5/16/12

ACCG meeting 9:36 call to order

ACCG Meeting Notes – May 16, 2012

1. Call to Order: 9:36
2. Introductions

3. Agenda Approval – consensus with request by John Heissenbuttel for addition of Wilseyville progress

4. Approval of April Minutes - consensus

5. Action items status – Action Items unavailable – not reviewed

6. Work Group Reports

**ADMIN - RICK BREEZE-MARTIN**

Con call last Thursday; primary item was agenda development. Rick will be departing some activities. Sierra Vision Award – Senate Proclamation and SBC award of Dogwood Tree photo. Katherine – clarification that this award was based on nominations. The photo is currently at the CHIPS office. Slide show still up on SBC website. Good exposure. Peter Zamagoza recommended developing a generic press release and reminded the group that we received this award over 200 nominees and we should be proud of our unique collaboration.

**PLANNING WORK GROUP – KENDAL YOUNG**

Met 4/25 and reviewed submission forms. Strategic landscape level plan – will address over time and update. Look at principles and policies in near future. Big need – set up monitoring work group – part of requirement for Cornerstone. Address today.

 Comments: Rick Breeze Martin -- Recommend set up monitoring and adaptive management as subgroup of planning work group.

 Rick Hopson – expressed concern of overloading Planning Group; suggest identifying members, such as Becky Estes, Province Ecologist with Forest Service – she worked on Dinkey Creek project.

John Heissenbuttel – recommend putting responsbilities in writing rather than verbal.

Kendal – will put on next agenda

Kendal – Requested group concurrence for 3 proposed Cornerstone projects (different that previously discussed) -- Bailey Health Improvement Implementation, West Calaveras Plantation Thin Plan, Power Fire Planning

Warren Alford – inclined to support NEPA projects. Concerns about plantations/perpetuity management; GTR 220 principles implementation. Gives agency funding to do projects other than they would normally.

Kendal – cannot use CFLRA funds for NEPA.

John Hofmann – asked for clarification -- consensus group concur move forward with these projects?

Suggested ACCG can always withdraw support later. Does this have potential to meet ACCG goals. Get in on ground floor while we have a chance to change/tweak very early on.

Katherine Evatt – commend Kendall for leading and screening form. Very encouraged to get in early and shape projects.

John Hofmann– any issues with recommendation? No objections? K Evatt made motion to approve; Rick Breeze Martin 2nd, Motion Passed Unanimously

Kendal Young – West Calaveras Thin Field Trip 6/13 email him for meet up agenda – look at problem areas kendalyoung@fs.fed.us

Kendal – Planning Work Group reschedule from Wed after ACCG meeting

**C. FINANCE - SUSAN MCMORRIS –**

Cathy Koos Breazeal –gave explanation of value of in-kind, non-cash contribution for matches ; Rick Breeze Martin led discussion regarding use of federal rate or defined market cost. There is an average value of $50/hour around table right now, equating to $1350 per hour x 3 hour meeting, plus drive time and mileage, plus work conducted outside the meeting. Hofmann – had questions/requested explanation of column headings Brandon’s form.

John Heissenbuttel – once we know everyone’s value (loaded rate), we can use sign-in sheets to figure. Finance Work Group Will come up with process

**D. OPERATIONS – JOHN HEISSENBUTTEL AND JAN BRAY**

1. CCC veterans work group –talked to DILLON Thomas of CCC in Tahoe. The crews are available to work on Forest Service and adjacent lands. They have grant money, so no crew costs involved except llodging and food for supervisors. Trained in fuel reduction, B certs, sawyers -- can cut 24 “ DBH trees, erosion control, climbers, A card burners, and have Workers Comp. They are looking for winter work at lower elevations. Jim Carroll – will check with Calfire for winter facilities. 530-721-1677, Dillon Thomas.

Hofmann – are the veterans local?

Rick Breeze Martin - would support development of a local vet group, like a zoned approach

K Evatt- default to local work force first, then reach out

Jim Carroll – recommends if we don’t have the money to hire local, use them to get the job done rather than not do, since they come at no cost.

Terry Strange – why are we reaching out to veterans? All Calaveras qualifies for incentives and set asides. Hub zone.

