

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 -- 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

NOTE NEW LOCATION: San Andreas Library, 1299 Gold Hunter Rd, San Andreas, CA 95249

Meeting Facilitator: Michael Pickard ••• **Minutes:** Jill Micheau

Attendees: Terry Woodrow, Brian Mulhollen, Susan McMorris, Julia Stephens, Megan Fiske, Jay Francis, Robin Wall, Casey Jardine, Dennis Bowker, Pat McGreevy, Chris Trott, Trisha Frazier, Steve Wilensky, Katherine Evatt, Gerald Schurante, Ken Lambert, David Griffith, Robert Smith, Reuben Childress, Becky Estes, Robin Wall, Gwen Starrett, John Heisenbuttel, Michael Pickard, Jill Micheau, Casey Jardine.

Item Number	Agenda Item	Owner(s)
1	Call to order	M. Pickard
2	Participants introductions	All
3	Modification and/or approval of agenda One change made; Becky instead of Robin	All
4	Approval of March minutes Approved (no objections)	All
Presentation/Discussion		
5	<p>ACCG Strategic Planning – new effort beginning</p> <p>Michael walked through a presentation that outlines a proposed planning process for ACCG to be executed over the next 6 months. Discussion focused on level of participation, and how to incorporate strategic planning into general meetings (or not). A sign-up sheet was circulated to collect names of those interested in participating in the process. The following decisions were agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The strategic planning process will be lead/driven by Michael Pickard and Jill Micheau ● The primary planning participants will be a core group consisting of the Admin group plus those who have signed up and expressed interest and a commitment to the process ● Key activities that require input beyond the core group will be conducted at the general meetings. This may be an add-on to the meeting or may substitute for a speaker. Options to manage the time at meetings and still include planning included having agency updates submitted in writing, or adding time to the standard meeting time. ● Only signatories to the MOA will be able to “vote” on aspects of the final plan, although everyone can participate in the process ● A Doodle survey will be sent out shortly to narrow down planning dates. 	<p>M. Pickard</p> <p>Adobe Acrobat Document</p>
Updates		
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TREX update Proposal was accepted. This area chosen for a series of controlled burns. Participants need to help identify “ready” burn projects. 2-3 weeks in fall; 1 project in Stanislaus, 1 in El Dorado, 1 BLM, 1 SPI/private. 7-10 burn projects total. 6 years ago proposed 30k acres in burn program within the CLFRA – this category is the lowest % completed. Drought conditions hindered work. Burns must be scheduled on days that are not high fire risk. Steve emailed forms to interested parties. Let him know if you want to participate. Could bring in a broader coalition. Press releases and communications help promote burn programs. Will require lots of public interaction, especially near WUI. Who wants to participate? What is TREX: organization to reintroduce prescribed burning. 	<p>Steve Wilensky</p>

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	<p>General application process to increase pace and scale of prescribed burning. Training Exchange, from Nature Conservancy. Travel to implement projects with agencies who don't do lots of prescribed fires. Getting tribes involved has been critical in Southwestern areas.</p> <p>Pat McGreevy: are environmental studies needed? Yes... in most cases.</p> <p>Exceptions for private land. Interagency collaborators for Calaveras County meets tomorrow (4/20). Cal Am goal is to plot all fuel breaks in 2 counties, then look for funding to plug existing holes. ACCG should be a core group for this effort. BLM has several projects but all are beyond this timeframe. Sept, Oct. Nov timeframe.</p> <p>Rick: talk offline. Has an experienced person in Placerville that could help write the TREX MOA. Also talking to Big Trees and Yosemite.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agreements with Tahoe, Toiyabe, etc. -- 3 year agreement with Chips Tahoe forest, \$950K; crew with fire training and S212 training June 1 for 3 years. Job opportunities. Problem: eviction notices given to 6 staff because they made too much to stay in subsidized housing. Apparently something was worked out to solve this, but it was a big headache. ● BLM commitment, forest update Bill: setting up a structured agreement for 15K acres of BLM lands near Wilseyville; 1st draft done; Lilygap is ready; 900 acres in South Mokulumne project surveys are nearly done; Cal Fire working on Buckhorn and Mithel Mine project; new contract for air surveys of forest types on BLM lands in CA can identify species on the ground. Mokulumne watershed will be the pilot project for this new technology. Stewardship agreement is in the works. 3K acres added to 15K mentioned above. June meeting BLM advisory council FACA – fed advisory committee meeting. Wants to bring advisory council to legitimize ACCG as a federal advisory group. ● Update on Wilseyville biomass Chips is in detailed discussions on this. Investors are interested now. Confident that we will have a signed agreement within 2 months. Once it's signed, will it need additional grants? US DOC asked us to present to them in DC; asked us to apply; forest projects were accidentally dropped; processes will be added. Meeting will happen in May, then we can submit \$2M proposal. Did not get EPIC grant (\$5M). We did not have professional grant writers, others did. We hope to be better staffed for the next grant. ● Biomass companies update (meetings held in February) Need to preserve local hiring and job creation. ● CHIPs needs to hire 30 people this year... has training grant. Brian Mulhollen is doing training. Fit, sober, functional, ready to learn. 	
7	<p>Tree mortality updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Amador (John Heissenbottle): TM group met last week; Cal OEN emergency funds for TM, Amador County has hired a registered forester, and Richard Harris as coordinator too ramrod the project for the county. Starting with a pilot project off of Defender Grade; there is no PG&E activity there, ~ 80 trees; put out to bid; will start within 2 weeks; will do a time and motion study; other pilot projects getting going; Amador is following the Tuolumne model with regard to removing stems, etc. 	Jan Bray Tim Tate

