

Board of Forestry Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2020

INDEX

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Page #</u>
A. MARCH 4, 2020 MEETING MINUTES	2
B. BOARD GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE SELF-EVALUATION	2
C. ANNUAL REPORT ON TRIBAL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES	2
D. DRAFT WESTERN OREGON STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBMISSION.....	2
1. STATE FORESTER AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS.....	2
2. SISKIYOU STREAMSIDE PROTECTIONS REVIEW: CLIMATE CHANGE CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION.....	4
3. 2021-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT.....	8
4. BOARD CLOSING COMMENTS AND MEETING WRAP UP	10

Items listed in order heard.

Complete audio recordings from the meeting and attachments listed below are available on the web at www.oregonforestry.gov.

- (1) Presentation, [Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review: Climate Change Contextual Information](#), Agenda Item 2
- (2) Handout, [Written testimony by Scurlock for Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review: Climate Change Contextual Information](#), Agenda Item 2
- (3) Handout, [Written testimony by Shank for Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review: Climate Change Contextual Information](#), Agenda Item 2
- (4) Handout, [Written testimony by Detwiler for Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review: Climate Change Contextual Information](#), Agenda Item 2
- (5) Handout, [Narrative by Halofsky for Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review: Climate Change Contextual Information](#), Agenda Item 2
- (6) Handout, [Narrative by Anlauf-Dunn for Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review: Climate Change Contextual Information](#), Agenda Item 2
- (7) Presentation, [2021-2023 Biennial Budget Development](#), Agenda Item 3

In accordance with the provisions of ORS 526.016, a meeting of the Oregon Board of Forestry was held virtually on April 22, 2020 and hosted at the Oregon Department of Forestry Headquarters on 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310.

All Board members signed online by 8:45 a.m. into Zoom webinar. Chair Imeson called the public meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Board Members Virtually Present:

Nils Christoffersen	Jim Kelly
Cindy Deacon Williams	Brenda McComb
Joe Justice	Mike Rose
Tom Imeson	

Board Members Absent:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. MARCH 4, 2020 MEETING MINUTES
Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.

ACTION: The Board approved minutes from the March 4, 2020 Board meeting.

- B. BOARD GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE SELF-EVALUATION
Approval of final criteria for the Board Governance Performance Self-Evaluation, and initiates the annual survey process.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2020 Board Governance Performance Measure Best Management Practices Self-Evaluation Criteria as presented in Attachment 1, initiate the annual self-evaluation period, and complete individual evaluations by May 31, 2020.

- C. ANNUAL REPORT ON TRIBAL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES
Department submission of the Government-to-Government report on tribal relations for 2019, Agency summarized annual activities per statutes ORS 182.162, to 182.168 and ORS 182.166(3).

INFORMATION ONLY.

- D. DRAFT WESTERN OREGON STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBMISSION
Department submission of the 2020 Draft Western Oregon State Forests Management Plan (FMP) and supporting documents into the public record. The material provided is for a Board discussion at a future date, and no Board decision was associated with this consent item.

INFORMATION ONLY.

Mike Rose motioned for approval of the consent agenda items. Nils Christoffersen seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion: Nils Christoffersen, Cindy Deacon Williams, Joe Justice, Jim Kelly, Brenda McComb, Mike Rose, and Tom Imeson. Against: none. With Board consensus Items A and B were approved, and the motion carried. Noted items C and D were informational items.

ACTION AND INFORMATION:

1. STATE FORESTER AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (27 minutes and 4 seconds – 6.19 MB)

Chair Imeson commented on:

- Outlined Board proceedings for Board members, presenters, and the public.
- Announced the presentations for the meeting are posted online for the public to view.
- Noted the public meeting will be recorded, and posted online.
- Confirmed the items on the consent agenda include the draft minutes from March 4, 2020 Board meeting.
- Explained written public testimony that would be entered into record, can be submitted through May 6, 2020.

