

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2017 -- 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Veterans Hall, Hwy 26 and Pine Street, West Point, CA
Meeting Facilitator: Gwen Starrett ♦♦♦ Minutes: Jill Micheau

Item Number	Agenda Item	Owner(s)
1	Call to order – Gwen called to order at 9:30; because Hwy 26 is washed out, and because of tree work on roads, many were late. It took about 25 minutes for the full group to assemble.	Gwen Starrett
2	Participants introductions – see sign-in sheet	All
3	Introduction of new Administrator, Jill Micheau	
4	Modification and/or approval of agenda -- approved with one change: Item 9—Tree mortality, Jan will talk about Amador, Pat on Calaveras	All
5	Approval of January minutes: defer until Marc meeting. Need to get minutes from Jan.	Jan
6	Review of January action items: defer until Marc meeting. Need to get action items from Jan.	Jan
7	<p>Facilitated discussion: Review of Cornerstone Project Overview of Cornerstone for group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Omnibus act 2009 provided a 10-yr commitment of funds. Second round of funding in applied for in 2010. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service and ACCG wrote grant application with help from a Chips ex-director. <input type="checkbox"/> Trips were made to DC and Vallejo to talk to officials re circumstances, and this outreach was helpful in getting the project recognized and funded. <input type="checkbox"/> The collaborative aspects of the ACCG also made a positive impression. It created confidence in group that contributed to the selection of Cornerstone for funding. <input type="checkbox"/> Cornerstone project was selected in February, 2012 by the Department of Agriculture. <input type="checkbox"/> A bar chart of Targeted accomplishments was presented (<i>attached at end of this file</i>) showing list of project categories. <input type="checkbox"/> Original set of Cornerstone projects were mostly existing things, dusted off. Now we need to review Cornerstone, develop a strategic plan modified to reflect the impact of drought, tree mortality, fires, etc., keeping our commitment to collaborate at the forefront (plus review and sign MOA). <input type="checkbox"/> Funding for Cornerstone is slated to end in year 8 (2019). The graph below shows that we have exceeded some goals and fallen short on others. This was presented to Lindsay Buchanan (DC counterpart); discussed changing plan to rebalance the suite of projects, still meeting the intent of the original proposal. A new business plan will be developed to reflect these changes. 	Rick Hopson and Ray Cablayan, <i>(both from USFS)</i>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ACCG has a decision making role in the process, so FS needs approval to move forward. <input type="checkbox"/> QUESTION TO THE GROUP: Do we agree? Where should we adjust focus? FS will do the work, then get back to the group with suggestions. <input type="checkbox"/> Time Frame: end of September. The planning group will need to get back to ACCG in 2 months. FS will work with the planning group, and bring plan and numbers back to ACCG. <input type="checkbox"/> Suggestions from the last planning meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Back off on projects we've completed <input type="checkbox"/> Given tree mortality, focus more on WUI, less on fuels; <input type="checkbox"/> Road maintenance work; <input type="checkbox"/> Noxious weeds. Currently have not met target, but related to lack of weeds. Keep at current funding level because we expect more weeds to move in after fires. <input type="checkbox"/> Some goals not met because of lack of staff... outsource NEPA? <input type="checkbox"/> Potential re-prioritization of goals adjusted for impact of fires, drought, bark beetles, tree mortality, etc. <p>Group thoughts about moving forward with revisions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can FS provide data on things that haven't shown up in the database? Some things are not tracked as CFR accomplishments. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide current funding picture by project. <input type="checkbox"/> Could categories be broadened to show greater progress? Important to highlight success and achievements. Will make a difference for future collaboratives. Show what was actually accomplished, reflecting drought, fires, tree mortality, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Why are we not tracking cultural sites? Very important to parts of our community. <i>Rick: that work is in the WUI category. Will highlight in annual report.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Can we/are we monitoring the effects of different types of treatments? We need a way to judge what works, what lessons we've learned, and convey those lessons. What are economic efficiencies? What data can we get? Monitor differences so we know what we have learned. <i>Rick: multi-party monitoring is part of the activity. We are starting to ramp up monitoring.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Perhaps use some funds to analyze what we've done, what the results are. Will take back to monitoring group. Monitoring plan was approved by this group few meetings ago. Add to future meeting agenda. <input type="checkbox"/> Plan promised a triple bottom line: environment, social, economic – we have no way to evaluate economic and social contributions. Looks like those are lacking. <input type="checkbox"/> Add more projects that incorporate recreation. Trails near fuel breaks, etc. This would contribute to both social and economic goals. Recreation may be an untapped potential for new funds from companies like Ptagonia, REI, etc. What other funding sources can we investigate? <input type="checkbox"/> Can funds be moved from Matley project to focus on John Lucas/Arnold Penny Pines project? <i>Casey indicates it has already been done.