**Meeting Notes**

**June 18, 2014 – 9:30am – 12:00pm**

**Location:** West Point Veterans Hall, Hwy 26 & Pine Street, West Point

**Meeting Facilitator:** Eric Kleinfelter

| **No.** | **Agenda Item** |
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| **1** | **Call To Order 0943 by Eric Kleinfelter** |
| **2** | **Participants Introduction** |
| **3** | **Modifications and/or Approval of Agenda** Additions: J. Hofmann -- add discussion to Moke River Benefits; Rick Hopson -- add a Forest Service update |
| **4** | **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes typo correction** |
| **5** | **Status of Previous Action Items**   1. Distance meeting logistics - still in progress. Cathy (AT&T has some coverage) 2. Ops Work Group – definition of “local” by September - item #9 3. Amy Rocha - status of BCAP (request by Mr. Trott) Chris Trott provided an update in Amy’s absence – Biomass Crop Assistance Program – 2014 Farm Bill reauthorized funding – (1) helps remove/process/transport uneconomic biomass for use as energy from both federal and ag lands with matching dollar-for-dollar payment program, up to $20 max per BDT to any qualified energy facility; (2) establishment of program to grow an energy crop over a 5 year period, such as a eucalyptus plantation. Available funds US-wide $12.5 million this fiscal year and 4 more years coming. $10 million earmarked to remove hazardous fuels and diseased trees on federal lands, balance on ag lands having a recognized sustainability plan. Sign up period opened Monday for qualified facilities, closing around 7/15. FSA will make list of qualified facilities and then open up for apps for people who actually want to do projects with the BCAP match. Money directed by either FS or BLM for priorities. Tuolumne BOS sent letter requesting that some of this be used for wildfire restoration projects. Late July/early August timeframe for contractors to apply. Quite possible money will not come to CA. ACCG could write a letter to head of FSA in DC/state/legislators to show their support for funding local. Chris will check with Amy and notify ACCG if new information comes up. |
|  | **ACCG Work Groups** |
| **6** | **Admin Work Group** – C Koos Breazeal   1. Ad hoc Rx fire committee update – Cathy working with Nor Cal Rx Fire Council to develop training standards, i.e. Burn Boss-type qualifications. 2. Facilitator assignments - July 16, Amy Rocha; August 20, Reuben Childress; September 17, John Heissenbuttel; October 15, John Hofmann. 3. Educational element recommendations Bruce Shindler OSU, July 16. Topic – successes on the dynamics of the collaboratives and what to avoid. 45 minutes. August – Kim Ingram, SNAMP report; Sept – Stacy Stannish; 4. Additional presentation at July 16 meeting by USFS contracting officers, 30 minutes. This will require a lengthier meeting or dismissal of all additional agenda items with the exception of the Bruce Shindler and FS presentations. If we elect to go to a longer meeting, it was recommended that we do a working, brown bag lunch. |
| **7** | **Planning Work Group –** Kendal Young   1. Request for concurrences on two projects out for public comment – West Calaveras Thin and Power Fire Restoration. John Heissenbuttel, Pat McGreevy, and Reuben Childress are working on letters, to be sent this week. 2. Concurrence letter drafted by Pat McGreevy for West Calaveras Thin (Winton Road and 7N09). Pat – goals are to enhance health and product of plantations, maintain and enhance ecology for wildlife, fuel breaks, watershed/riparian habitat, comply with ACCG’s community and economic benefit goals. Of the 3 alternatives - 1 and 3 are identical on all but treatment for plantations. Alternative 3 would leave larger trees and remove more fuel, compared to Alternative 1. He prefers Alternative 3, going to more mature forest for better fire resilience and wildlife hab.   Reuben – Alternative 3 seems to be preferred by FS because Alternative 1 did not quite accomplish original goals – taking out more merchantable timber; feels comfortable recommend Alt 3 for meeting our goals.  J Heissenbuttel to Kendal – they are both below cost, but which is lower? Kendal – Alternate 3 because less merchantable timber; FS did do economic analysis.  J Hofmann – what are we giving up to do Alternate 3?  Kendal – gave background on analysis of scoping on alternatives. FS perspective – we are not really giving up anything.  Letter – minor changes to emphasize “ACCG prefers Alternate 3”. Pat and Reuben will work together. Submit to Cathy and she send paper and email to S Skalski with cc to Teresa. Deadline – till 7/4.   1. Power Fire letter – Rick – comfortable with letter; brought up issues to analyze and a direction to head. John and Reuben developed. CONCURRENCE, no objections. Due by 6/27. SEND TO CATHY FOR MAILING. 2. 7/9 next Planning Work Group meeting. TBA location. 3. Monitoring Work Group – 7/17in Jackson 4. Foster Firs – 6/26 0900 Amador Ranger district meet - field trip focus on road issues. Kendal – no letter discussion yet, need to work on. TU asked to look at roads. |
| **8** | **Finance Work Group –** Ad Hoc group on future of finance work group (John Heissenbuttel, Peter Z, Steve Wilensky.  SCALE is receiving some federal funds and reps will come back with how we will receive the money. Accept that Finance WG is dormant. Charge Admin WG with developing a high level vision to finance work of ACCG.  **Concurrence for dormant and ad hoc Admin Committee to move forward** |
