**Meeting Notes**

**January 15, 2014 – 9:30am – 12:00pm**

**Location:** Amador County GSA Building Conference Room,

12200B Airport Road, Jackson, CA

**Meeting Facilitator:** Rick Hopson

Meeting action items in yellow

| **No.** | **Agenda Item** |
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| **I.** | **Call To Order** |
| **II.** | **Participants Introduction:** John Hofmann, Amador County; Tim Tate, SPI; Susan McMorris, blue Mtn Community Renewal; Amy Rocha, NRCS; Gerald Schwartz, EBMUD; Peter Zaragoza, CIMC; Chuck Loffland, USFS; Vincent Campa; Rueben Childress, Foothill Conservancy; John Sikora, Trout Unlimited; Katherine Evatt, Foothill Conservancy; Cathy Koos Breazeal, AFSC; Scott Tangenberg, USFS; Kendal Young, USFS; Leland Meyer, Victory Village; Steve Wilensky, CHIPS; Rick Hopson, USFS |
| **III.** | **Modifications and/or Approval of Agenda** |
| **IV.** | **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes –** notes from November 18, 2013 were reviewed and approved. |
| **V.** | **Status of Active Action Items from November**   1. Umbrella insurance – J Heissenbuttel - carry forward to February 2. Agendize early herbicide discussion – C Koos Breazeal updated the group on livestock grazing contacts with invitation to one vendor to present at February meeting. Targeted approaches like grazing, hand grubbing, Rx fire can all be tools in the toolkit; group should formulate questions, i.e. seed infiltration, soil impacts, etc. 3. MOA review/clarity of work groups – ad hoc committee will meet and report back in March.(Kendal, Katherine, J Heissenbuttel, Susan, Cathy) 4. MOU contract update between USFS & ACCG – Evatt/Hofmann – no update |
| **VI.** | **ACCG Work Groups** |
|  | 1. **Admin Work Group** – C Koos Breazeal 2. Workgroup Update – upcoming future topics, i.e. SNAMP update (May); draft conclusion for avoided cost study (Mar/April), environmental benefits; 3. Prescribed Fire Council report – Cathy reported on both the Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council and the Northern Cal Prescribed fire Council. Nor Cal is looking for sites in the central Sierra to hold their TREX training in the fall; Cathy has joined the training work group. There is a need to begin conversations with local air districts. Cathy will contact Mike Boitano, Amador Air District Officer; Vince Campa will contact Brian Moss, Calaveras Air District. There was an ad hoc committee assigned to Jan Bray and Warren Alford (and Jim Carroll) several years ago to investigate prescribed fire. Cathy will research their findings and report back. Katherine will contact Craig Thomas. 4. Facilitator assignments were reviewed. Peter for February; Susan, March; Teresa, April; Kendal, May. 5. Meeting locations: Cathy has set up odd-numbered months for the GSA building, Jackson; even-numbered months will be in West Point; alternate locations for video conferencing available at Amador Transportation Commission in Jackson; Mark Twain Hospital in San Andreas; and the Calaveras Ranger District Office in Hathaway Pines. |
|  | **B. Planning Work Group –** Kendal Young  1. Monitoring workshop, 2/24-27 in Jackson; Kendal will be meeting with Becky Estes on 2/22 to plan the agenda; anyone interested invited to attend (9:30 Calaveras RD office)  2. February 12 next Planning Group meeting.  2. Draft schedule of upcoming meetings & field trip schedule coming out soon. Possibilities: Moke Bear off Ellis Rd; Scottiago; Ramsey; Hemlock |
|  | 1. **Finance Work Group –** No report; need volunteers for this group. |
|  | **D. Operations Work Group – Rick Hopson for** J Heissenbuttel  1. Scheduling for February. Date announcement to follow. All interested are invited. |
| **VII.** | **Group Discussion/Roundtable: What projects are on the horizon with agencies (BLM, AFSC, etc). What else can we get going?**   1. Cathy – AFSC hosted the annual interagency hazard fuel reduction co-op meeting. 2. SRA fees discussed – Katherine shared the legislative language outlining how the funds can be spent and asks how can we influence the spending? (see language here: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/abx1_29_bill_20110708_chaptered.html> ) John Hofmann suggested the water tank project outlined in the county CWPP. The Finance Work Group could make SRA fee recommendations. Tim Tate suggested Cathy contact Kevin Conway, Sac CALFIRE SRA fee. 3. Kendal – reviewed 2014 program of work for Calaveras RD. West Calaveras thin EA work sometime this fiscal year; Bailey – in works; riparian app to SNC waiting on response; continue pretreatment monitoring; Mattley meadow inventory; pre grant for Mattley and Foster submitted; horse issues in Pacific Valley Campground impacting meadow restoration; noxious weed removal Moke Wilderness and Hwy 4 corridor; fuel breaks around Ganns Meadow/Ramsey area; CHIPS has started implementation at Sky High and Lake Alpine; prescribed