</i> 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Are categories accurate? Do they reflect the interests of the group? Annual report should capture narratives. <p>What will happen after 2019?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Spent ~70% of funds, but not straight-lined. Will funding end early? <input type="checkbox"/> Define how to frame our relationship <p>What can we control, what not?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Socio-economic aspects: using local contractors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Essential to rebuild and restore local economy. Should address this in a stronger way. Too much money going to outsiders. <input type="checkbox"/> Costs – non-local bids are \$400-600 acre. Local contractors are asking ~\$1400/acre. <input type="checkbox"/> FS tries to structure contracts to the advantage of local contractors (smaller parcels, etc). <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes get only one local bid. <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts and acquisitions are regulated. Cannot automatically make local awards. It is up to the contracting officer, who is required to make decisions in the interest of government. Has to award to lowest qualified bid. It is a competitive process. Locals still have to compete. FS doesn't control awards. <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat dependent on our long term goals. Redeveloping local business is in long-term interest of FS. <input type="checkbox"/> Are local contractors open to bidding collectively as a group on contracts? This was tried in the past. Should it be revisited? <i>R. Smith of Smith Grinding indicated a willingness to revisit this.</i> <p>Summary and Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> It makes sense to update the scope of work for Cornerstone; <input type="checkbox"/> FS will bring back to group; Rick will bring back actions and numbers; <input type="checkbox"/> Overlay with past projects. 	
8	<p>Update on Wilseyville biomass plant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A series of meetings are being held with three companies that want to work on this. <input type="checkbox"/> The 3 companies have 2 primary concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o What will the price be? Will take until July or August for biomass auction to set price leading to legislative required purchase agreement. o Is there enough material to feed a 3 mg plant? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 studies done before current tree die-off and the Butte Fire indicated that there is plenty of material. <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd firm has pyrolytics technology, not gasification. Equipment is sitting at McClellan. They are competing with the Israeli company. Have less money but interesting new technology; testing to see if it meets already submitted standards. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>BLM and SPI please stay after to meet with Steve.</i> He needs participation tomorrow (2/16) hosting an Israeli company. Anxious to give them sense that the material is here; cost to transfer to Wilseyville; need surety of steady flow of material. Project seems to be on track with a few caveats: 	Steve Wilensky

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	<p>Trying to get eligibility for a \$2M grant. Heat, power, biochar products. Application is complete, entitlement ready.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p>Tree mortality updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Amador (Pat McGreevy): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A public meeting was held with Supervisor L. Loran; well attended, ~200 people showed up. Directed at Cal Fire and Fire Safe council, etc. Demonstrated coordination among stakeholders. ○ A new owner for Cedar Mill; taking ownership ASAP... Dan Osborne? Has many ideas. May make decking material from tree mortality materials. ○ Some entities have applied for grants. Lynn Morgan provided \$10K to start her own grant and is looking for other donors. Primarily to be awarded for trees not covered by PG&E or other programs. RCD grant for seniors, FS Council, and PG&E. ○ PG&E has a new log deck behind Lowe's. Will bring in a horizontal grinder. Chips sold to China Camp? ❑ Calaveras (Tim Tate): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nothing changed on Calaveras side. Calaveras County efforts lagging somewhat. Doesn't seem to be any progress in attaining a Tree Mortality Coordinator or Registered Forestry Coordinator for the county. Mike Miller has 13 weeks left. ○ County issued an RFP, got only one response which was >\$1million and was rejected. ○ Cal Fire now has curtain burners at Vallecito Camp; making progress in creating a centralized receptacle/yard for woody material at Red Hill. May not be functioning yet because of rain. There is a large horizontal grinder at Milton plus a tub grinder. ○ Loggers are upset because only Cal Fire can use. Afraid that local loggers may be put out of work. Brown's declaration states that small businesses in communities be used for disposal of materials. New CDF equipment could put locals out of business. <i>Tim Tate thinks burners are not efficient enough to make a dent in the issue. Best way to continue discussion is to go to the TM meetings. Put TM meetings on website.