

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov
(916) 653-8007



RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 30th, 2020
Teleconference

RMAC Members Present

Chair Marc Horney
Rich Ross
Bart Cremers
Andree Soares
Don Watson
Sheryl Landrum
Lance Criley
Kristen Murphy

RMAC Members Absent

Katie Delbar, ex officio member
Billie Roney
John Van Duyn

RMAC Staff

Brandi Goss
Edith Hannigan

Department Staff

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

Report of Chair Marc Horney and RMAC Staff

a) Approve January 2020 Minutes

The approval of the January 2020 Minutes has been moved to the May meeting.

Approve 2020 Priorities

Member Soares suggested that the priorities document be revised every three years rather than annually due to the time commitment that it takes each year to consider new priorities. The committee decided to keep the objectives for three years, but consider revisions based on an annual call for priorities if a pertinent item comes up. Language was added to the objectives document to reflect this decision.

Member Cremers discussed removing the issue of RDM from the objectives document and making the second object more general as well as some grammatical revisions to objective four. Additional discussion on objective two resulted in the removal of RDM, but maintained reference to management for rangelands that are resilient to wildfire.

Public Comment:

LynneDee : The issue of how RDM and production are not always appropriately applied particularly in the realm of fire fuel management is a critical piece that needs additional research and guidance to practitioners in the field. This also needs to be linked to the particular management of certain species of plant and how their different life histories impact their characteristics as fuel.

04-20-01 Member Soares moved to approve the 2020 RMAC Objectives document. Member Watson seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Criley	Aye
Cremers	Aye
Murphy	Absent
Roney	Absent
Landrum	Aye
Soares	Aye
Ross	Aye
Watson	Aye
Van Duyn	Absent
Horney	Aye

The motion carried with 2 absences.

Consideration of RMAC Applicants

Ms. Goss discussed that there are two applicants for the vacant RMAC position. She also discussed that a ranking matrix has been developed to review these applications against and select a new member. Members Landrum and Cremers volunteered to review the applicants and bring forward the selected applicant at the next meeting.

Existing UCCE Guidelines for Hazardous Fuel Reduction & Water Quality

Mr. Horney discussed that there do not currently appear to be guidelines addressing hazardous fuel reduction via grazing and its relationship to water quality. The committee discussed reaching out using letters to UCCE and Cal Pac SRM about developing these guidelines. Mr. Horney specifically suggested sending a letter to Leslie Roche requesting that UCCE consider undertaking the development of these guidelines and send out requests to the rangeland programs at CalPoly, Humboldt State, and Chico State to invite them to contribute to a literature review about practices useful for fuels reduction on rangelands using grazing.

Current Water Board Projects Presentation – Jessica Leonard, State Water Resources Control Board

Jeannie Mascia, supervisor at the State Water Resources Control Board, provided a presentation regarding the water board's ongoing non-regulatory effort to update the existing California Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan.

Match.Graze Website Presentation – Dr. Stephanie Larson

Dr. Larson provided a presentation regarding her effort to create a website that helps grazers and landowners who want grazing find the appropriate partner for their needs and results in more grazing projects across the state. This has been done in other states successfully, but this would be the first such website focused on California.

Targeted Grazer Certification: Cal Pac SRM Update – Marc Horney

Mr. Horney discussed some updates to the effort by Cal Pac SRM to institute a Targeted Grazer Certification. He shared that they have received approval to proceed with the program and that they want to certify that individuals have gone through a training regimen related to targeted grazing. He anticipates that it will take at least a full year to have all of the training materials ready for use.

Updates from Partner Organizations & Public Forum

Member Cremers shared that there are some instances of wells closing across the state and that farmland and rangeland may go fallow as a result. He commented that this may be an issue that RMAC could get involved with in the future. Theresa Bechetti shared that UCCE has a project working on some of these lands to restore them.

Kristen Murphy shared about their expansions on the Rancher to Rancher program through CARCD.

Bob Gillaspy shared that NRCS has been sheltering in place during COVID-19 but that they are still working to serve the public during this time as best as they can. He also expressed his support for the discussion on item 4 of the agenda and that including UC Davis and UC Berkeley's graduate students may also be good.