State Forester Daugherty commented on:

- Acknowledged the National Administrative Professionals across the agency for their service excellence, and for their continued support to the Department amidst the changing work environment.
- Noted the next steps for consent agenda item B for the Board members in responding to their Governance Performance Self-Evaluation.
- Outlined the Department's priorities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Described how the Department has engaged in supporting the State through this crisis, from team deployments to operating a multi-agency coordination group. Recognized the efforts and dedication made by Department staff during this time, and noted the Department's plan on transitioning support as fire season approaches. Remarked on the recreation, education, and interpretation (REI) program's efforts in developing solutions to address how the Department can return to full operations while offering the outdoor opportunities safely to the public.
- Provided a Department budget and fire financial update on the State Treasury line of credit, cash reserves, and projected growth. He described the potential revenue impacts for divisions, and increased expenditures as the Department provides support to the State for COVID-19 and prepares for fire season under the current health mandates. Explained the Department's next steps to request appropriation of general funds and other funds from the Emergency Board in May, and how the request was structured.
- Commented on the drivers that are affecting the economic forecast potential, how this impacts State revenue, and how State Agencies are preparing to offset economic impacts projected. Noted when the next revenue forecast will occur, the projected decline in the forecast, and that mid-biennium budget adjustments may be warranted.
- Reviewed the Department's mission critical principles to ensure the agency's priorities are met if the projected economic forecasts come into fruition. He shared the Department's current efforts to slow non-critical spending, and listed the approaches the Department will implement until a clearer scope of the funding impacts are known.
- Briefed the Board on the 2020 fire season outlook, planning, and preparedness. Listed the conditions across the State, from snowpack to drought, and noted how the long-term forecast is trending to warmer than average temperatures, which may lead to an above normal number of fire starts. Stated safety as the Department's top priority, informed the Board on the development and implementation of measures to mitigate health and safety risks. Reviewed the breadth of strategic planning and collaborative coordination associated with measure implementation, noting the various State and Federal agencies, service and industry partners, and forest protection associations involved. He shared examples of the efforts begin made to prepare fire fighters, to organize prevention campaigns, and to assess State resources for the upcoming fire season. He closed by outlining initial and extended attack measures being assessed to ensure the state resources are available and risks on the ground are mitigated.

Board Members commented on:

- Board member Deacon Williams inquired about reimbursement of the incident command teams' resource allocation being utilized in supporting the State's response to COVID-19, and how it may impact the Department's cash flow for the 2020 fire season. State Forester Daugherty remarked how timeframe for reimbursement is unknown, but that the Department is tracking all expenditures accrued. He delineated

between which expenditures were covered by the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) or by the Department, and listed the additional costs that impact the cash flow.

Public Testimony: No provision made for public testimony.

Information Only.

2. SISKIYOU STREAMSIDE PROTECTIONS REVIEW: CLIMATE CHANGE CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 – (One hour, 8 minutes and 49 seconds – 15.7 MB)
Presentation ([attachment 1](#))

Terry Frueh, Private Forests Monitoring Coordinator, thanked his colleagues who assisted in coordinating this topic for the Board, and noted advisory committee support for the presenters selected. He reviewed the topic's objective, the [presentation](#) format, and expressed gratitude for the presenter's participation.

Frueh presented on behalf of Dr. Jessica Halofsky, a Research Ecologist for University of Washington and U.S. Forest Service, a brief summary of her work around climate change. He reviewed the Southwest Oregon Adaptation Partnership (SWOAP) objectives, series of assessments, and referenced the technical report. He listed highlights of SWOAP project work.

Kara Anlauf-Dunn, Aquatic Ecologist for Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), commented on the global temperature animation from 1950 to 2013, explained predictability of streamflow temperatures is fleeting and seasonal effects more exaggerated with the presence of climate change. She listed areas of study for natural resource research and monitoring programs, highlighted key components for researching the impacts of climate change, and noted considerations, such as how species respond to climate changes.

Anlauf-Dunn explored the indicators for climate change. She noted ectothermic biology, distribution, and phenology of fish species in relation to stream temperature, but explained limitations exist on fish species predictability for thermal tolerances and adaptive capacities. She listed the many natural variables and existing climate system that can influence stream temperature. She highlighted how an increase in air temperature or decrease in surface and groundwater inputs can influence summer and fall streamflow which modulates stream temperature and drought susceptibility. She noted ODFW's effort in developing a climate and ocean change policy, shared the intent of the policy, and listed the policy goals.

Anlauf-Dunn reviewed the stream temperature modeling for the southwest region, explained how modeling is used as a predictive tool for geographic warming, and referenced where the data originated from. She addressed local drivers that can influence stream temperature, highlighting geomorphology, land cover, and shading. Described how geomorphologic components such as watershed location, channel curvature, and large wood presence affect stream temperature. She discussed how shade from vegetation and forests can mitigate the impact of increased air temperatures on stream temperatures, and shared two studies with results supporting this position. Noted key uncertainties, how to alleviate uncertainty, and the value of monitoring data. She reviewed the potential for using Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) visualizing ecosystem for land management assessment (VELMA) model in collaboration with the Board and Department.

