

November 17, 2011 Jackson Advisory Group Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions

John Helms called the meeting to order at 9 am. The following were present:

Continuing JAG Members:

John Helms
Kathy Bailey
Dan Porter
Mike Liquori

Retired JAG Members:

Linda Perkins
Mike Jani
Linwood Gill
Brad Valentine
Vince Taylor¹
Forest Tilley

New JAG Members:

Ross Liberty
George Hollister
Doug Albin
Don Phillips
Kelly Harris
John Andersen

Department Staff:

Ken Pimlott
Janet Barentson
Janet Upton
Crawford Tuttle
Russ Henly
Chris Rowney
Kelly Dreesmann
Pam Linstedt
Craig Pedersen
Lynn Webb
Shawn Headley
Helge Eng

Board of Forestry & Fire Protection:

George Gentry

Public:

Heather Morrison
Bill Heil
Ray Duff
Loraine Duff

Mike Anderson and Peter Braudrick are continuing JAG members, but were not present at this meeting.

New JAG members introduced themselves.

John provided a quick summary of events over the last three years. The JAG presented their report to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) on time, on February 2, 2011. The report included the JAG's recommendations for changes to the Department's 2008 JDSF management plan pertaining to long term goals for forest structure and management of the Forest as well as other mandates in the JAG charter. The Board, on July 13, 2011, adopted its findings on the JAG's recommendations. Some of the Board's direction is still under development. As part of the Board's findings, the Board's Research and Science Committee will develop silvicultural guidelines within each landscape allocation category and a strategic research plan for JDSF.

John's view of the tasks for the JAG going forward includes 1) becoming familiar with the way in which CAL FIRE approach the management of JDSF under direction from the Board, 2) assisting the Department with revisions to the 2008 JDSF management plan, implementing the direction from the Board, and 3) developing a work plan for the JAG.

¹ Mr. Taylor resigned from the JAG on September 6, 2011.

2. Review and Accept Agenda

Motion (Kathy, Linwood): approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. Russ reminded the JAG that only continuing and new JAG members could vote on motions.

There were no *Ex Parte* communication disclosures.

3. Remembrance of Jere Melo

John gave a brief overview of his interactions with Jere during the last three years of JAG meetings. Jere was a significant voice in the development of the JAG's report. John focused on three of Jere's character traits:

Jere was highly principled. He had a strong sense of ethics and appropriateness of how to accomplish a task.

Jere was a consummate professional. His experience, knowledge and competence was an invaluable contribution to the JAG's work.

Jere had a very strong sense of community. He recognized that JDSDF plays a large role in supporting the community and the local economy. As the Chair of the Economics Committee, he insisted that the Forest has to pay its own way, and stressed that every recommendation has an economic consequence.

The JAG observed a moment of silence for Jere Melo.

4. Welcome to New JAG Members

The Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Ken Pimlott, welcomed new JAG members and thanked departing JAG members for their service.

He looks forward to their long tenure of working with the Department on management of the Forest. Public involvement and advisory committees are relatively new to CAL FIRE, but it is unrealistic to expect that we can manage public lands without input from the stakeholders. CAL FIRE manages the Demonstration State Forests on behalf of the land owners - the public.

His directions to staff included implementing 100 percent of the Board's direction. He knows that some of the JAG's recommendations were not accepted by the Board. However, these recommendations will not be lost. They will be considered as we go forward with management.

The JAG should not get discouraged because they did not get all they wanted, but rather should look forward to continue their work, and what we can start to implement. The Director did not support bringing the Board's July 13, 2011 findings back to the Board for reconsideration.

Details of justification for the Board's findings can be found in the records of the Board's discussions.

5. Orientation to JAG and JDSF

Russ provided an overview of the JAG and its charter. JDSF staff, Pam, Lynn and Craig, gave a tag team presentation of JDSF background, research, management and recreation.

6. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Training

George Gentry gave a brief overview of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and considerations involved in JAG meetings.

Communication protocols:

Russ: I am the hub for information requests from the JAG.

John: also go through Russ for intra-JAG communications.

7. Lunch

8. Follow Up from the Board's July 13 Action on JAG Recommendations

8.1 Departmental Direction

Russ reviewed the JAG charter. The JAG is a vehicle for 1) ongoing comments on JDSF management and 2) detailed review of the Department's 2008 management plan for JDSF.

A management plan is required by Board policy. The Department prepares the management plan for Board review, and the Board approves it. The JAG has been supportive of the goals of the JDSF 2008 management plan. Once the Board's Research and Science Committee has completed their work pertaining to the JDSF 2008 management plan, including a strategic research plan, that would be a logical point in time to revise the JDSF 2008 management plan.