</i> ○ Question: is curtain grinder available for private sector or just for Cal Fire? <i>A: 2 months ago it was only for Cal Fire projects.</i> ○ Tree Mortality group has not developed any services for constituents. ○ A Lidar database is being developed. The contractor rates are ver low, <25cents/acre. Data would be very useful. Pat McGreevy thinks that project may be a non starter. Has not been able to get their data. ○ ACCG started the Tree Mortality group. What recommendations do we have to move it forward? Calaveras is bogged down in cannabis issues. How can we provide a healthy intervention? Can we prep attendees beforehand and have them attend? Not having a county coordinator makes it hard to do anything. Need 3 down-county reps. <i>Steve Wilensky will work with volunteers for this.</i> ❑ Alpine (Terry Woodrow): no report provided. 	<p style="text-align: center;">McGreevy Bray Woodrow</p>

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10	<p>Admin Work Group update: Administrator hired (Jill Micheau). Just starting. John H. is transferring materials and information to Jill. Jill will be updating website and attending working group meetings to get up to speed.</p>	John Heissenbuttel
11	<p>Planning Work Group update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Last meeting went over 2017 work plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed projects and implementation. Arnold TM, prescribed burns, taking down trees, focus on WUI; now doing Lakemont; other HOAs interested. Scott discussed intent to scale plan for Arnold area. Farm bill gives authority to treat up to 3K acres. Ray looking at it. If we don't have 3K acres, we may look for other funds. Planning will move forward. <input type="checkbox"/> HOA reps talked about their areas. Discussed business plan revision. <input type="checkbox"/> Next meeting will be in Jackson, will focus on Panther project. <input type="checkbox"/> At next meeting: can Rick review at fuel break status from FS, CalFire, BLM. How do we calculate carbon benefits? 	Casey Jardine
12	<p>Operations Work Group update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Should we redefine "local" to expand pool of contracting options? If yes, which work group should own this? <input type="checkbox"/> See discussion in #9, Calaveras. 	John Heissenbuttel
13	<p>Agency/organization updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Business plan revision, planning group. o Scott Tangenberg: rain has caused significant road damage. Will have much work to do spring and summer. o Panther Project planning to get EA into 30-day comment period this Friday. Trying to fit in with other meetings. Will take late comments. Hiring concerns because of federal hiring freeze. <input type="checkbox"/> BLM -- CRC.org website up again. <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mike Pickard: Annual Watershed Summit, March 1st. See info, right, and on web at : http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Funding: expended 1st \$10M of \$25M. Cancelled 3/1 deadlines because all funds have been awarded. New grant guidelines for next \$7M and \$8M grants will be available shortly. There are changes in how to apply. Mandatory pre-applications. Focus will be on water quality/quantity. How protecting health of forest. \$8m will be granted 2017-19; \$7M will be granted in final round, 2019-21. With so many good applications, money is depleted very quickly. ACCG needs to prepare now for the November call to get in on the first round of funding. <input type="checkbox"/> CSERC: having their annual photo contest – see website: http://www.cserc.org/ 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Valley Conservation Corp -- looking for places to contract youth in this area. Contact Deb Phillips or Mike Totten at 209-292-2702 if you have possible work for them. <input type="checkbox"/> Biomass Committee Alpine – West Carson project being set up. Next meeting 1st Tuesday in March. Session on biomass utilization including biomass to bioenergy. Carson City prison plant reactivate? Larry Swann may attend. Of interest to this group. Early March deadline for comments. <input type="checkbox"/> Agency??? -- Lots of water. Vacancies in recreation staff. Can he fill those positions? Commercial rafting in Electra area? May use seasonal workers. Working with upper Mokelumne Watershed Authority. Maybe ready to discuss in early spring. Sandy Gulch fuels project wrapped up. 6 Montana BLM foresters marking trees in Lily Gap. <input type="checkbox"/> Foothill conservancy: Looking for new director. <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Wilensky: Attended adaptation workshop with BLM last week. Will give info to Jill for website. How to put climate considerations into forest planning. Data and research available. <input type="checkbox"/> CHIPS: Due to weather, not working much, because not safe. Doing training and certifications. Have agreement signed Feb. 21st with Tahoe Basin; also Humboldt Toyabe, Washoe. Also have Yosemite work for tribal and other CHIPs members, Aug-Sept next year. Hoping to meet with local CCC on joint efforts. Blue Mountain soil elixir is now being tested at UC Merced. Have been offered a grant to help develop it. <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Smith (Smith Grinding) – Wallace yard still taking in PG&E tree mortality material; first trees from Calaveras fire tree removal coming in today (2/15). 	
