

# Amador Calaveras Consensus Group Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 -- 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

**Location: Veterans Hall, Hwy 26 and Pine Street, West Point, CA**  
**Meeting Facilitator: Rick Hopson ✨✨✨ Minutes: Jill Micheau**

**Attendees:** Ron Harufs; Jay Francis; Tim Tate; Gerald Schwartz; Bill Haigh; Susan McMorris; Pat McGreevy; Scott Tangenberg; Gwen Starrett; Reuben Childress; Steve Wilensky; Ray Cablayan; Robin Wall; Rick Hopson; Sue Holper; John Heissenbuttel; Trisha Frazier; Jill Micheau

Item Number	Agenda Item	Owner(s)	Est. Time
1	Call to order	Rick Hopson	9:36 AM
2	Participants introductions	All	9:36 AM
3	Modification and/or approval of agenda -- none	All	9:40 AM
4	Approval of May minutes -- approved	All	9:45 AM
<b>Presentations</b>			
5	<p><b>DRAFT Cornerstone Business Plan Revision</b></p> <p>Notes: FS realized that would not make all targets. Some over, some under; variety of reasons. Ends in 2019, requires Congressional extension to continue; extensions is not expected. Has presented proposed revisions here and at planning meetings several times. <b>Support is required from this group.</b> Ray spoke with Lindsay yesterday; leaving up to regions to submit work for CFLR or not; likely some kind of budget compromise; may get lesser amount in 2018. Continuing resolution likely in October.</p> <p>Robin presented proposed changes: have been discussing the business plan revision for a year; anything &lt;80% achieved needs to be adjusted. See chart (attach to minutes).</p> <p><b>Comments and Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Childress) on 80% items, will those be considered “done?” – A: Rick -- probably. Seems reasonable.</li> <li>• ACCG letter of support? (McGreevy): Cornerstone and FS projects don’t match, so difficult to make sense of it. Lots of things achieved that were not on the original list of 19 projects. CHIPS, fire protection, writing CWPPs etc.; Q: Was there Cornerstone interaction with CWPPs? JH and PM disagree on this. Depends on timing of CFLR.</li> <li>• (McGreevy) Original goals were too ambitious, i.e., reintroduction of prescribed fire. FS capacity is too low to meet goal.</li> <li>• (McGreevy) Same for cultural sites -- \$1M budget needed; too much of the budget.</li> <li>• (McGreevy) Should have been reviewed earlier than now.</li> </ul>	Rick Hopson and Robin Wall	9:45

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Starrett) need better alignment between business plan and letter. King and Rim fire logging had major impacts. Add context to 1<sup>st</sup> two bullets.</li> <li>• (Tate) OK to reference fires and tree mortality as explanation for not reaching goals; Danger wrt timber sales language – do not use as justification for future work – that work has been done. Do not assume glut of wood anymore. Aggressive on new timber sales.</li> <li>• (Hopson) an assessment in 2019 is anticipated; need to show that we achieved targets. Will still do sales; will not happen until FY 2019.</li> <li>• (Wilensky) CHIPS numbers are right, gender is wrong. <b>Pat will fix.</b> 3 women; staff; make gender-neutral.</li> <li>• (Childress) Foothill Conservancy would like to see how Forest Service rationalizes decision to modify each goal; cluster by reason – over ambitious, budget portion, etc.; rationale, line by line items to ACCG – how it will affect project work; how do modified goals translate to future projects? Staffing? ACCG impact?</li> <li>• (Wilensky) also need to look forward; what projects are in pipeline that are expected to be done? What can we still do? Basis? What didn't we do? This is what we will do regardless...</li> <li>• <b>Path forward: Consensus to delegate to a group to develop a DRAFT and send out for approval? Hand off to planning group. Anyone who won't be attending planning meeting, let us know. Agreed (silence).</b></li> <li>• Hopson summarized. <b>Will provide more detail and justification.</b></li> <li>• (Tate) wants to see the bigger spreadsheet. All data is taken from accomplishment databases, all in annual reports. More interested in how projections were developed. (Wall) got plans from each specialist. Numbers of timber sales may be wrong... Or it may need to be more clearly defined as acres treated using timber sales.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION ITEM: Pat will update letter and send out to planning team</b></li> </ul>		
6	<p><b>Tree mortality updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amador (John Heisenbuttel) – Amador met last Tuesday; TM removal projects moving along; hired registered professional forester for the project; completed one project on Defender Road; another on Joyce Road; Ramsford grade next. Assume will be done by end of calendar year. PG&amp;E reports that TM near power lines, falling is getting done, removal is falling behind. Trying to get contractors moving along. Had good conversation on current bark beetle kill – actual TM attacks have dropped way down.</li> <li>• Calaveras (Pat McGreevy) – Calaveras TM put out request to fund a coordinator; Board of Supervisors got 2 responses and will make decision; still focused on Hwy 4 corridor, not West Point area; no place to take logs; attention mostly to southern side of county. Successfully got 2 TM grants from CHIPS and FSC to reimburse homeowners for cost of tree felling. Criteria for reimbursement is different between groups; complicated because Blue Lake Springs HOA was excluded from one group.</li> <li>• BLS has only 29 requests from homeowners for assistance; hoped we'd have 200 requests. Lack of interest with residents. Criteria needs to be amended to add removal.</li> </ul>	John Heisenbuttel, Pat McGreevy	10:15 AM