fire added Sour Grass to list; trail work on Carson Iceberg and Moke Wildernesses; new portion of MCCT trail from Mosquito Lake to Pacific Valley, approx ½ mile – NEPA almost completed – seeing some delays from the Rim Fire. 4. Chuck reviewed the 2014 program of work for the Amador Ranger District – Moke fuels reduction now in process; Callecat sold; View 88 active this summer; RAC thinning project; burning acreage waiting for safe window; lake fish removal for yellow legged frog habitat high elevation; 10 acre target Indian valley restoration/revegetation/ invasive species plants treatments & training Mokelumne volunteers to do surveys. Scottiago – preliminary survey; Foster Firs; lawsuit road fixes meadow effects; 3 springs exclude cattle; Camp Silverado acquired – make into a recreational group rental facility. Gold note OHV system – put in barriers and gravel some impacted areas; Power Fire Treatment – hand work, working EIS/EA process; 5 miles road trail maintenance; Indian Valley Road fix design project; precommercial thin Barney Meadow, Oski Bear, Foster, Deer Valley; 3 projects in Callecat EA for ecological restoration to limit stream access; Tiger Creek Co-op project needs NEPA; Power Fire – proposed action out in federal register soon, any who want to be engaged should contact them. 5. AMY – ARCD fuel break Stone Jug; NRCS – few active contracts in ACCG area; majority of forest applications are from the Rim Fire; Rim won’t affect other funding; waiting on Farm Bill. 6. John Hofmann – regarding fish removal at high elevation lakes – can we offer free fishing days on those lakes; Trout Unlimited has offered to work with Fish and Game – may be more trouble than worth – maybe try fish derby. |
| **VIII.** | **Additional Discussion Items** |
|  | 1. Wilseyville update – Steve Wilensky - 1st phase environmental report is in. Phase 2 soil samples needed due to truck repair area; money ran out; due diligence now completed. Burney/Hat Creek gave them a loan to close deal; agreement with county to move greenwaste onto site; next week final doc closing; next phase complete docs for funding readiness, site development plan and bid ready (PGE has to bid for rates). CBD involved at Truckee and North Fork for full scale EIR; CHIPS will meet with CBD early; Calaveras County is willing to issue a Neg Dec depending on conditions/mitigations. Product sourcing/distances feasibility area for procurement needs to be narrower than previously planned; funding discussions next month with Phoenix Energy. 3 ideas for funding – (1) Standard bank loan with Phoenix Energy as primary agent; (2) two tribal councils CA OR have co-gen going – could this be a tribal partnership? (3) Local investment group funding arrangement. Steve would like to be on the February agenda, after the Phoenix and CBD meetings to brief the group.   Katherine: requests a facilitated workshop to complete biomass. Cathy will email the group to poll for areas where agreement/consensus has not been reached. Katherine and Steve will work with Susie, as well. |
| **IX.** | **Action Items Review :**   1. **ALL –** in an effort to save meeting time, please send your agency updates/reports in to Cathy no later than close of business 2/12 for inclusion in the agenda. Please read prior to the 2/19 meeting. 2. Air Districts – Cathy contact Mike Boitano; Vince contact Brian Moss. 3. Ad hoc prescribed fire committee – Cathy contact Jan Bray & Warren Alford for findings; Katherine contact Craig Thomas 4. Cathy send out SRA Fee Statute |
| **X.** | **ACCG Partner Reports** |
|  | 1. Katherine, Foothill Conservancy – Re avoided cost analysis study: she is directly in touch with U of Oregon on socioeconomic monitoring doing studies; Reuben – Mokewise project – outreach meeting 2/4 or 5 TBD 2. Peter, CIMC – His biggest 2014 concern is how many people are being put to work in the native population and community at large – wants stats from agencies and requests that they announce openings. 3. Amy, NRCS –Career Pathways announcement coming for college students. 4. Tim, SPI – started burning; still logging rim, soil moisture and water concerns; Calaveras FSC council meeting tomorrow evening, Mt. Ranch, 6 p.m. 5. John Hofmann, Amador County – Sierra Cascade Dialog – Malcolm North reported that riparian areas are in need of work because of fire evidence; may need ad hoc group later. Critical habitat economic analysis is out; Squaw Ridge is highest regarding yellow leg frog. 6. Rick – new Forest Supervisor Lawrence Crabtree; distributed a DVD/book from OSU for collaboration healthy forests. |
|  | 1. Upcoming Events/Meetings/Conferences  * Calaveras County Water District is hosting a Water – Forest Forum in San Andreas on 1/23 9:30 to 2:30. RSVP to Mona Walker, 209-754-3028 for attendance. |
| **XI.** | **Current Meeting Action Items Review** |
| **XII.** | **Adjourn – *Next meeting in west point 2/19*** |