Outlined statewide coordination primary goals, agency alignment, and projected outcomes. Closed by sharing an example of a core conceptual framework with process steps, using temperature data.

Dr. Gordon Reeves, Emeritus Scientist for U.S. Forest Service, commented on climate change modeling projections on a global to national scale are built to illustrate patterns of change, and even on a regional scale patterns emerge. He noted on a local scale, NorWeST modeling offers the best water temperature projections for the basin. Described the temperature scale, variability, and duration of time for his modeling projection, and how a uniform response is not ideal for an area with inherent diversity. Explained how the patterns observed in the Siskiyou basin are not representative of what is occurring across Oregon.

Reeves reviewed the latest studies on shade in relation to riparian areas. He mentioned the nature of a riparian forest can exert a strong influence on how that forest affects water temperature, and a key influencer for stream temperature is riparian vegetation. Noted how restoring riparian areas can potentially offset climate change and mitigate responses. He highlighted an area of stream networks, stating riparian vegetation exert the most influence on mean water temperatures, and identified portions of the network where strategic placement of vegetation could impact water temperature in a meaningful way. He commented on the small and medium-sized streams benefiting from riparian vegetation, and may take on a coldwater refugium role for a larger river system, allowing native fish to persist.

Reeves explained the importance in identifying a fish bearing stream and whether riparian applications are appropriate. He explained the NorWeST modeling data, riparian projections, and the map identification of key riparian areas are available for data analysis or monitoring efforts. Described additional data available on changes in stream flow for summer and winter seasons and the likelihood to flow or landslides could occur on the landscape. He stated the size and structure of riparian areas were critical to monitor and analyze, while strategic responses are developed to address climate change.

Board commented on the Climate Change Contextual Information for Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review presentations.

- Board Chair inquired about the state of collaboration among Boards, Commissions, and agencies, and what steps are recommended to be taken. Anlauf-Dunn recommended the first step is to form an agreement around a coordinated effort to respond. She commented on understanding what data is available and where, location of thermistors, where data is needed, and how to share the data work load.
- Sought clarification on a model depicting thermal suitability for native salmonids ranging from less to more suitability, and some streams are based in less suitable. Anlauf-Dunn agreed with assessment, and noted conditions could be improved through decreasing levels of emissions on a global scale or through local drivers, like shading, water exchange, and upland management. Board mentioned DEQ utilization of shade curves and inquired whether ODFW has considered this data within their mitigation methods in the basin. Anlauf-Dunn stated this is unknown, and will look into this further.
- Inquired about specific management actions that would be beneficial to mitigating the increases in stream temperatures. Anlauf-Dunn stated VELMA could be beneficial by offering different land management scenarios to maintain stream flow and temperatures.

- Inquired whether a visual representation of what could be in 2080 is available that is a comparable to Oregon's georegion or southwest basin. Anlauf-Dunn referenced central California as the closest comparison to a future georegion example of the basin given the current projections.
- Sought clarification on how climate change effects may depend on forest type. Reeves explained the extent of climate change will vary across the region, and noted that Elliott Forest being in proximity to the coast may not experience a significant increase in water temperature as you would observe in the Siskiyou region. He described challenges of climate change as variable not uniform.
- Inquired about the potentiality of partnerships among various landowners and jurisdictional authorities to collaborate and implement a coordinated response to improve stream conditions. Reeves stated he does not know the regulatory aspect of the scenario presented.
- Remarked on the variability of the Siskiyou region, then asked whether temperature constraints exist for salmonids currently, and if variability is expressed with higher temperatures could worsen the stream conditions. Reeves responded with yes, noting that mitigation approaches like streamside vegetation or riparian buffers will influence stream temperatures. Board inquired about variable width buffers from a regulatory standpoint, how can this be integrated into a policy or rule. Reeves recommended an analysis process, recognized various responses would be in play, and suggested incentivizing implementation.
- Inquired if a change in management is considered to offset climate impacts, what riparian conditions or restoration would be necessary for an observable offset. Reeves suggested increasing the amount of effective shade in riparian zone, but it has to be sufficient for the size and composition. Riparian areas are critical for the Siskiyou region.
- Asked if current rules are adequate to protect stream temperature or is there evidence demonstrating that temperatures and fish are stressed under the Board's current management. Reeves stated he did not know, recommended an assessment and identified a potential consultant. Board Chair considered how an analysis could be framed and moved forward across in an interagency effort.