| **9** | **Operations Work Group –**  John Heissenbuttel & Rick Hopson   1. Potential dates next face meeting define local – TBA(see additional info under Item 11) 2. Opportunity with CA Center for Cooperative Development – possible USDA financial assistance for operator training. Rural Businesses Cooperative – he was approached by CA Center for Cooperative Development to get some funding to improve efficiency in biomass collection; form local cooperatives; help fund contractor training to secure federal funding with a percentage for admin. Letter to provide support written by J Heissenbuttel – **concurrence.** |
| **10** | **Wilseyville** update – J Heissenbuttel attended the citizen meeting late May – residents expressed concerns for increased truck traffic and noise; Susan McMorris also attended – clean yard waste can go to site instead of dump; homeowner association in area supports moving forward. |
| **11** | **SCALE** – Rick Hopson meeting update – regional office is more engaged with increased coordination between Sherri Elliot, Pierce Tucker (new acquisitions manager), Steve Wilensky and Jonathan Kusel with the intent to advance community benefit. Sarah Ackerman, R6 shared what authorities they use to give greater weight to local contractors. Matt Gagnon, CO, shared contract just signed for 8A contractor to work with CHIPS as a subcontractor – goal is to increase their efficiencies. CHIPs will actual make more money by law as a subcontractor. Pierce offered some ideas to use CFLR funds to better help local communities. Use IDIQ flexible contract – negotiate to do pre-work, set rates; they are ready to come present to us in July for 30 minutes with a focus more on local folks. IDIQ is approximately a 6 month process. FS set up contracts and structures R Hopson suggested that after the all-ACCG meeting on July 16, we set up a separate Ops work group meeting that evening. – Meet with all in July, then separate meeting with Ops group soon afterwards. |
| **12** | **Moke River Benefits Group** – J Hofmann -- SNC paid for satellite imagery program to look at a resolution down to 30 meters to determine greatest benefit to treat and which would translate to better water quality, less utility maintenance, benefit for community. They are recommending two different implementation groups, upper and lower, with a liaison to work between both groups. He recommends ACCG administer the upcountry and someone else administer downcountry with liaison to coordinate two groups. We would be managers of that program which fits into what we already do. (Susan asked for a definition of “we.” John Hofmann – loose term for (someone) in ACCG. Reuben asked for clarification if this was representing Moke Fund or MACA or ?  J Hoffmann – Moke Fund has not been populated yet, looking at implementation, we have 2 tools available; one is cost avoidance fuel reduction MACA – how do we take advantage of that tool? Have them come and present to Planning WG. Get downstream beneficiaries to invest.  Reuben – MACA was not a treatment plan, rather a modeling exercise to examine where forest treatments would get the most bang for their buck. Planning for treatments was not part of the study.  J Hoffman – We need to pull this info into the CWPPs. Bill Haigh/Rick Hopson -- projects were pulled into this report, on SNC website. John Hofmann recommends we make some kind of tentative commitment to take on coordination, select liaison for group west of 49 to maintain connection upcountry and front country. .  Pat Mc Greevy inquired where is money coming from and how do we access?  J Hofmann – recommended better to have a paid administrator to find that money. Money already coming into this [ACCG] group and already receiving this money.  Bill Haigh – money not coming here. MACA says this is investment needed, but huge gap in money coming in. Money coming in tens of thousands, we need millions.  Rick Hopson – (?name?) has taken to DC to lobby.  J Hofmann – Individuals will actively seek funds; but as group we will not actively seek funds. When funds found, ACCG will actively suggest how to use funds.  Haigh – group as whole should pursue funds, like we did with Cornerstone.  Concurrence with J Hofmann continuing to represent ACCG on preliminary basis to continue to act as liaison for Upper Moke. Can we take on a leadership role for now?  No objections. |
| **13** | **Rick Hopson** **– FS updates** - Recognition of John Hofmann and Katherine Evatt for volunteer hours on Cornerstone project. Certificate and videos given. |
| **14** | **Action items:**   * **Decision needed for July 16 meeting – extend hours/brown bag lunch or dismiss all other agenda items to allow sufficient time for Bruce Shindler, OSU presentation and discussion by FS Contracting staff** * distance meeting accommodations continue – Cathy * BCAP update – Chris Trott * West Calaveras Thin letter – Send * Power Fire letter of support – send * CA Center for Cooperative Development letter – J Heissenbuttel * Moke River Benefits – coordination and liaison update – J Hofmann |
| **14** | **ACCG Partner Reports**  SPI – SRA fees press release by CALFIRE  AFSC – bump run; CAFSC grant funding delays  EBMUD – Regional water authority has had $80 million in grants  Peter – CMP – membership in this group is vital; remind us of our mission.  Kendal – Susan will be retiring early Sept; Teresa detail 120 detail to Shasta/Trinity June 29, as deputy forest supervisor  Pat – thank Rick et al for work on the Power Fire restoration. Ask planning group to agendize pursue implementation of John’s program as described and discuss fire safe council support. Refocus attention away from high country to this area.  Susan – why is Moke water authority not at the table with us |
| **15** | Upcoming Events/Meetings/Conferences/announcements |
|  | **Adjourn – Next meeting in Jackson July 16** |