Rick Hopson – we should reach out to local veterans. Try this out, use as a model.

Dennis Lewis – can they be a mentorship to get us started? Heissenbuttel will ask.

Define adjacency? Kathy Hardy – make a relationship ; may not have to be immediately adjacent.

Bill Haigh – BLM mandate to employ vets starting in lower foothills. Not intended to supplant efforts, just more tools. Can use if we make reasonable case nearby to Federal lands. If there is a sensitivity to using locally too much, he will put them in Nevada county.

Rick Breeze Martin – need to be careful of triple bottom line. Having a veteran CCC crew could be one component of what we are doing. Project by project basis on how it fits in. Probation crews can fit in, too. Use a mix of approaches.

Bill Haigh – vet crews are not intended to be in lieu, but in addition to funds.

Steve Wilsensky – ensure criteria for training apply across aboard. Habitat, forest bio, safety, sawmanship, fire behave training – others have same/similar/joint training. Recommend involve veterans affairs officers each county.

Craig Thomas - Who directs the BLM crew? Supervises? Haigh – headquarters in Fairoaks under BLM district office for Central California. The BLM fire officer directly supervises, as well as BLM team leads. Mission not defined yet, suppression during summer; fuels – not defined yet.

Hofmann – need enough work to make it work. Need ID and NEPA and then can extend dollars to get more work done.

Tim Bordges – still not seeing jobs put out for local contractors, so these funded groups are in direct competition due to budget constraints. Gives the impression that agencies are building empires. He understands need to run as business and get treatments on ground, but local contractors support local tax base.

 Bill Haigh – The Lily Gap project supported local contractors.

Steve Wilensky – We have been on a 7 year march to this moment, haven’t received a dime of Cornerstone yet, but designed to go local. Folks intending to be beneficiary of funds need to work; advise be patient, put down cudgels, rising tide lifts all boats; and less of culture that has led local contractors to be outside looking in. ACCABU will help win legitimate bids. Not trying to do most work at cheapest rate; prison work borders on slave labor and emancipation proclamation. Not good economic paradigms, but working hard to change.

 Katherine Evatt – agencies have had to shift thinking. Look at projects coming in for local economic benefit.

Warren Alford – agencies at front end of Cornerstone – use best value contracting to create stewardship contracts. Not clear engagement how stewardship contract is put together. How to use tools to most effectiveness .

**Kathy Hardy – ACTION** – invite a federal contract officer expert come to next meeting to answer specific questions. Steve Wilensky – include ACCABU. Craig Thomas - Explicit rules versus nonexplicit . Heissenbuttel – suggest general meeting. Wilensky – there are significant differences between federal agencies, suggest both BLM and FS officers attend, and tie to MSA

D. 2. **WORKERS COMP**

Continuing issue. Robert Smith brought up cost per acre. Workers Comp is currently 40% for tree cutting

E. **RICK – MSA CORNERSTONE UPDDATE**

Four essential partners – ACCG, R5 Forest Service, Eldorado, Stanislaus. There have been a couple meetings with Kelly Hamilton and Doris Broussard, and teams from Eldorado and Stanislaus. Rick cautioned about reverting to past practices with notion that not going to be lowest price; need to negotiate into MSA. Draft now – work group meet after this meeting to set up next con call. Most likely cooperator will be SNC. They have not locked in role yet. Need MOU betweem ACCG and cooperator to clarify roles and responsibilities and to allow SNC to be ACCG’s agent. MOU will allow collaboration. Intent of the MSA is a framework for relationship not for specific projects. Specific projects are addressed in SPA agreement. There can be various contracts i.e. a handshake or stewardship agreement. Best value clearly stated but not necessary dollars, but triple bottom line. Each project collaboration designed between Forest Service and ACCG.

Craig Thomas – at Dinkey, go back to statute for clarity of socioeconomic benefits.

Rick Breeze Martin – R5 is positive in helping with language and navigation. Will have something to look at after next cycle of team work. Language to be clear to be local workers and triple bottom line. Kelly Hamilton found liability language with elk and turkey foundations. She called Washington office and they sent sample letter with fire limits liability agreement. Other lesson from Weaverville – presumed work local, but did not write in MSA, so FS said go out to bids, so lesson to be clear in writing that local workforce. Zoned effect if skill capacity not local, outward ripple approach. R5 folks helping write. Still in flux and another con call coming.

