**ACCG Planning Committee Meeting**

**November 12, 2014 – Amador County Administration Building, Conference Room C**

**810 Court Street** - **Jackson**

**0900 – 1200**

**Draft Notes:**

1. **Introductions, Agenda** **Review; roll call**: Kendal Young (KY), John Hofmann (JoHo), Autumn Olsen (AO), Julia Stephens (JS), Katherine Evatt(KE), Chuck Loffland (CL), C Koos Breazeal (CKB), Reuben Childress (RC), Gwen Starrett (GS), Pat McGreevy(PMc), John Heissenbuttel (JoHe)

2. **Annual Report and Ecological Indicator Report (0915 - 0945) (Kendal) o Review and Approve**

* Kendal reviewed report: $1.8 million to both districts this year. Match $715,000 off two districts, not including other matches; 41% of allocated, so there is carryover. Goal is 50/50 match but flexible. Next year should improve with market, timing and staffing issues; CL: no progress on Amador’s CFLR coordinator position; no sales – sale admin position vacant. KY: Captured $406K through grants. Need to improve record collection for field trip attendance. $942K leverage projects (member participation, AFSC, NRCS, Foothill Conservancy). Acres under #2 may be low. #4 reflects collaboration-centric. Pat asked for nexus with listed projects and Cornerstone.
* No accomplishment code for Heritage Resources. Added paragraph.
* Heavy on veg-centric and not much on recreation; added in narrative.
* Green sales on hold – JoHe asked KY to clarify; CL - discussion/explanation re green timber sales. JoHe – still 3 year contract? Burned will be cleared from pipeline in around 2 years. CL – yes, 3 yr and can extend; NEPA in progress. Discussion.
* KY Implement Mattley 2017; CL - Foster potential decision 2015, and implement 2016; however King Fire priorities; survey data underway for Foster. PMc when is Hemlock expected decision; KY –Aug/Sept 2015 and implementation for FY16 after snow; 2 years of surveys done
* RC - how are green sales affected, with the likelihood of more king-like fires. Should we plan/anticipate for that likelihood, based on climate data. KY - something to consider; CL - capacity issue, i.e. less mills; salvage takes priority due to limited time for product and mill capacity. JoHo – history of no bid sales – how to address; CL – may need to not do parts; KE – still need to do work – find another fund source; CL – have used retained receipts. KE – frequency of fires + diminished mill capacity – need to think differently to get done.

**Ecological indicators report -** KY reviewed .

* Report reflected two scales – landscape and project level. Desired condition statements come from template.
* JoHe asked about scoring of “poor” on invasive species. KY/CL lower priority. Gwen – when can be this be addressed?
* KE recommended including a timescale graphic for where we are now and expected future condition. KY – take back to monitoring work group; this report meets federal requirements but acknowledges issues ACCG wants to address. GS prefers planning work group first, then go to monitoring.
* JoHo – asked clarification on good/fair/poor percentage disparity. KY Quality – how well; quantity – based on 3 year window of 10 year period. Using different scales.
* AO – report frequency years 3, 5, 7, 10
* KY – PMc commented on amount of projects shown in Table 8. Change of name from East/West Arnold Shred to Meadowmont WUI Fuel Break. JoHe – please show which are stewardship, which are service contracts. Originally 24 projects; now 44 projects – will need to determine which to be monitored (can’t monitor all).
* JoHe – process lengthy; are we making progress?.
* JoHo – recommend we develop basic questions for monitoring, for instance what did 5 year projection of activities look like and compare; if not moved forward, why not? Expected vs actual NEPA costs; are costs going down? Compare x and y amount of volume. Limit monitoring questions.
* KE – additional funding only partially beneficial when consider limited staffing and time required to do studies (i.e. 2 year studies).
* CL – no one wants to pay for planning, only implementation.
* JoHe – ACCG slowed down Power Fire process. How can we do better?
* KY- where we have spent more time, it has paid off, such as on Ramsey. We reduced/influenced the comment period with discussion and a letter.
* KY - will have costs/etc for next week’s monitoring meeting, to be ready for this winter at snow melt. We have a better understanding of where we need to go – clarify and reduce.
* KY - Do we have support from this group to present this annual report to full group next week (due prior to 11/19 meeting) – consensus.