Dr. Jessica Halofsky from USFS joined the conversation to partake in the panel discussion with the Board. Board Chair extended the participation for the panel discussion to the State Forester and Department staff.

- State Forester shared that the Department participates in a water core team coordinated among natural resource agencies, to prioritize investments in water quality. He described the different regulatory and statutory frameworks that exist across jurisdictions, how local cities and counties may adopt voluntary practices for riparian areas versus a state agency who must follow their own regulatory regime. He asked the panel of researchers to comment on where challenges in stream temperature are the greatest. Reeves referenced the graph he presented, illustrating the riparian zones that could exert the strongest influence on stream temperature. He emphasized the influence of other factors could be considered beyond riparian vegetation, noting how vegetation is key in controlling water temperature and coordinating strategic investments should be assessed by region instead of a blanket approach. Halofsky concurred with Reeves assessment, referenced the NorWeST map information to help pinpoint areas on the landscape that are expecting most increases in stream temperatures, and recommended to assess the value of vegetation in riparian area for the most impact. Anlauf-Dunn commented that riparian areas are an element of a greater whole, noted upland management also influences stream flows and lower volumes of water, which impact stream

temperatures. She remarked on the coordinated local efforts in monitoring water temperatures in the Rogue basin, and mentioned the value to engaging local municipalities to gain support across the region.

- Board posited whether an analysis is warranted given the contextual information presented. Reeves noted there is a strong base of information to move forward on these issues. Board Chair inquired on the need for analysis on the variable riparian regulations that exists as opposed to a uniform approach. Reeves explained the tools and data sets exist, but the application of this information is what needs to be assessed. Anlauf-Dunn commented that scenario planning tools can be used to assess the variable areas on the landscape, and Halofsky noted the quality of the data sets available.
- Board inquired about the presence of too much shading on small or medium-sized streams in the Siskiyou region, and whether the researchers have observed anything to support this claim. Anlauf-Dunn has not observed this on the landscape. Halofsky noted how this may be referencing the density of vegetation in riparian areas that could present a greater risk for fire severity compared to historic baselines, and has not observed too much shade in riparian areas. Reeves concurred. Board inquired about the policy approach recommended to prescribe riparian buffers that could be effective, but also minimize the risk to buffers from fire. Halofsky explained this situation is a conundrum, discussed the experiments conducted in southern Oregon, and the effectiveness of the approaches like thinning in riparian areas could vary and may have greater affect with upland management.
- Board appreciated the contextual information and data presented by the researchers.

Public Testimony:

- Mary Scurlock, Oregon Stream Protection Coalition (OSPC), provided written testimony ([attachment 2](#)) on the Climate Change Contextual Information for Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review presentations. She listed seven key messages on stream temperatures that directly relate to the Board's decision on degradation in the Siskiyou region. Noted two other areas about fish stream identification and Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) is not tailored to local variations.
- Mary Shank provided written testimony ([attachment 3](#)) on the Climate Change Contextual Information for Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review presentations. Urged protections for Southern Oregon rivers and streams.
- Stacey Detwiler from Rogue Riverkeepers, provided co-authored written testimony ([attachment 4](#)) with OSPC on the Climate Change Contextual Information for Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review presentation. Commented on the draft summary for the Siskiyou Streamside protections literature review, released to the advisory committee. Offered a summary of peer-reviewed gray literature on riparian management, shade, and stream temperature.

Handouts:

- Dr. Jessica Halofsky submitted a narrative ([attachment 5](#)) from the Board and panel discussion. She provided more in-depth response to the Board's comments and questions.
- Kara Anlauf-Dunn submitted a narrative ([attachment 6](#)) from the Board and panel discussion. She provided additional information for the Board regarding impact and local drivers of stream temperature, regional trends and projections, coordination opportunities and prioritization, and tool development to inform management.

INFORMATION ONLY.

3. 2021-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

[Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (54 minutes and 50 seconds – 12.5 MB)
Presentation ([attachment 7](#))

Bill Herber, Deputy Director for Administration, opened by introducing fellow presenter, James Short, and explained the purpose for the budget development topic. He reviewed the overall budget development process, noting the technical elements and highlighting the primary products produced. He described the design and function of a policy option package (POP) for the Department. Explained the framework used to develop the POPs, noting how the framework was formed prior to the global pandemic, and the potential for POP adjustment.