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Tate) 2 grant programs in Calaveras County; one for BLS, other is county-wide; wanted to avoid double dipping; some don't have the co-pay, which is about 75%; only 40% of grant money spent. Options are to spend on clean up; raise the amount we give to homeowners; future participation might increase. Money lasts until 2019; If TM were to stay like last year we could use the money on that, but we may not have new customers. Need to figure out how to spend the money. The two programs should match</li> <li>• (Tate) On Calaveras side, Red Hill landfill is ready to take logs, have grinder and saw mill and curtain burners.</li> <li>• (Wilensky) CHIPS is getting a tub grinder; still have to fix the apron</li> </ul>		
7	<p>Update on TREX meeting, June 7th – folks from Eldorado and Cal Fire, West Point Fire, individuals; Fire depts. wanted training on controlled burns, but not the Forest Service; concluded it would be more likely that private lands could get projects ready by fall; all were interested in the public education aspects; Pat McGreevy will try to figure what projects would work. Resources bring in 35-40 people; secured Lone Star Camp. Will look at weather patterns, etc. to pick best dates and sites; goal is to clear projects to make this worthwhile; will involve several people plus 5 fire depts.; target and prioritize projects by mid-July.</p> <p><i>(McGreevy) who is lead? Waiting to be tasked; talk after meeting.</i></p>	Steve Wilensky	10:25 AM
8	<p><b>Admin Work Group update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PG&amp;E Transmission Line Project</b> – how move forward? See handout...</li> <li>• (Wilensky) normally a high level of interest, but need to know more detail, i.e., what are the 6 proposed herbicides, etc.</li> <li>• Would damage to ACCG be greater if we respond than if we don't?</li> <li>• Would like to have a WG really dig into this; need to get into the science of it. Looks like PG&amp;E has its way of doing things.</li> <li>• (Heisenbuttel) asking for our input is a new way of doing business; FS is pointing out new method of operations for maintaining a ROW; the EA is still available for comments and questions</li> <li>• Question: if we did not respond to the scoping letter, would our comment letters and EA response have standing? Hopson says yes.</li> <li>• (Harufs) would this impact the powerline to Kirkwood??? They've had issues with roads out, generators, radiators, etc. Kirkwood wants it done! Expand scale of response.</li> <li>• (McGreevy) important because in Calaveras County we are mapping all fire breaks, 200-300 miles of fuel breaks in timberland; how maintain? SPI and FS prescriptions are different. Would like to learn how to maintain; BLS is installing 175 acres of fuel breaks within BLS. Board is considering how to maintain; need 5 year cycle.</li> <li>• (Childress) we should consider providing scoping comments;</li> <li>• <b>ACTION: Refer to planning WG; circulate docs to full group</b></li> </ul>	John Heisenbuttel	10:30 AM
9	<p><b>Planning Work Group update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bear allotment and range projects (Robin) on task; finishing up reports by end of year; range allotments going through NEPA – <b>SCOPE to ACCG (Hopson)</b></li> </ul>	Robin Wall	10:35 AM