John: Currently the JAG has no committees. The group has moved to a new phase, and old committees are disbanded. The JAG may consider new committees, but they will start afresh.

A logical new committee would be a THP committee.

The JAG develops a work plan, which is then approved by the Board and the Department. It may be time to consider a new work plan now that the three-year period is completed.

The JAG needs to elect a new vice chair, as the old vice chair, Vince Taylor, stepped down. This should be an item for the next JAG meeting.

John: my term as chair of the JAG expires next April.

The JAG's charter can be amended by the Director and the Board.

Mike L: suggest listing the JAG's priorities in the charter

Ongoing facilitation is up to the JAG, recognizing budget limitations. Kathy: while recognizing budget limitations, it would be beneficial for a facilitator to become familiar with the JAG members before contentious issues arise.

8.2 Update on Research and Science Committee November 15 Conference Call

Implementation: The Board will focus on moving forward with key research and governance issues. Specifically, the Research and Science Committee is looking at developing a strategic research plan and guidelines for silviculture within the individual land allocations identified by the JAG.

John: the Board's Research and Science Committee subject matter experts are largely technical experts, while many of the silvicultural constraints developed by the JAG reflect societal issues.

Dan: the Research and Science Committee is heavily weighted toward technical disciplines. It is unclear how the research governance structure interacts with the Research and Science Committee.

8.3 Work Plan for Going Forward

Dan, John: THP field review by the JAG will continue to be valuable.

Kathy, Pam: the short term harvest schedule from the 2008 management plan remains unchanged, but changes are coming.

John: there is some uncertainty for the JAG about how to move forward in THP review. How does the JAG's THP review fit in with CAL FIRE's plans for going forward? The JAG needs to know the Board's vision and the CAL FIRE vision before they can review and react to planned THPs.

Vince: the JAG should revisit the Board's rejection of the JAG's silviculture recommendations.

Helge: that would be premature, because the silviculture guidelines are still a work in progress. The Board's Research and Science Committee is still working on these. They could end up being very similar to what the JAG recommended in their January 15, 2011 report.

Russ presented a draft work plan with tasks, responsible parties and milestones.

John: regarding item 1.3 in the work plan, the JAG punted on research allocation. It is up to the Research and Science Committee to develop these allocations.

Don Phillips: Hubbard Brook and other leading research forests are very successful, but do not have the intensive and expensive research administration infrastructure that the JAG's January 15, 2011 report recommended. None of them have Centers of Excellence. We cannot afford them. Instead, leverage grants.

Dan: the Board and its Research and Science Committee left open the possibility of collapsing these centers of excellence, and making them discretionary.

Kathy, John: there is uncertainty regarding the stand structures and THPs that are needed to support a Strategic Research Plan. Without a strategic research plan, we do not know what to look for.

9. Update on Management, Research and Demonstration, and Recreation

Pam, Lynn and Craig gave a presentation on historical background and current activities in the areas of management, research and demonstration, and recreation. The focus of timber sales is on forest health.

John suggested that JDSF charge overhead costs of researchers, especially where they bring external funding.

John Andersen: count the cost of your staff time as a part of the matching funds toward grants.

Linwood: a database system for retrieval of research and demonstration projects would be valuable. Lynn: the Department has a project tracking database, but it is not online.

10. JAG Meeting Schedule and Work Plan for 2012

John: the JAG needs a schedule for when CAL FIRE figures out their needs for JAG assistance.

There was general agreement that for now, quarterly meetings will suffice.

Ross expressed surprise that two days would potentially be needed to conclude a JAG meeting, and suggested that as a rule, one day should suffice.

Upcoming events for the JAG calendar include:

- A new THP schedule from the Department
- A report from the Board's Research and Science Committee
- Electing a new vice chair

The next two JAG meetings were set for

January 26, 2012, and

April 19, 2012.

JAG liaison to the Board's Research and Science Committee: Russ will ask George Gentry and Rick Standiford what are their wishes regarding a JAG liaison.

11. New and Unfinished Business

The JDSF Forest Manager position remains unfilled. The primary reason is probably pay scale compaction. There are few candidates willing to take on significant additional managerial and leadership duties in exchange for only an incremental increase in pay.

John: suggest a current list of JAG members with contact information (email and phone) and expected termination dates, be developed and distributed to the JAG.

12. Public Comments

There were no public comments during the meeting.

13. Adjournment and Reception

The meeting adjourned at 16:17. It was followed by a reception hosted by the Department in appreciation of outgoing JAG members.