James Short, Assistant Deputy Director for Administration, reviewed key dates for the 2021-2023 biennial budget development process for the Board. State Forester Daugherty commented on how any new instructions by Department of Administrative Services (DAS) or direction from the Governor would be followed by the Department, additionally explained how agencies are required to prepare POPs despite the downward projections, giving the Governor options to prioritize investments in new areas, and to prepare budget reductions to offer options to shift resources. Herber acknowledged adjustments are anticipated if DAS introduces modified instructions for POP framework.

Ron Graham, Deputy Chief for Fire Protection Division, reviewed the three POPs prepared by the Division for fire season, including the severity resource package, organizational sustainability and organization package, and severity modernization package. He explained the intention and the needs addressed with each POP, and identified whether the POP is a Special Purpose Appropriation (SPA) or an extension of the base budget.

Kyle Abraham, Private Forests Division Chief, reviewed the three POPs prepared by the Division. He listed the packages: supporting sustainable family and community forestry, forest practices act effectiveness and implementation monitoring, and expanded capacity for the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) program. He noted the POP's origin and any stakeholder interest, as well as outlined the intention and scope of each package.

Liz Dent, State Forests Division Chief, reviewed the single POP prepared by the Division, to support and fund the recreation, interpretation, and education program. She reviewed the background, intention, and scope of the package. She listed the services this package will address for public use of state forestland.

Peter Daugherty, State Forester, provided an update on the Partnership & Planning program status, outlined the staff framework, and introduced Danny Norlander, Partnership & Planning Operation Policy Analyst, to review the first Policy Option Package (POP). State Forester introduced Jeff Burns, Federal Initiatives Program Manager to review the second POP.

Danny Norlander, Forest Carbon and Forest Health Policy Analyst for the Partnership & Planning program, explained the development of the POP was in response to the Governor's Executive Order [20-04](#). He reviewed the intention and scope of the forest climate change, mitigation and adaptation POP, outlined key deliverables that will be produced over the biennium, and noted the continuous collaboration between agencies to address the executive order.

Jeff Burns, Acting Partnership & Program Director, explained the dynamics of the working relationship between the Department and US Forest Service partners, outlined the tools utilized to support the shared stewardship concept, and linked the purpose for the POP as a nexus to address the many anticipated projects for the Federal Initiative unit. He offered an example of how the shared stewardship POP would be utilized over the next biennium, and the State Forester noted the two requested POP amounts, totaling four million.

Herber reviewed four POP's prepared by the Administration Division, and explained how the recommendations made by the external contractor MGO may alter the POP's scope and amount requested. He categorized the packages as agency deferred maintenance and capital improvement, firefighter life safety, administration modernization, and multi-faceted leadership for diversity, equity and inclusion, environmental justice, and government to government. He reviewed the background, intent, and scope for each POP. He offered an example for each POP illustrating the services that would be provided if the POP was approved for the next biennium. Herber noted the four requested POP amounts may change, but totaled over \$11 million.

Short presented the fifth POP prepared by the Administration Division, the facilities capital management program. He explained the purpose, intention, and scope of the POP. Outlined the services, capacity, and systems that would be available if the POP was approved for the next biennium. Short noted the single POP amount requested is one and half million dollars.

Herber closed by stating no decision is in front of the Board, but the information presented can lend to a greater Board discussion.

Board commented on the 2021-2023 Biennial Budget Development presentation.

- Inquired about whether the Legislature had continued interest in the SOD program, and Abraham confirmed, stating the SOD task force is considering all options to increase funding and continue working with legislators.
- Sought clarity on whether the State Forest POP is similar to those submitted in the past and if any alternative components were offered in this package. Dent confirmed the POP is similar with the same request to increase staff capacity and maintenance resources, but remarked on if more time, would like to gather support from the Legislature.
- Discussed the solvency of the State Forests division budget if the POP was not approved, and reviewed the financial constraints their budget will encounter if the timber market declines. Dent commented on the Division current efforts in assessing the timber market impacts from Covid-19, how the forest development fund balance provides the Division space to make measured and strategic decisions to contain expenditures, and how staffing reductions could impact core business. She explained the Division has three levels of implementation, described the three levels, and stated at what level the Division is operating. Noted how the Division has formed workgroups to design, track and assess financial metrics as a way to gauge how projections may impact the Division's operations.
- Inquired about the monetary value for the POPs being proposed. Dent reviewed the State Forests POP amount request of 7.7 million, and highlighted what services it would primarily cover. Abraham provided the Private Forests requested POP amounts, totaling 11.9 million for all three packages. Herber noted the financial amounts and impacts to POP requests are forthcoming in future presentations to the Board.

