**April 2013 Meeting Notes**

Meeting Facilitator: John Heissenbuttel

| **No.** | **Agenda Item** | **Est. Time** |
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| **I.** | **Call To Order** | *9:30 a.m.* |
| **II.** | **Participants Introduction**   * John Heissenbuttel, Heissenbuttel Natural Resource Consulting * Susie Kocher – UC Cooperative Extension * Brandon Sanders – Sierra Nevada Conservancy * Katherine Evatt – Foothill Conservancy * John Hofmann – Consultant to Amador County * Bill Haigh – Bureau of Land Management Motherlode Field Office * Tim Tate – Sierra Pacific Industries * Jan Bray – NorCal Society of American Foresters * Amy Rocha – Natural Resource Conservation Service * Gary Slade – Trout Unlimited * John Sikora – Trout Unlimited * Stanley Backlund – Trout Unlimited * Ron Zigelhofer – Trout Unlimited * Jeff Laird – Amador County Veterans Organization * Cecily Smith – Foothill Conservancy * Reuben Childress – Foothill Conservancy * Peter Zaragoza – CA Indian Manpower Consortium * Cathy Koos-Breazeal – Amador Firesafe Council * Teresa McClung – Stanislaus NF Calaveras RD * Kendal Young – Stanislaus NF Calaveras RD * Pat McGreevy – Calaveras Co. Parks and Recreation Commissioner * Addie Jacobsen - Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch * Ron Szymanski – Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch * Nic Enstice – Sierra Nevada Conservancy * Eric Kleinfelter – CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife * Steve Wilensky – CHIPS * John Romena – Buena Vista Biomass Power LLC * Susan McMorris – Blue Mountain Community Renewal Council * Robert Smith – Smith Grinding | 5 min. |
| **III.** | **Modifications and/or Approval of Agenda** |
| **IV.** | **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**   * Concerns were expressed over the notes being imbalanced and favoring one point of view over another. * From now on, the notes will only reflect specific statements of fact in order to avoid inaccurately or incompletely portraying detailed, specific conversations and debates. |
| **V.** | **Status of Active Action Items** |
| **VI.** | **ACCG Work Groups** |  |
|  | **A. Admin Work Group** – B. Sanders | 10 min. |
|  | 1. Workgroup Update   Conference call capability has been repeatedly requested by members. Administrative workgroup will discuss this and work toward meeting that request. |  |
|  | 1. CFLR Sign-On Letter Discussion   Request for ACCG endorsement of a support letter came about in between meetings. Workgroup recommends permission to sign on group’s behalf in the absence of any opposition once emailed to the full group.  **ACTION**: Inter-meeting approval process approved  **ACTION**: NorCal Society of American Foresters signed the MOA. |  |
|  | **B. Planning Work Group –** K. Young | 10 min. |
|  | 1. Workgroup Update   Concurrence sought on five different projects; posted to the blog and discussed at the last planning meeting. These were addressed through the established approach of completing project submission forms.    Calaveras Ranger District - Two MCCT projects currently up for concurrence as well as the Ramsey Burn Salvage project (going out for comment)  Amador Ranger District – Gold Note OHV Restoration and Combined Thinning projects which would reduce hazardous fuels for habitat improvement.  Foothill Conservancy abstains from concurrence on the Ramsey project, but supports moving it along in the process in anticipation of reviewing the full NEPA. Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch will abstain from concurrence on Ramsey for the same reasons.  Check links in the blog for the project submission forms. The links did not work. Those have now been fixed.  **ACTION: Concurrence achieved with the two abstentions on Ramsey.** |  |
|  | 1. ACCG Comments on Forest Service Projects   USFS encourages ACCG to be more proactive on submitting comments into the NEPA and other review processes.  Kendal will agendize this item for the next planning workgroup.  Regarding the Monitoring Workgroup, they continue to make progress in scoping the monitoring program/component. Handout distributed.  At the next monitoring meeting, the group will discuss and further develop the social and economic indicators planned to be monitored.  **ACTION**: Workgroup role delineation to be addressed by a subset of the planning workgroup. |  |