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer field trip(s)? Robin has a list; <b>put on web</b></li> <li>• Last planning meeting was at Calaveras (June)</li> <li>• Next meeting is next Wed, 6/28; will address the PG&amp;E project; business plan revision; field trip to Scottiago;</li> <li>• Collaborative survey for Foster Firs; got essentially no participation</li> </ul>		
10	<b>Field Trip to Irish O'Manuel (McGreevy)</b> see presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Why no herbicides? Clablayan to look into it.</b></li> <li>• <b>Why not shade fuel break? (Starrett will follow up)</b></li> </ul>	McGreevy	10:55 AM
11	<b>Monitoring Work Group update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last meeting was via phone call; worked well; because attendance at monitoring meetings has been so low, we will try adding the monitoring agenda items to the planning meetings, scheduling separate teleconferences as needed. Saves travel time and may increase participation.</li> <li>• Upcoming event: Thompson Meadows 8/30-31; monitoring field work. Want volunteers to attend, one day or both; many specialists will provide educational opportunity; no knowledge required!</li> <li>• Nov 8<sup>th</sup> Monitoring results workshop (Gross) – info tbd</li> </ul>	Robin Wall	11:00 AM
12	<b>Operations Work Group update</b>	John Heisenbuttel	11:05 AM
13	<b>Strategic Planning Update and Exercise</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on meeting #1 (see attached ppt)</li> <li>• Mission Statement Group Exercise</li> <li>• <b>Next steps: fill out forms, answer questions; send back to Dennis or Jill; will sort them out; will send out and report next time.</b></li> <li>• <b>Jill will mail out info on SWOT for next meeting</b></li> <li>• Comment: this type of activity tends to identify the bridge between thinkers and doers. Input from all is valued.</li> </ul>	Jill Micheau Dennis Bowker	11:05 AM
e	<b>Agency/organization updates (round table)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Jay Francis, SPI, Martel: seeing that bark beetle kill not progressing; catching up; transitioning from salvage to green harvest based on lack of activity; 5 crews; 50-60 loads/day;</i></li> <li>• <i>Ron Haines, Alpine Co Sup: biomass plant in Bridgeport taking waste stream; goes to plant, reduces propane use; in 3 years will be profitable; materials are dry lumber, not normal forest products – too stingy; burns well; lots of tours, can schedule a day or so ahead; big success!</i></li> <li>• <i>Steve Wilensky, CHIPS –</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>13 people in Amador County working from Washoe community, men and women; cultural sites, meadow restoration, nice spot to work! Just signed agreement for 6 weeks in Tuolumne Meadows, (2 weeks in Merced Grove, 4 weeks in Yosemite Valley); campsites provided, volunteers welcome; meadow restoration, trails, etc.;</i> <b>HOW TO GET INFO OUT ABOUT THIS?</b> Working with Park Service, CHIPS, Native American elders;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	All	11:35 AM

