differing conditions and needs within a particular landscape. An RDM Guidelines 2020 white paper was presented as a way of addressing this issue on a policy basis. Member Ross would similarly like to address the issue of exclusion fencing along riparian areas.

The Committee also identified the issue of limited ranks of CRMs being available for consulting and discussed potentially addressing this through recruiting efforts in the future. As an extension of the presentation at CLFA, the Committee would like to continue facilitating engagement between the two specialties and Ms. Hannigan suggested that one way of doing that might be including examples of ways that CRM and RPF work can intersect in the Licensing news that the Board's Licensing office sends out. This venue may also be good for including more rangeland related topics such as the RDM and exclusion fencing issues noted above.

Chairman Horney brought up the idea of working with the CRM panel with Cal Pac SRM to develop plan templates for specific project types to give CRMs a floor of suggested components in their management plans. He would also like to work on a workshop series in coordination with the CRM Panel to address some of these topics.

Several other small revisions were made to the Strategic Plan and direction was given on additional strategic and priority items such as: 1) actively monitoring for issues and convening discussions with appropriate experts to address those issues; 2) RMAC's role in advising Federal agencies; and 3) outreach to State agencies via workshops and other methods.

Discussion of Dr. Alvarez's Presentation at the September Meeting and Possible Action Items by RMAC

Ms. Goss introduced the item and asked the Committee for any thoughts on possible action items by RMAC regarding the presentation at the September 2019 meeting. Member Ross did not see any applicability to the cattle industry and shared that it was an expensive method of improving forage in his experience.

September Workshop Reflection

Ms. Goss provided a summary of the survey results from the September Workshop. Feelings were generally positive. Mr. Dias stated that a good way forward may be helping the Board educate agencies and landowners about the benefits of grazing under the CalVTP. A possible way to do this would be through Public Service Announcements and other outreach efforts.

Updates from Partner Organizations & Public Forum

Ms. Goss shared that the CRCC Summit will be held in Stockton, CA on January 14th, 2019. She also shared that the State Water Quality Control Board staff is interested in communicating with RMAC and RMAC staff in the development of a non-regulatory guidance document regarding rangelands and water quality.

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