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F. **SCALE – STEVE WILENSKY**

Many discussions and a proposal – modest establishment of delegation to reflect three parts and meet to discuss: 1. define SCALE, who included, where does it cover. Group of CFLRA projects, including Dinkey. Important to have discussion. 2. Scope of joint work and mutual aid. How benefits shared. 3. Administration. This adds a level of communication and exchange that requires some administrative attention regarding both funding and personnel. 4. Establish baseline conditions across these areas of forest condition baseline and economic baselines, and how to develop community impact and baseline. 5 . Recommend today establish delegation from here to go up there or meet midway.

Rick Breeze Martin – group already established?

Steve – work processes – cultural exchange and then formal meeting in Auburn under SNIFC and SNC They propose meet with two groups only.

Craig Thomas – clarify Burney Hat Creek. Steve – demo projects with north central south presence. Craig – Including Dinkey gives us a powerful story to tell with 3 CFLRPs. MOU?

Steve -- Define commonalities, different infrastructures but desire to have diversified forest economy. We have no admin funding.

Craig Thomas – funding under attack all the time; powerful to align strategically.

 Steve recommended – who wishes to be delegation make self known. Set date and place and invite bhc and dinkey.

**ACTION Delegation** – Steve Wilensky, Katherine Evatt, John Heissenbuttel, Cathy Koos Breazeal, and **send out additional invitation to all of ACCG date set.**

G. **WARREN –FIRE RESTORATION AS A TOOL** –

Karina Silva just completed fire certertification. Those interested meet with Warren after meeting and set dates. Cathy Koos Breazeal working with Northern California Prescribed Fire Council to set up fall meeting here. Karina is coordinating the Smoke Symposium of the Southern Sierra and part of the Fire Science Symposium which met recently with Clovis fire and air people. The group’s role is to break down barriers. 6-9000 acre prescribed fire planned in Sequoia first time ever.

Warren – the veterans work group may be an asset. He discussed the Irish Omanuel Rx fire in Murphys burning right adjacent to a kids track meet with no air quality compromise. Powerful story to create fuel breaks around Arnold and keep air quality good.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. HOFMANN – COST AVOIDANCE - Plan to meet June 12
2. RICK BREEZE MARTIN – CFLRA COALITION – needs to step down; new liaison replacement is Katherine Evatt and John Heissenbuttel

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. EDA funding – RICK BREEZE MARTIN – economic development proposal – CHIPS Wilseyville product yard engineering, road improvement, acquisition. Significant proposal – status in writing. Due June.
2. NFF ARTICLE – RICK BREEZE MARTIN– on SCALE, photo, 350 words. Rick did with collab from others. NFF is fascinated by collaboration of collaboration – it’s a first.
3. WORKGROUP MEMBERSHIP REVIEW AND NEW ASSIGNMENTS

Table till list sent **Brandon post list ACTION**

1. KATHERINE – WATER RESTORATION ECONOMIC CONFERENCE, PORTLAND – findings – info online. She will send out website. U of Oegon developed own data localized forecasting ability. Estimate economic impact per county on dollars invested in restoration. 2005 dollars – every million invested created 15+ jobs. When investment made in watershed restoration rather than other infrastructure, all money flows to rural community. Highest jobs riparian restoration. Can build local infrastructure and triple bottom line. $64 million invested created $115 million direct benefit, 727jobs. Online calculator collects data early even without interpretive tools. They have contractors fill out a form showing work done, jobs, benefits, hours, wages, training, injuries to see money invested and plug into ongoing monitoring.

**PARTNER REPORTS**

USFS - Hopson – working on planning next year with Calaveras and Stanislaus for CFLRA.

