

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2015 9:30am – 12:00pm

Location: Highway 26 and Pine St, West Point, CA

Meeting Facilitator: John Heissenbuttel

Minutes Taken By: Kimberly Grissom

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order
2. Participant Introductions
Gerald Schartz, John Buckley, Julia Stephens, Clint Gould, Rick Hopson, Teresa McClung, Kendal Young, Kevin Zeman, Tim Tate, Reuben Childress, Gwen Starrett, Cathy Koos-Breazeal, Susan McMorris, Amy Rocha, Katherine Evatt, Steve Wilensky, Christa Darlington, Pat McGreevy, Mary Sketch, Robert Zellers, Bill Haigh, Tom Tinsley, Chris Swann, Robin Wall, John Heissenbuttel, Kimberly Grissom, Jan Bray, John Hofmann, Eric Kleinfelter, Gordon Long, Lynn Morgan, Karen Quinanday, Scott Tangenburg, Annie Dean, Don Hittenmiller, David Griffith
3. Modifications and and/or Approval of Agenda
 - Reverse presentations (items # 6 & 7)
 - Add SCALE discussion after item #11
 - Add BLM update to Butte Fire presentations
 - Approved as modified
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - October Minutes approved, with suggestions
5. Review of Previous Action Items
 - See addendum
6. Presentation: Bioenergy Facilities, Air Resources Board, and Carbon Markets – by Christa Darlington
 - Ms. Darlington is working with legal aspects of establishing the Wilseyville Biomass Plant. She explains some details and context, including impacts from the Governor’s declaration of emergency for tree mortality, and PG & E’s relationship to the biomass marketplace.
 - Contact her at darlingtonlaw@gmail.com
 - Information on quantifying carbon saved by avoiding wildfire available here <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/air>
 - Information on EPIC grants available through the CPUC available here <http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/documents/>
7. Butte Fire Updates
 - CalFire, Tom Tinsley
 - Mr. Tinsley explains goals and processes CalFire undertook during the Butte Fire. CalFire work to repair damage done as a result of fire suppression. Land owners who wish more repair

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work can apply for CFIP grants. CFIP information here

http://www.calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestryassinstance_cfip

- Success stories were the live oak woodland saved east of Mokelumne Hill, which was a result of work done earlier, and maintained in 2015; and the shaded fuel break in Pine Acres, which helped save that area.

- CalFire's initial report on the Butte Fire is available here

http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/cdf/images/incidentfile1221_1956.pdf

- EBMUD, Chris Swann

- Mr. Swann explained that EBMUD sees its role as a partner, not a leader. One activity is helping volunteers spread straw mulch and spray psyllium tacking spray over it.

- BLM, Bill Haigh

- Mr. Haigh has secured for BLM 3.5 million dollars to fund erosion control implementation on burned BLM properties. This will include aerial application of straw, and some wood chipping, mostly focused close to Ponderosa Road and the Jesus Maria Canyon.

- NRCS, Amy Rocha

- Ms Rocha quickly reviewed best management practices (BMP) for erosion control. NRCS is currently processing 30 applications for EQIP grants to help fund private land owners erosion control efforts.

- CalAm Team, Jan Bray

- Ms. Bray related that CalAm is working with Jeff Crovitz, Calaveras County Public Works Director, on grant applications to FEMA and CalOES for erosion control funding.

8. Administration Work Group

- Please make sure meeting agendas link to calendar items.

9. Planning Work Group

- CLFR annual report summary draft is available from Kendal Young (USFS) and will be available on the ACCG website.
- NEPA is complete for a group of USFS projects that includes the Tamarack WUI in the Highway 4 corridor. That project removes trees less than 8 inches. This is still a draft decision. Implementation will be concurrent.
- ACCG reaches concurrence – the Hemlock comment letter will be sent with the agreed upon language.

10. Wilseyville Biomass Plant update

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- The issue of potential presence of endangered monkeyflower on the plant site has been resolved. Alpine Biomass Committee thanks CHIPS for being their fiscal sponsor.
11. Tree Mortality and Butte Fire Recovery ad hoc Work Groups
 - The two groups will combine into a single meeting – please stay after this meeting to set a date and time.
 - A history of the Defining Local work for SCALE was given.
 12. Legislators Field Visit
 - SNC hosted a tour for legislators of the Butte Fire area. A partial list of participants includes Barbara Boxer, Diane Feinstein, John Kennedy, and a republican staffer. Steve will get a complete list of participants to the administrator.
 - (The external participants were: Sarah Moffat – D. Feinstein’s office; Julissa Delgado – B. Boxer’s office; Ashley Ames – Legislative Analyst’s Office; John Kennedy – Assembly Republic Natural Resources Consultant; Michael Jarred – Assembly Natural Resources Committee Consultant; Marie Liu – Senate Appropriations Committee Consultant.
 13. Agency and Organization Updates
 - Participants give updates on events and progress for their organizations.
 14. Action Item Review
 - Christa Darlington will share her contact information with ACCG for people who have questions, as well as the website for the CPUC EPIC grants. (done - available in the meeting minutes)
 - Tom Tinsely will provide the website for the initial Calfire Butte Fire report and for the CalFire CFIP grants (done – available in these meeting minutes)
 - Bill Haigh will speak with Steve Wilensky and Christa Darlington re: the Community Forest project and its relation to the air quality issues, so Bill can update the Calaveras BOS.
 - As a result of concurrence reached, the Hemlock project comment letter will be submitted to the US Forest Service, (done kg)
 - The CFLR annual report summary DRAFT will be posted on the ACCG website (done)
 - The Tree Mortality and Butte Fire Work Groups will meet after this meeting (they did)
 - Steve Wilensky will provide a list participants in the SNC Legislators Field Trip. (in process kg)
 - Confirm ACCG website calendar events link to their agenda.
 15. Future Meeting Topics
 16. Adjourn