14	Action item review – see action items at end of document.	Jill Micheau
15	Future meeting topics and/or speaker suggestions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Zack Wood from UCD, bat studies scheduled for March meeting. <input type="checkbox"/> State TM task force? Gabe Shultz, Glen b??? (ask Mike P for name) <input type="checkbox"/> BLM or FS – Jody Axelsome – ask Mike P – etymologist. Or Bev from Sonora (get name and contact info from Steve W.) <input type="checkbox"/> Shana Gross on Bark Beetles <input type="checkbox"/> Placerville FS nursery on seeds, propagation, etc. (Mike P) 	Gwen Starrett
16	Adjourn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Next meeting March 15, 2017, 12200 B Airport Road, Jackson, CA 	Gwen Starrett

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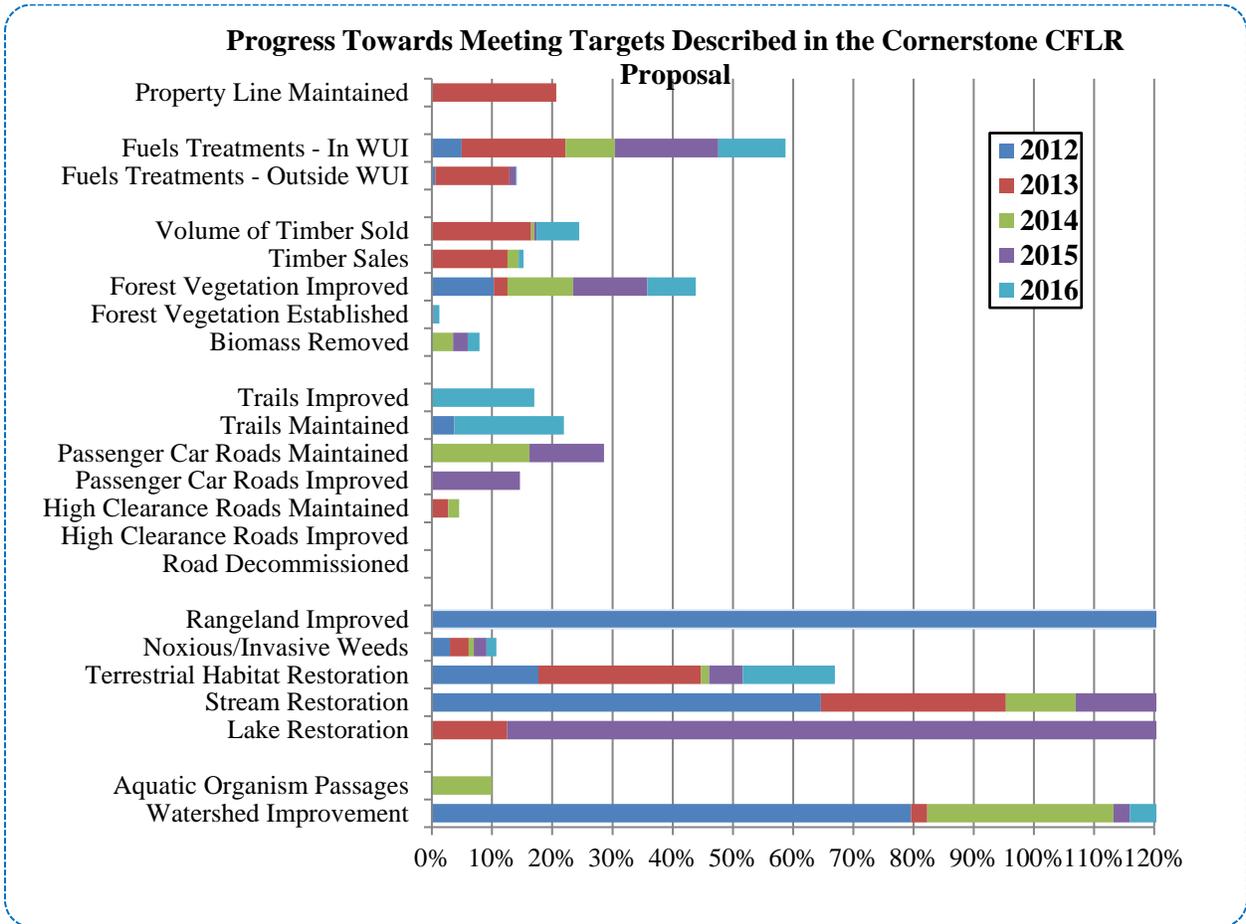
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Action Items from February Meeting:

Owner	Item	Due Date	Comments
Jill Micheau	Outreach to community; Need new group mentor to coordinate; get people to planning meetings and field trips; capture details for reporting purposes (to USDA) and publicity; set up mentoring program to indoctrinate new members.	Set up: April 1 st Execution: ongoing	Will need help from knowledgeable group members to develop mentoring activity and materials.
Steve Wilensky	Send info from Adaptation workshop to JillMicheau@gmail.com	2/20/2107	Jill to post to website
Jill Micheau	Schedule monthly teleconferences for Admin Working Group – publish on website	3/1/2017	Mondays, 1 week prior to General Meeting (which is on the 3 rd Wednesday of the month)