SPI - Matt Waverly – SPI submitted letter for pile proposal on Shake Ridge to Center for Biological Diversity.  **ACTION : WARREN WILL FOLLOW UP WITH DOUG BARBER DOES HE WANT TO BE REPLACED?**

 STEVE Wilensky – timely response required and they might be defaulting. Matt – maybe should submit letter to both entities and cc Brandon

BUENA VISTA BIOMASS = JOHN ROMENA - waiting on equipment. Hope online by Tuesday 5/22. BVBM needs to have discussions with ACCG on piles. Steve Wilensky – CFLRA was not anticipated when the CBD agreement made. May need to open discussions or overture to open a dialog and amend due to increased volume. Rick Breeze Martin – suggested leave limit as is, but add Cornerstone as exception. Hofmann – CBD’s concern was intentional creation of fuel, need to show this is actually byproduct. John Romena – two issues % fuel increase and SPI acreage limit exceeds agreeement. Katherine Evatt – Wilseyville sort yard consideration, not all used for biomass. Warren needs most recent proposal to clarify who is to notify CBD. John - At this point in time, BVBM cannot buy direct from SPI.

Terry Strange – can offer training for biological, aquatic categories.

John Hofmann – Tennessee and North Carolina use pine needles for landscaping projects –locally called pine straw.

SIERRA FOREST LEGACY - Warren Alford – Craig Thomas is increasing his involvement with ACCG as Warren is moving on to the Wilderness Society.

Craig Thomas – GTR 237 not in print yet; will have lots of data to share.

FOOTHILL CONSERVANCY – Katherine Evatt – EBMUD removed Pardee expansion from 30 year plan. BLM will allow OARS to run the Middle Bar.

NRCS – Amy Rocha – Announced available funds of $35,000 for private land additional forestry work

JOB CONNECTION CALAVERAS – Marilyn Conner – working with CHIPS for OJT contracts

BLM – Bill Haigh – all piles done in Glencoe. FYI – GTR 237 – demo project inNevada County on San Juan Ridge.

STANISLAUS NF – Kendal Young – Medusa out for review in Tuolumne County on on blog. Working on stewardship contract on Bailey thin. Looking for volunteer resources with Marilyn; issues with woerks comp; planning team busy, email him if you want to monitor.

CA INDIAN MANPOWER - Peter Zamagoza – he covers a 10 counties area; the Native community is aware of our group and efforts. Cultural components; talking to CHIPS.

CALFIRE Jan Bray - live fuel moisture – growth peaked early May. Fire season coming, firefighter academies, staffing engines; early June 4th fully staffed. Budget cuts $15 million; $60 million next year. Calaveras has developed a fuels group meeting similar to Amador Fire Safe Council’s; BLM will digitize to see where projects are and gaps by end of summer.

CAL RECYCLE – Steve SantaCroce – conducting solid waste cleanup along Tiger Creek with BLM. Grants available related to solid waste cleanup and state managed cleanups – illegal dumping, burn dump sites, old town dumps**. ACTION: Give him 10 minutes at next meeting**

ACCABU – Rick Breeze Martin – reviewing ACCABU meeting policy issues – suggest new member probation period, local Amador/Calaveras resident versus Eldorado etc – neighbor list policy? Explore formal cooperative organization. Wilseyville sort yard – CCWD and surveyors to define property bounds; then encroachment permit, CEQA trigger, permitted use for zoning, Calaveras County would do CEQA as mitigated Neg Dec. Look ready to start roadwork improvement this year.

AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL – Cathy Koos Breazeal - Pioneer/Volcano and Pine Grove CCWPP plans update. Final PV plan on the AFSC website; PG draft will be up soon. Sherwood project encumbered and RPF bid review today.

STEVE WILENSKY – training program – interviewed 60 people for crew of 5; additional to fill slots; co-gen plant hired one of their CHIPS sawyers through Mother Lode Job Training; PRCS issues – partnership with probation dept found members of fire crews and picked up 1; probation partnering with drug testing. Mark Twain St j hospital running CPR training for 24; West Point Fire offer fire behave and fuel reduction training; seeking forest biologist course; archaeologist giving free day on cultural site recognition; BLM doing sawyer certs; community impact is significant Hired Rod Landreth and increased CHIPS productivity. Established a labor pool. Integrated regional water plan included forest, Ponderosa Way. Two CWPP projects, fireline fuel reduction around Calveritas.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Motion support collab 4 project

Plan draft language monitoring effort

Heisenbuttel – follow up on CCC mentoring ; and adjacency definition

Steve W – set up meeting with Dinky

Next meeting work group member rreivew