3. **Hemlock Landscape Restoration (0945 - 1015) (Kendal) o ACCG Comment on Scoping. Project estimated time-line**

* Online 5 page document; see letter
* KY – maybe letter should indicate overall ACCG supports project but wants FS to concentrate & address more on XYZ
* JS – letter of support would not negate issues her org would bring forward. Broadly supportive, but definitely some specific comments. When should she share?
* KE – scoping issues, but feels supportive for it to move through full NEPA process. Do we want to include that concern in overall letter?
* PMc – should this be a general overall letter from ACCG with separate letter from FHC?
* JoHo – letter could say we are all supportive, some are concerned about xyz and list those concerns by organization
* KY deadline is 12/15. Writing a letter gets you standing in the process and help them begin to develop alternatives.
* PMc will draft letter and state specific concerns – not name group, just “some members” have concerns. Or some members have concerns that will be addressed in separate letters.
* JS - CSERC wants flexibility for mosaic such as 20 x 20 placement; special aquatic features – protect, not just monitor
* PMc – mistletoe in white and red fir was discussed but not in package. KY – FS does not have data to quantify. JoHe – cut all the old growth to remove mistletoe. KY we are not going to cut 30dbh+. KY - Not wanting to use Sporax for treatment. Flagpole Point is not in project area. PMc - May be old wagon roads; KY did not see – looked.
* Pat will write letter – send concerns to Pat; he will send back to team for review prior to 11/19 meeting. Pat will send out ASAP. Reuben send Power Fire letter to Pat.

4. **Project Updates (1015 - 1045) (All)**

* **West Calaveras Thin** – KY - NEPA Completed - signed decision; going to contracting; staff laying out; bid & ready to work at snow melt. May also see name Winton FB.
* **Power Fire - CL – Bob is** working up low herbicide alternative and adapt original due to frog issue. KKE – how did Sierra Nevada framework settlement affect? CL hasn’t heard that it has; likely to affect a lot of things. KKE requests a speaker on topic. CL analysis over winter, February likely for document. Maybe offered next year summer 2015
* JoHe - discussion in successes/challenges about the Power Fire project. There was unanimous agreement that the Forest Service effort and the dialogue/consensus process within the ACCG group was a success. However, I put on the table that the challenge for ACCG is going to be how members react to the USFS decision when it is issued as we did not reach agreement on appropriate on-the-ground actions, rather our consensus was an alternative should be evaluated.
* **Foster Firs- CL –** Mark putting analysis together based on letters ~ Feb. May be offered end of 15/1st Q 16.
* **Foster Meadow -** CL – woody debris, pond plugs; work on document this winter. KKE – local contractors? JoHe working with Assoc CA Loggers to inventory 5 county region & working with FS to ID 5 year contract needs. Need a Jim Wilcox skill set. CL- thinning is done, hikeable.
* **Mattley Meadow - KY -** similar to Soter. Jim has laid out, creating written doc to accompany. Further behind on NEPA perspective. Frog issues. Early in process.

**5. Year in Review (1045 - 1115) (All)**

o **Successes**

* KY - Herbicide/power fire alternative; utilizing products from other collaboratives. ie. SCALE
* RC – YSS paper for Power and good future resource;
* CL – Foster and Mattley were indirectly cornerstone successes based on previous success with Indian Valley. Now have a design we can analyze for
* CL – kudos to KY and AO, mark for getting out reports.
* KKE – success on Foster; moving ahead.
* JoHo – local definition a success. Going to RO for IDIQ
* RC – kudos to PMc for outreach
* JS – Hemlock staff response and effort to engage.

o Challenges

* Pat – concerned about Calaveras plan to manage lands from snow retention/water management perspective; KKE may want to invite Cliff Edson/Chris Wright to present at a meeting. (Roger Bales study)
* KKE SCALE could be useful in helping us in dealing with contentious issues – how have the other collaboratives worked?
* PMc – Need more job generation on projectss west of Cornerstone.
* GIS of all projects

6. Calendar of Meetings (1115 - 1130) (Kendal) o Next Meeting – Dec 10 or Jan 14 FY 2015 Cornerstone Program of Work

* Monitoring Meeting Nov 18. 9-3 HHS building

Need to schedule one for early Dec – please bring Calendars • Need to send Social/Economic Matrix out for Review

7. Round Table (1130 - 1145) (All)

8. Review Key Elements (1145 - 1150)