|  | **C. Finance Work Group** – S. McMorris | 5 min. |
|  | 1. Workgroup Update   None |  |
|  | **D. Operations Work Group** – J. Heissenbuttel | 5 min. |
|  | 1. Workgroup Update   Looking to gear-up once operations actually begin on the ground this year. Suggestion made that TU engage in the review of projects on the ground.  Smith Grinding has compiled pictures and information on Lily Gap and East/West Arnold Shred.  Bailey Plantation Thinning Project roadwork has commenced. Jim Dambacher has begun working on that project to open the road starting today. |  |
| **VIII.** | **New Business** | 90 min. |
|  | 1. Review of Feedstock Discussion Results and Next Steps   This process initiated because of the WBUG deadline and CHIPS’ submittal for that grant. CHIPS will be following up with an RBEG proposal to USDA.  CHIPS also anticipates forwarding a proposal to Phenix Energy regarding the scope of the proposed plant.  Wilseyville CHP is now being pegged at 1-2MW.  **ACTION**: Katherine Evatt and John Hoffman will convene to discuss application of qualifiers/caveats to unresolved concerns over specific biomass sources.  **ACTION**: Admin workgroup tasked with working to apply standards to each of these items and seek concurrence at the May meeting. Susie will participate in the administrative workgroup. Susie will not be able to attend the May meeting. |  |
|  | 1. Sierra Nevada Conservancy FY13-14 Grant Program   Contact Brandon Sanders to discuss potential projects. All projects must be developed in direct cooperation with SNC staff in order to be considered eligible. |  |
| **IX.** | **Old Business** | 10 min. |
|  | 1. Mokelumne Avoided Cost Analysis Update   Strategic discussion: ACCG needs to talk about what it wants its role to be as this program goes forward.  Convened the treatment team to discuss what the next round of modeling will look like. Current condition modeling has been done. Good feedback received on the next steps.  Result will be modeling conducted at a finer scale once the initial run has been completed.  In mid-May the fire modeling results will be available and shared with the ACCG. |  |
|  | 1. Update and Discussion on Forest Service FY 2013 Budgets   Forest service has secured additional funds for Cornerstone activities, including planning associated with out-year Cornerstone projects.  Closing in on completing temporary hires, including 5-6 Calaveras County residents.  Forest Service took a 5% cut early, which helped to avoid furloughs. |  |
| **X.** | **ACCG Partner Reports** | 10 min. |
|  | 1. Brief updates from those in attendance   Susie share copies of a recent newsletter as well as upcoming events.  Flyers distributed with information for the upcoming webinars.  ePlan tool has been developed to assist in the individual development of forest management plans.  BLM - No furloughs for BLM. Requested exemptions for river rangers. Commercial study for the Moke has been deferred until 2014. Working on pile burning with CalFire.  NRCS - EQIP program for forestry was cut by two thirds and the area was expanded to pick up four more counties.  SAF – Forestry Institute for Teachers; Forestry Challenge; Forest Conservation Days at Shaver Laker for students.  Smith Grinding – West Arnold Shred is nearing completion. Bailey is beginning with the roadwork; Contractors group moving forward on formalizing a legal arrangement or an LLC. Working with CHIPS on a couple potential projects.  Pat McGreevy – County resurfaced Ponderosa Way, and it’s still intact. Some maintenance necessary. Grant transmitted for $160K to DWR for the Ponderosa Way project to update culverts.  CFLR Coalition – 150 signatories to the coalition letter.  KQBM is now streaming through the internet, and will be broadcasting across Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne by summer. |  |
| **XI.** | **Current Meeting Action Items Review** | 5 min. |
| **XII.** | **Adjourn – *Next meeting in Calaveras County on May 15th*** | *12 noon* |