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calaveras (Pat McGreevy) Mike Miller had been hired on a temporary basis and has now left. He has prepared a job description to hire 2 people to replace him. Curtain burner at Red Hill is operating; everything for past year has been centered on Hwy 4, not 26 or other areas. • Tim Tate re beetles: compared to last year, the difference is dramatic; trees, not stands fading now. Optimistic that we will see dramatic decline in pace and scale this year. 	
8	Admin Work Group update Nothing	John H.
9	Planning Work Group update: Robin shared 3 documents, which can be found here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of potential field trips • April 26th Planning Committee Agenda • Collaborative monitoring survey 	Robin Wall <small>Adobe Acrobat Document</small> <small>Adobe Acrobat Document</small> <small>Adobe Acrobat Document</small>
10	Operations Work Group update John and Rick discussing how to be more strategic; will schedule meeting in next 4-6 weeks.	John H.
11	Monitoring Work Group update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Survey: Foster Firs Project Becky showed the proposed collaborative survey to the group and discussed how various questions are worded; will work with Katherine to clarify several items. Survey will be online, but paper copies will be available too. • Will also do a survey broader than project – overall; now focused on project participation; Katherine will help with editing survey. • Volunteer opportunities for this summer were discussed for small focused monitoring projects 	Robin Wall Becky
12	Forest Service Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panther Project response to comments closed; being analyzed; next step is a draft decision late May; ACCG could still chose to comment; would love to hear from group • Power Fire EIS will be published in Fed Register this Friday (4/21); full departmental review not complete. Will be on topic next planning meeting. Info will be on website – draft GIS. Comment period may be kicked off next week. • NFWF agreement signed ~\$3M agreement signed recently; big milestone, funds obligated. 	Rick Hopson
13	Agency/organization updates (round table) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cal-Am Tree Work (Pat McGreevy) partnered with Chips, got \$200K grant for homeowners in Blue Lake Springs (Arnold HOA); not as many applications as they thought... only 27 so far; contractors too busy to get bids. 10 homeowners in BLS have sold homes because they can't afford to pay for tree removal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cal Fire Safe Council, Terry Woodrow: got grant, on web, advertised. Open until 5/22; lottery system is set up. All applicants will be notified by June. Cost share program, up to 6 trees, up to \$350/tree. Must be near a habitable structure. Available to all of Calaveras. For more info, 	