- Sought further clarity from State Forests Division on what elements of the POP would change if given opportunity to refresh. Dent noted new perspectives on services and approaches in presenting them to the Legislature could be considered with new managers joining the Division. State Forester reminded the Board the Legislature has not viewed the POP, since it has not made it passed the Agency Request Budget (ARB) process and into the Governor's recommended budget. Dent explained county and stakeholder's interest weigh into the Governor's decision. Board mentioned if there is significant impact to State Forest funding critical services as a result of Covid-19, to include this information in the POP and list services that may be unfulfilled if the POP was not accepted. Dent explained the complexity behind determining what services would be listed in a POP under that approach.
- Inquired about agency collaborations for the Partnership and Planning package on climate change. Board mentioned an interagency effort between ODF and ODFW to identify forestland areas sensitive to climate change impacts, and whether this effort could be included with the POP's scope and funding. Norlander explained this interagency coordinated effort would fall within scope of the POP, elaborated on a position that specifically would focus on adaptation and mitigation projects, and highlighted an interagency project the program is currently working on.
- Board reflected on the reasons that contributed to the last round of POPs to not pass the ARB stage, mentioned stakeholders could not agree on Department priorities, and noted the alignment between the Governor's office and the Department. State Forester remarked on the Department's efforts in working with stakeholders jointly to review and offer feedback on the POP's. He noted the POP's reflect the recommendations from the Wildfire Council, which has a broader coalition support, and how the POP's may have been part of the greater agency initiative in the past but this scaled down approach may allow some packages to be included with the Governor's recommended budget. Herber commented that state agencies deploy different strategies and believes this approach may benefit the agency.

INFORMATION ONLY.

4. BOARD CLOSING COMMENTS AND MEETING WRAP UP [Listen to audio](#) MP3 - (8 minutes and 6 seconds – 1.85 MB)

Board Chair, Tom Imeson, reviewed the purpose for the topic, mentioned how the meeting format for the next meeting is unknown and will depend on the COVID-19 restrictions in place. He expressed appreciation to those who organized and executed the virtual meeting, highlighting the efforts of the Board Administrator, Hilary Olivos-Rood, and Public Affairs Specialist, Jason Cox. Reflected on the benefits for a traditional public meeting, and how they can allow for interactive public participation with the Board. He asked for the public to provide written comments on the issues discussed by the Board and to submit them by May 6. Desired real-time public attendance and participation at the next Board meeting.

Board Chair Imeson reviewed the items presented and the discussions by the Board. He asked the Board members for their closing comments or any follow-up to the agenda items as presented, and invited State Forester Daugherty to contribute as well. State Forester commented that the Division staff were available online or in the meeting room to respond to any Board member queries.

Board Members and State Forester commented on the following:

- State Forester explained the likelihood of the June Board meeting being conducted online, and how the Board Administrator is working on options to facilitate public testimony in a virtual setting. He asked the Board members to reflect upon how this teleconference meeting was conducted, to consider whether this format can accommodate a full-day agenda, and to offer any comments on meeting preferences.
- Board Member Kelly complimented the State Forester and the Department staff on the actions taken by the agency in adapting to the crisis. He commented on the importance of shade in the riparian areas and how some areas are located in fire-prone forests, and inquired about prioritization of suppression efforts, and whether the riparian areas are protected under current operations. State Forester noted prioritization of special sites and wildlife areas, but deferred to Ron Graham, Deputy Chief for Fire Protection, for further clarification. Graham noted any critical habitats, threatened and endangered (T & E) species habitats, or resource values at risk are assessed during a fire. He noted how riparian areas can be classified as a highly valued resource at risk, and is factored into current priorities. Closed by mentioning what comes out of this topic's discussion could contribute to additional considerations.
- Board Member McComb considered whether areas upland or adjacent to riparian areas treated with fuel reduction techniques (e.g., prescribed burning) could minimize risk of fire and severity. She desired more information on how compatible fuel reduction treatments might be in riparian areas, and if strategically implemented, what the impact could be.

Board Chair Imeson thanked everyone for their participation, and adjourned the public meeting at 11:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Peter Daugherty



Peter Daugherty, State Forester and
Secretary to the Board

HR

Meeting Minutes Approved at the June 3, 2020 Board Meeting