Jill Micheau	Add Calaveras Tree Mortality Task Force meetings to website	3/1/2017	2 nd Wednesday of the month, Sherriff's office in San Andreas
Steve Wilensky	Work with volunteers (Tim Tate, Pat McGreevy, Mike Pickard, Terry Woodrow) on tree mortality issues.	Open	From notes: <i>ACCG started the Tree Mortality group. What recommendations do we have to move it forward? Calaveras is bogged down in cannabis issues. How can we provide a healthy intervention? Can we prep attendees beforehand and have them attend? Not having a county coordinator makes it hard to do anything. Need 3 down-county reps. Steve Wilensky will work with volunteers for this.</i>
Jill Micheau	MOA update and signatures	?	Work with Robin and/or Shana
John Heissenbuttel	Reconvene local contractors to collaborate on group response to RFPs	Open	Operations working group?
Jill Micheau	Send EPOC meeting schedule and info to Ray Cablayan	2/20/2017	
Casey Jardine	Set up conference call with John H. and Steve W. re: socio-economic monitoring	2/20/2017	
Jan Bray	Develop an acronym dictionary	Open	To be used in orientations and posted to website.
Ruben Childress	Facilitate March meeting	3/15/2017	Location: Jackson
Mike Pickard	Facilitate April meeting	4/19/2017	Location: West Point
Julia Stephens	Facilitate May meeting	5/17/2017	Location: Jackson

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2017 Meeting Schedule:

Date	Location	Facilitator
March 15	Jackson	Ruben Childress
April 19	West Point	Mike Pickard
May 17	Jackson	Julia Stephens
June 21	West Point	
July 19	Jackson	
August 16	West Point	
September 20	Jackson	
October 18	West Point	
November 15	Jackson	
December 20	West Point	