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	<p>go to Cal Fire Safe at: http://www.amadortreemortality.com/important-documents.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Scott Tangenberg USFS: Jeannie Higgins will not return; Scott will be continue acting for the foreseeable future. Federal hiring freeze was lifted last week, but agencies still cannot hire at will; workforce will be reduced. Storm damage has been bad; FS is prioritizing projects, roads, failures, etc.● Pat McGreevy, CalAm: Archeologists are writing reports right now. BLM and CalAm need to discuss NEPA; Need for SNC application (Nov 1); working on 2 grants from CA Fire Safe Council; BLS fire break and Lake Tubot (Jan Bray is lead) fuel breaks missing segments to be addressed.● Trish Frasier, Motherlode Job Training: 2014 Workforce and Opp act gave equal emphasis on business development and economic development; she needs to know what we need with regard to workers... skills, attitude, etc. Keep locals employed. Just received notice that they got a grant to subsidize employment, infrastructure building. Money here soon.● Jay Francis, SPI Martel: extended drying period so we can do tree mortality salvage; hoping tree die-off will slow down this year; many road projects, finding more; cooperating with PG&E and Amador County on alternate access for some areas and coordinating road use.● Susan McMorris, Blue Mountain Community Renewal Council: increased enrollment in schools, especially in West Point and Railroad Flat. Also have received generous donations from legal cannabis growers. Playgrounds, music programs, etc.● Foothill Conservancy, Rubin Childress: Everyone should try to see Lee Stetson at Brett Hart High School, April 30, 3:00 PM.● John Heissenbuttel Natural Resource Consultant, Amador Fire, CA Fire Safe Council: if CA Fire Safe grant is secured, will be used to implement existing wildlife plan.● Robert Smith, Smith Grinding: receiving trees from Butte Fire and taking in PG&E logs; helping bring in dead trees; trying to resolve issue of exemption with CalFire.● Steve Wilensky, CHIPS: complemented supervisors from Alpine County for attending. Need more sups from both counties to show up.● David Griffith, Alpine Biomass Committee: Trying to get biomass up to Alpine. Liberty Utilities open to something like that. Manager is familiar with the process.● Katherine Evatt, Foothill Conservancy: Karen Glaze's house burned down, lost all; FC has reopened job search for executive director. Details on website.● Gwen Starrett, landowner: Shana Gross recently gave climate engine training; looked at restoration projects and it was quite stunning. Maybe more of us should do training -- Shana is contact for this.● Brian Mulhollen, CHIPS training, Heli-Dunn Aviation: safety is training focus. Will be working with tribes, S212 and fire training; "Heli feller" and "Heli saw" being used, can fell 60 trees/day.● Chris Trott, CT Bioenergy and Consulting Forester, Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions Collaborative Group: developed a pilot project, 5 year, would be on green forest	
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	<p>south of Middle fork of Stanislaus, thinning up to 5K acres/year, prescribed fire, restoration; actively getting something done on the ground. FS with YSS just put in for Cal Fire greenhouse gas grant for 1K acres to start, is NEPA ready. Also have \$1M grant for Stanislaus north fork rim fire restoration, projects starting this summer. One of his clients has set up a chipping location in Stockton, also taking logs soon He can put you in touch. Call Chris at 209-606-1094.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tim Tate, SPI: donated 20,000 seedlings for Butte fire land owners. Most were planted by Americorp kids. Mostly completely planted. Donating another 2-5K trees for those that have suffered tree mortality; giving those out now; will be in Arnold Sunday afternoon by Big Trees Market. Look at Cal TM website. Will also provide a handout with instructions on how to plant seedlings. ● Rick Hobson, FS: road closures; view 88 project is ongoing. ● Robin Wall, FS: Scale meeting in Sacramento May 23-24 –encouraged all to attend. Local collaborative, FS nursery funding work with Placerville. ● Supervisor from Amador Board of Supervisors: storm damage; will attend more of our meetings; ABC committee getting more info on our side; Regions 4 and 5 think differently. Housing issues, Chips, etc. ● Bill Haigh BLM: milestone on EBMudd-BLM project: Poison Lake now has a remediation plan, blessed by water board, work will be done late summer. ● Casey Jardine, Cal Ranger District: also giving away free trees; forest order to extend motor vehicle use road closures until June 15th or when roads are dry enough. Casey showed slides of storm damage to roads. Click on pdf icon to the right to see them. ● Ken Lambert EBMud: storm damage, Lodi golf course lost 43 trees. ● Michael Pickard, Sierra Nevada Conservancy: finished up comment period for draft guidelines; June 6 board meeting at Shaver Lake to approve guidelines for pre-app. All electronic – new system. 	Adobe Acrobat Document
14	Review of action items -- none	Jill Micheau
15	Future meeting topics and/or speaker suggestions; ask for volunteers to facilitate June, July, August Need facilitators for next 3 months.	M. Pickard
16	Adjourn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next meeting May 17, 2017, Jackson, 12200 Airport Rd, Sutter Creek, CA 95685 	M. Pickard

2017 Meeting Schedule:

Date	Location	Facilitator
May 17	Jackson	Julia Stephens
June 21	West Point	Rick Hopson
July 19	Jackson	
August 16	West Point	
September 20	Jackson	
October 18	West Point	
November 15	Jackson	

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December 20	West Point	
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