1. 9:04 a.m. Meeting called to order by Chair Patty Ciesla. Present: Committee Members Steven Butler, Patty Ciesla, Julie Coombes, Geoffrey Holmes, Tim Hyland, Bob Loveland, Patricia Marland, Thomas Sutfin. Eight members present that established a quorum. Absent: Mike Jani (excused), Byran Largay (alternate Matthew Timmer joined the meeting late due to miscommunication of the start time). CAL FIRE Representatives: Angela Bernheisel, Anna Cameron, Colin Noyes. No other guests or member of the public were present.

2. Committee reviewed Agenda and accepted

3. Review minutes from meeting on March 9, 2022. Correction on page 4, #8, paragraph 2, to remove “not” in sentence: “Hinckley road is not designated as an entry into the State Park...”, and delete remainder of the sentence “and a sign indicates there is no public entrance”. Minutes approved with these amendments.


4. Review ByLaws. Recommendation to review #1 Purpose, to revise second paragraph. Remove word “initial” in the sentence, “An initial goal of the Committee is to advise the CALFIRE Director on the update of the General Forest Management Plan for the SDSF which directs long-range development...”. Recommendation to correct CALFIRE to CAL FIRE (with a space) throughout the document, to correct “California Department of Fish and Game” to “Fish and Wildlife”, and to delete Nature Conservancy and add Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to committee membership.

   Bernheisel offered background about why the Land Trust is a good fit as a replacement organization. The Land Trust has cooperated with SDSF on public access efforts and partnered with SDSF in planning for a trail connection from the Barr property to the Adams Trail and an eventual connection to the SDSF boundary. The Land Trust shares common experience with SDSF in managing forest land with public access. The CAL FIRE Director appointed Bryan Largay of the Land Trust to the Advisory Committee in a letter dated April 20, 2022.

   Review ByLaws page 1, #3 Officers. Edit sentence, “The Committee shall elect a Vice-Chair and Secretary” to delete “and Secretary” since SDSF will support the Committee to take minutes. Delete sentence, “The Secretary shall record minutes of all meetings.” To the sentence, “The SDSF Forest
Manager shall provide staff support to the Committee”, add “including recording minutes of all meetings”.

Review Committee membership, appointments, and officers. Ciesla is willing to continue serving as Chair, but open to other nominations. Reminder to Committee that members may self-nominate. The CAL FIRE Director appoints the Chair. No other members were nominated. The Vice Chair is currently Steve Butler, and he stated his willingness to have another member serve. No other members were nominated. Butler to remain as Vice Chair.


5. Review of relevant items from the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (“the Act”). The Act was revised in 2017, and there is Executive Order N-29-30 still in effect that allows for meetings by teleconference. There is pending legislation (see AB1733) that may change requirements in the Act.

Bernheisel provided some items to note. The Advisory Committee is considered a ‘state body’ since it was established by statute. This is different from other State Forests where their advisory bodies fall under the Board of Forestry as a subcommittee of the Board. For SDSF, this Advisory Committee is more like a stand-alone board. The Act defines a ‘meeting’ as “any congregation of a majority of members... at the same time and place to hear, discuss, or deliberate upon any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction.” Meeting noticing for a ‘subcommittee’ is not required if the committee consists of less than three persons regardless of whether the members are from the Advisory Committee or other interested persons. The Act prohibits addition of items to the agenda after that agenda was publicly noticed. Items may be added to future agendas, and this discussion may be its own agenda item. The Act also suggests allowing for the public to add agenda items to future meetings.

Noticing of meetings does not have to be in newspapers. The Act allows for closed meetings in certain circumstances. The Committee may decide to discuss specifics of items like real estate transactions in closed meetings in the future.

The Act prohibits members from communicating (by text, email, phone calls, in person, etc.) outside of meetings about matters of business, including one-to-one communications to attain collective commitment on an issue. Suggestion was made to mention in the protocols of Committee that all meetings will be in compliance with the law and publicly noticed as required.

Minutes must contain each item where a vote was taken and must contain the record of each member’s vote.

6. Revise Committee ByLaws. On page 2, #8 Rules of Meeting Conduct. In order to state the Committee’s intention to comply with all aspects of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, add: “The Committee will comply with all provisions of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to ensure its business is conducted openly and is available to the public.”

Edit CAL FIRE Director from Ken Pimlott to Joe Tyler.

Edited ByLaws will be sent to Director Tyler for approval.

7. Update on Forest activities and projects. Bernheisel gave an update. She met with County Supervisor Manu Koenig and his Aide, CZU Unit Chief, CZU Unit Forester, and Thomas Sutfin for a field trip. The group saw the construction site of the replacement Soquel Forest Fire Station and Forest Building, the Noren parcel, and the Barr property and stops in SDSF. They met with Don Barr and visited the commemorative plaque at the Grandfather Tree. They discussed new acquisition idea to negotiate with the CHY company (that owns the Olive Springs Quarry and many surrounding parcels) for a renewed vision for western public access to SDSF. The Barr property has a property-wide archaeological survey planned with contract Archaeologists from Sonoma State University, the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT) and CAL FIRE.

SDSF has a forest health grant partnering with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and is developing a contract with the AMLT for work at SDSF over the next three years.

Bernheisel gave another field tour for the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Advisory Council that included Mike Jani, other Council members and faculty. Bernheisel discussed collaborating with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on classes, interns, and workforce development.

Two new water tanks at Longridge and Amaya have been plumbed, and there are now six locations for water on the forest.

Bernheisel gave a presentation to a West Valley College Park Management class about forestry and entering the profession.

Colin completed C faller training and is now certified.

There was a question from a Committee member about the latest Timber Harvesting Plan (THP). It is closer to noticing. Group selection areas have been identified in areas with large dying fir trees and where usually operations would avoid but with forest health work happening, it makes it possible. Plans to submit THP in next month or so.

8. Public Comment: none received. There were no members of the public present.

9. Review future meeting dates and agenda items. Discussion on frequency of meetings and topics.

SDSF staff and partners in research can provide presentations on forest projects to keep the Committee updated. Bernheisel suggested meeting about the prescribed burn plan at the forest, including research, the prescription, conditions, and details of operations to address concerns and questions. The Committee recognized that public outreach about prescribed fire would be helpful and that the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association would be the right organization to offer public education.

The Committee chose a tentative date for the next meeting to be held online as Monday, August 29, 2022 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 10:18am