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>Wilseyville: 16.3 cents; nobody has bit at auction; 7 plants lining up to get into auction. Expect conclusion September or October to set prices</i></li><li>○ <i>Big milestone: Calaveras County has concluded CQUA process. County accepted letter from biologist about owls, which helped get past a last objection. Done!</i></li><li>○ <i>Went to Las Vegas looking for technology; found a place that takes in medical waste, sewage, garbage, tires, etc. – produces a bunch of stuff including distilled water. What to do with sewage in Wilseyville? trying to figure out what to do with waste. Is the technology real? Would CC require complete re-permitting to do that? 5 technologies were looked at; offering partnerships for money and prospects to do this. A couple of european firms are interested, but would rather stay local.</i></li><li>○ <i>There was a terrible accident in West Point yesterday: CHIPS truck gassing up, a car hit the truck at high speed; CHIPS employee got pinned between the truck and a steel post; in critical condition; horrible story; wife was on way to hospital, had to go on mediflight with husband.</i></li><li>● <b>Susan McMorris, Blue Mountain Community Council:</b> <i>keeping lake clean; friends of Chas lake; no more dumping; very successful. Road being repaired; Beautiful spot, check it out!</i></li><li>● <b>Reuben Childress, Foothill Conservancy:</b> <i>Annual dinner fundraiser – all invited: Come join us in celebrating at our annual dinner, Saturday, June 24, 4:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. at Karmere Winery &amp; Vineyards in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Delectable food catered by Taste Restaurant and Wine Bar. Music by local jazz favorites Herb Boxhorn (vocals and guitar) and Klaudia Promessi (saxophones). Fabulous raffle and auction prizes. Tickets \$40 per person, \$10 children 12 and under.</i></li><li>● <b>Gwen Starrett, ACCG:</b> <i>Friday going to Onion Valley; follow-up for NFWF project; looking for NFWF funding; connect if you are interested to go. <b>Send road conditions to Rick.</b></i></li><li>● <b>Tim Tate, SPI:</b> <i>transitioning daily from TM salvage to green harvesting; great winter wrt water; predict early and substantial wet winter this year too; getting out or reaction stage, back into conventional productive timber management, creating new forests, carbon sequestration, fire resilient lands, plan to put more emphasis on fracturing or segmenting landscape with fuel breaks and shaded areas so we can protect communities; might as well do harvesting in conjunction with creating fuel breaks, avoid giant forest fires.</i></li><li>● <b>Bill Haigh, BLM:</b> <i>pending projects; just received \$100K for archeological clearances around West Point and Moke area; will clear way to approve variances; next to roads, private land boundaries, etc.</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <i>Staff is swamped with tree authorizations from PG&amp;E -- #1 priority right now. Will get back to other work ASAP when this is done.</i></li></ul></li><li>● <b>Scott Tangenberg, SNF:</b> <i>FS still under hiring freeze; getting some authority for exemptions; supervisor position is currently advertised and will be filled soon; also proceeding with all vacant district ranger</i></li></ul>		
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	<p>positions; that's about all; will manage with current staff; next several months like this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ray Cablayan, SNF:</b> Pumpkin Hollow out to bid; will go to Board end of July; may know about bids at next meeting; Spicer may open soon!!!! Waiting for signage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blue Lake Springs -- FS logger working in Mckays will take some of hazard trees along that border</li> <li>○ What about trees on Winton road? Still moving forward; marking trees someplace else, when done will return</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Michael Pickard, Sierra Nevada Conservancy:</b> Proposal 1 application opened up on line; use grants tab for application process. Pre-apps due 9/1; full apps due 11/1. Talk with Michael if you want to apply; also partnering with Cal RCD; hosting grant writing workshop Aug 3-4 at Arnold FD.</li> <li>• <b>Dennis Boker:</b> working with group from Ohio, great technology; collects sediment above dams, puts it where it's needed without trucks or pipes; if you want to see more, <b>he will send Jill info to post to web site.</b></li> </ul>		
15	<p>Wrap up and Adjourn – start at 9:00? NO!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting July 19, 2017, 12200 Airport Rd, Sutter Creek, CA 95685</li> </ul>	Rick Hopson	12:00 PM

### 2017 Meeting Schedule:

Date	Location	Facilitator	Speakers/Topics
May 17	Jackson	Julia Stephens	Steve/conflict resolution
June 21	West Point	Rick Hopson	FS on Cornerstone Business Plan revisions
July 19	Jackson		Heather Reith, Joe Harvey, Big Trees SP -- Long-term forest management plan, fuels reduction, reforestation at Big Trees Park
August 16	West Point		Scott Conway -- Lidar and hyperspectral imaging – uses in forestry
September 20	Jackson	Shana Gross	Shana Gross: tree mortality
October 18	West Point		
November 15	Jackson		
December 20	West Point		