Reedley College Forestry and Natural Resources Program Advisory Committee

December 13, 2016

Minutes

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Kent Kinney at 10:42am.

**Roll Call and Introduction of Members** – 24 members present.



**Lunch –** A meal by Reedley College Food Services was provided as a working lunch.

Krista Tomlinson chaired the meeting.

**Minutes –**A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Reports:**

Ron Nishinaka and Dave Clark welcomed the group

**Reedley College Outdoor Laboratory**

**College Forest, Sequoia Lake YMCA -**  Elisa Kobrin reported on the tree mortality issues at Sequoia Lake. She thanked the Program for all of the work completed included the reforestation project and indicated that there is a lot of work that needs to be done due to the beetle kill. Josh Soderlund reported on the work completed at the school forest, specifically the reforestation project. Kent reported that the dead trees provided students with lots of opportunity to learn how to properly fell a tree using a chainsaw.

**Campus Facilities -** Kent Kinney reported on the change of facilities here on campus including LHS wood shop, the relocation of the chainsaw shop, the field house conversion, the acquisition of the hydraulic dump trailer, the flatbed sander, and the grant to purchase fire hoses and hose racks.

**River Ranger Program –** Louie Long reported on the continuing River Ranger Program. To date, 7 students have been employed by the Program. Two students are currently employed part time.

**Fish Production -** Louie Long reported on the recent acquisition of 299 Sacramento perch that were released in the holding pond west of the FEM building. The fish were relocated from a pond in the Owens Valley. The fish will provide students with the opportunity to get hands on experience with habitat enhancement, water quality monitoring, and biological data collection.

**Student Activities**

**Forestry Club -** Louie Long reported on recent activities of the Forestry Club. He also introduced the newly elected Club officers that were in attendance including Sarah Jacobsen – President, Nathan Dueck – Treasurer, and Michelle Aldape – Reporter.

**Society of American Foresters ­–** Joshua Soderlund reported on the SAF activities. The winter meeting will be held in Pasadena. It will give students an opportunity to network with forestry professionals.

**Mule Packing Team -** Kent Kinney reported on the Mule Team activities including the Fresno Fair, competing in Mules Days in Bishop California, and the Mule Bonanza here on campus.

**FFA Events –** Reedley will be hosting the State Finals FFA competition again in January and a Forestry Competition in the Spring Forestry Competition in April.

**Valley Regional Occupation Program and Dual Enrollment –** Debbie Marvin reported on the ROP fire class. It is taught by retired Forest Service fire fighters (10 in all). The instructors are approved as adjunct instructors at Reedley College and therefore ROP students get college credit as well as high school credit for completing the course. Students earn 7 certifications in the class. There are currently 656 students in the program.

**Sequoia High School Natural Resource Education ­–** Kent Kinney reported that Sequoia HS is currently teaching a dual enrollment chainsaw class.

**Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps -** Sue Carter reported on all of the projects they currently have going on. They serve 100% young people of color aged 18 – 24 from the Fresno area.

**Ag Backers Council -** Kent Kinney invited everyone to attend Pinot & Pints on April 8, 2017.

**Old Business**

**New A.S. Degrees –** Joshua Soderlund reported on the history and background on why the degree was changed. It took 4 years to implement but were have now officially created 2 new degrees that require only 60 units to complete rather than the 73 as before. There is a need to add a few more classes to the electives list. Diane Savin-Dukleth proposed adding Fuels Management and Fire ecology as electives to the new degrees.

**RC Wildland Fire Technician Program Certificate & Courses -** Dave McCandless reported that wildland fire accounts for 65% of the land management budget. This means that there are lots of jobs available to students in the GS-3 pay grade. Dave also reported on the new Fire Certificate that was designed for students who don’t want to or can’t complete a 2 year degree. Anecdotally, Dave has noticed that students are completing the certificate and then going on to finish the AS. He also noted that we need to update/correct an error in the Forestry Technician Firefighting flier relative to the S-131, S-211, S-260, IS-200 and PMS 427 being offered in NR42. This is incorrect.

Dave indicated that the Program needs to recruit more females as the Forest Service is pushing to diversify their work force. Elisa Kobrin added that we need to recruit by showing women that they are capable and wanted as part of the workforce rather than simply recruiting by gender. Debbie Marvin added that we should target females in the 7th and 8th grade. By exposing them to the Natural Resource field early, they may choose it as a career.

A sub-committee was formed with Elisa Kobrin as the chair to address the issue of female recruitment. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those interested in participating.

**Student Employment Placement 2016 –** Kent Kinney reported that student placement was very good for summer 2016. For the upcoming summer season there is some concern that students may not be completely ready for the application periods which are opening now or in late December early January. Applicants need to be in the top 2 levels to be considered for employment. Resumes need to be detailed.

**New Business**:

**Certificate revision –** Joshua Soderlund reported on current certificates and proposed revision.

**Meeting Adjourned –** Meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm