



Spring Joint Advisory Meeting

Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: February 19, 2020

Instructor (s) present: Joshua Soderlund – Reedley College Forestry/Natural Resources Instructor, Kent Kinney Reedley College Forestry/Natural Resources Instructor, Louie Long Reedley College Forestry/Natural Resources Instructor

Advisory Members present: Ryan Wimmer – Cal Fire Unit Forester, Dan Eberly - YMCA Sequoia Lake Volunteer, Van Arroyo – VROP Wildland Fire Instructor, Ron Garcia – US Forest Service, Maria Meraz – VROP Director of Instructional Services

Administrators, Staff, Others Present: NA

I. Meeting Called to Order By: Joshua Soderlund

- A. February 19th, 2019 @ 7:13pm
- B. Reedley College, FEM 8 Classroom

Reports

II. Welcome and Introductions

- A. All participants present introduced themselves and industry or agency they represent.
- B. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings.
 - a. Joshua Soderlund recommended approval of the December 2019 minutes as submitted.Motion Seconded by Louie Long. All approved minutes.

III. Industry Trends:

- A. Labor Market – Ryan Wimmer the Forester for the Fresno/Kings Unit of Cal Fire has been in his present position for one year. He talked about Gov. Newsom's emergency proclamation which limited CEQA's processes for the completion 36 fuel reduction projects of approximately 1000 acres. These projects need up to 12 crews and majority of individuals are entry level forestry technician positions. Adam asks what positions make up a crew and Ryan answers that there are 3 leadership: Captain, Engineer and Forester with 1 Heavy Equipment Operator and 10 forestry technicians which get opportunity to attend CalFire Academy. Ron Garcia the Fire Management Officer predicts an early fire season and reports a Vegetation Management Program of 4,000 acres involving tractor/hand piles. There are three (OC) organized type III

crews made up of 20 people. Dan Eberly reports that Reedley College is planning on Spring Field Studies Field Trip April 23-24 and that Golden State YMCA has settled lawsuit by selling off about 110 acres.

B. Emerging Trends in Industry – N/A

C. Equipment and Software – N/A

IV. Dual Enrollment - Maria Meraz gives update about VROP Wildland Fire program and announces that Joe Reyes is no longer the lead instructor and Van Arroyo is now the lead instructor of record. There was a discussion about how to keep ROP students in school and presently there is a scholarship program which supports up to 15 students to work toward a Reedley College one-year Wildland Firefighting Certificate. This program requires two work internships the summer before and after starting Reedley College. Van Arroyo stated the internships are done on 30 acres in Parlier River Bottom where fuel reduction work is done such as brush removal and burning piles. Kent Kinney asks if the ROP students will be taking NR 19v. This semester class has nine female and thirty-nine male students.

V. Combined Pathway Events - Some of the events is semester for VROP is Sequoia Lake Field Studies Class on April 23-24 and Tiger Romp Wildland Fire Competition.

VI. Other – Reedley College Forestry/Natural Resources Program Curriculum Motions

A. Joshua Soderlund states that due to SAF Standards the instructor to student ratio needs to be 1:20 in labs and 1:12 in labs which involve dangerous equipment i.e. chainsaws or sawmills. Dan Eberly motions and seconded by Van that Advisory Committee agrees with SAF ratio for lab classes. Discussion about limiting students if not enough instructors per class; adjunct instructors can be included in ratio. Motion passes.

B. Joshua Soderlund states the opportunity for some of the FNR classes to be created as a non-credit course which would be no charge and no units. These non-credit courses could serve another population of students such as non-tradition older students. Dan Eberly motions and seconded by Van that Advisory Committee agrees with creation of non-credit courses. Motion passes.

C. Joshua Soderlund states that the Forestry Technician Firefighting Emphasis Certificate and Forestry A.S. degree curriculum were modified. The Forestry A.S. degree needs to have 600 hours due to SAF Standards so lecture only courses are removed from elective list. Dan Eberly motions and seconded by Van that Advisory Committee agrees with modification of Forestry Technician Firefighting Emphasis Certificate and Forestry A.S. degree. Motion passes.

D. Adam Hernandez states the major modification and renaming of Forestry Technician Firefighting Emphasis Certificate to Forestry Technician – Fire Suppression and creation of two new certificates: Wildland Fire Advancement and Integrated Fuels Management. There is also the creation of three new courses: NR 97

Wildland Fire School – Fundamentals, NR 96 Wildland Fire School – Advancement and NR 95 Integrated Fuels Management. There is also the creation of six courses NR 152, 153, 154, 155, 156 and 159 which will serve the non-traditional full-time Forest Service employee students. Dan Eberly motions and seconded by Van that Advisory Committee agrees with modification and creation of Wildland Firefighting Certificates and courses. Motion passes.

VII. Adjournment time: 8:30 pm

VIII. Name of Person Taking/Preparing Minutes: Joshua Soderlund