

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2016 9:30am – 12:00pm

Location: 12200 Airport Rd, Jackson, CA

Meeting Facilitator: Reuben Childress Minutes Taken By: Kimberly Grissom

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order
2. Participant Introductions

Terry Woodrow, Robert Zeller, Mary Rawson, David Griffith, Bill Fullerton, Rick Kerrigan, Jay Francis, Mike Albrecht, Kent Lambert, Irvin Jim, Suzette Ariza, Amy Rocha, Annie Dean, Bill Haigh, Dennis Bowker, Don Hittenmiller, Eric Kleinfelter, Gordon Long, Gwen Starrett, Jan Bray, Jennifer DeWoody, John Heissenbittel, Kimberly Grissom, Lynn Morgan, Mary Sketch, Megan Fiske, Michael Pickard, Pat McGreevy, Reuben Childress, Rick Hopson, Robin Wall, Steve Wilensky, Teresa McClung, Tim Tate.
3. Approval and/or Modification of Agenda
 - Postpone to a future agenda the web post guidelines and how to subscribe to the newsfeed items because K. Evatt is unavailable today.
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Approved.
5. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items
6. Presentation: Carbon Sequestration in Sierra Forest – Bill Stewart, UC Berkeley Cooperative Extension
 - Mr. Stewart defines carbon sequestration as the rate of change of sequestration. Net growth declines in a mature forest, so the highest rate of sequestration is in forests with 50 – 100 year old trees. Does this indicate we should replace all forests and make the 50 - 100 year forest the goal? No, because there are other values, like habitat and recreation, and there are other carbon costs to remove and replace.
 - Another main point is that a very good way to store carbon is to build with wood. A wood house stands for an average of 130 years.
 - Half the volume of timber harvest is biomass – limbs and bark. Thinning from below doesn't have a better carbon sequestration, or fire, outcome than managing for basal area (commercial thin).
 - The main points of this presentation are summarized in the book Ecosystems of California, chapter 36.
7. Presentation: Tree Mortality in the Central Sierra – Mike Albrecht, Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS)
 - In the southern Sierra, 60% of pines are dead. The beetle issue is driven by drought, which could be the worst in 1200 years, according to NOAA. The scope of the problem is unprecedented.
 - YSS objectives with funding are to protect Tuolumne county roads and water systems, and to create satellite wood yards to store the harvested logs because the wood market is flooded right now.
 - Mr. Albrecht provided starter kit packets for Amador, Calaveras, and Alpine county representatives, to help with CA disaster fund applications. It includes the Tuolumne

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application as an example, which basically consists of a plan to form a task force, remove the trees, and a timeline. He offers to answer questions, and Tuolumne Deputy CAO will also help with questions – Tracie Riggs, 209-533-5511.

8. Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) update – Teresa McClung
 - UMRWA voted unanimously in favor of the master stewardship agreement with USFS, and in support of the Pumpkin Hollow project. Irvin Jim, Southern Washoe Native American representative, will meet with Teresa after the meeting, so they can coordinate future communication on projects in the headwaters of the Mokelumne. Pumpkin Hollow is not in the headwaters area, but the Master Stewardship agreement does cover the headwaters area.
9. Administration Work Group
 - Jan Bray will draft an op-ed article on Tree Mortality, and Gwen Starrett will help coordinate that and other media release efforts. Additional topics for future articles include ACCG progress so far, fire risk and Sierra Nevada Conservancy grants, fire risk and controlled burns, and carbon in the forests. Steve Wilensky, Dennis Bowker, Reuben Childress and Bill Haigh will also contribute information or draft articles.
 - The Building Collaboration workshop lead by Jonathan Kusel, will follow next month's meeting, March 16, 12:30 – 1:30 pm. RSVP to Kimberly's reminder email for lunch, which will be provided for a fee.
 - It is possible that CFLR funds can be used to help people attend the NFF Collaborative Restoration workshop in Denver on April 26 and 27. This will be added to the March agenda.
10. Planning Work Group
 - Five letters of support received consensus
 - USFS Pumpkin Hollow project
 - USFS Panther Fuels Reduction project, with one revision to the language
 - CalAm Mitchel Mine Project
 - CalAm South Fork Mokelumne Project
 - CHIPS/Wilseyville Bioenergy Plan Project EDAP (item 11 on the agenda)
12. Tree Mortality Work Group
 - The list of suggested actions from the Tree Mortality WG receives consensus on two of the items now, with further review of the others. The two items are writing an op-ed, and working the Amador and Calaveras Boards of Supervisors on the Tree Mortality issue.
13. Agency/Organization Updates
 - Skipped because of running 15 minutes over
14. Action Item Review
 - See addendum.
16. Next Meeting Topics – No changes.
17. Adjourn 12:15 pm.
 - Next meeting March 16, 2016. Veterans Hall, Hwy 26 and Pine Street, West Point, CA.

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Action Items February ACCG:

1. UMWRA board signing in April regarding Master Stewardship Agreement and Pumpkin Hollow with USFS
2. Bill Haigh to work with Christa Darlington and Steve Wilensky to get on UMWRA's next agenda regarding BLM Community Forest
3. Katherine Evatt and John Heissenbuttel to discuss web post guidelines and subscribing to news feed at next (March) ACCG meeting
4. Jan Bray to do initial media release on Tree Mortality task force and to work with Gwen on potential topics for media release/op-ed. Steve and Dennis to volunteer to help with an op-ed.
5. Kimberly will send out notice to ACCG for members to register and RSVP for lunch, etc. re: March Workshop on Collaboration with Sierra Institute.
6. If anyone interested in book by Bryan G. Norris at discount, please contact Dennis: *Sustainable Values, Sustainable Change*.
7. Denver NFF Collaborative Restoration Workshop: Scholarships available at NFF website- apply for scholarships online.
8. Discuss at March meeting the possibility of using Cornerstone money to send ACCG members to NFF workshop.
9. John Heissenbuttel to write letter of support for scholarship application for NFF workshop.
10. Letter of support for Pumpkin Hollow received consensus from ACCG group
11. Panther Project scoping letter signed on February 8, asking for comments (no set deadline) but ask for earlier rather than later (by March 11).
12. Planning team requesting a no herbicide alternative to be considered alongside Panther Project and consider an alternative to be consistent with interim recommendations for California Spotted Owl on National Forest lands. Seeking ACCG consensus to send letter along these lines for scoping comment period. Reuben to strike "or controversy tied to public health risk." No objections so Reuben will send off.
13. CalAm letters of support asking ACCG to reaffirm that we have the support of group. Received endorsement from group with abstention from Foothill Conservancy and CSERC. John Heissenbuttel to send out previous grant proposal for group to review.
14. CalAm letter asking ACCG to support planning grant regarding BLM Community Forest: Endorsement from group with abstention from Foothill Conservancy and CSERC.
15. EDAP Letter of Support for CHIPS/Wilseyville Bioenergy Plant: Endorsement from group.
16. Tree Mortality Workgroup asking for ACCG consensus re: recommendations for tree mortality actions. No objection to tree mortality ad-hoc work group working along these recommendations, particularly working with the Boards of Supervisors and writing an op-ed.
17. Meeting with Steve Brink at El Torero at 6pm prior to his talk Wednesday, Feb 17.
18. Bill will send meeting reminders to Kimberly regarding first two weekends in March.
19. Dennis interest in day-long on collaboration.