**Location:  Veterans’ Memorial Building, West Point, CA  
Meeting Facilitator: Robin Wall  Minutes: Jill Micheau**

***Attendees:*** *Ray Cablayan, USFS; Joe Aragon, USFS; Jay Francis, SPI; Michael Pickard, SNC; Robin Wall, USFS; Julie Martin, ?; Monte Kawahara, BLM; Frank Axe, Amador County; Sue Holper, landownerr; Jeff Blewett, ?; Katherine Evatt, Foothill Conservancy; John Buckley, CSERC; Liz Gregg, CSERC; John Heissenbuttel, CalAm Forestry Team; Don Hittenmiller, Alpine Biomass Group; David Griffith, Alpine Biomass Group; Terry Woodrow, Alpine County, Calaveras Fire Safe Council; Kent Lambert and Gerald Schwartz, EBMUD; Jan Bray, CalAm Forestry Team; Jill Micheau, ACCG Administrator.*

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| **Item Number** | **Agenda Item** | **Owner(s)** |
| 1 | Call to order | Robin Wall |
| 2 | Participants introductions   * **Special introduction:** Joe Aragon, Calaveras Ranger District Acting RM Staff Officer/CFLR Coordinator | All |
| 3 | Modification and/or approval of agenda -- approved | All |
| 4 | Approval of September minutes -- approved | All |
| **Presentations and Business** | |  |
| 5 | Request for letter of support  Pat provided an update on the South Fork Mokelumne Watershed Restoration Project and requested a letter of support from the ACCG for an SNC grant application that is due on November 1st. For full presentation, contact Pat McGreevy at mcgreevp@volcano.net.   * + - * Project is near Sandy Gulch, south of Hwy 26 up to Independence Road; 912 acres South Fork Mokelumne; 15K acres of BLM land; worked with CalFire to select project, fuel break across river.       * Moke canyon is really steep and rugged; hard to align break on ridge lines across river.       * BLM property was logged 1960s-90s, replanted; many derelict pine plantations; pure ponderosa 8x8 spacing. Never managed.       * All in WUI; mix of developed and undeveloped parcels.       * Will use mechanical mastication on all <30% slopes; some hand work; have also assigned hand crews to masticator. About 5% inaccessible by masticator; 5% support for masticator, i.e., limbing up trees to make space.       * Did not include replanting for this project; will look at it after the clearing has been done. Probably enough seed trees to get regeneration.       * Grant status: NEPA to BLM on Monday; expect to be done by December 31st. CEQA needed because funds are from SNC. Trying to do joint NEPA-CEQA; SNC will complete CEQA (Jill – I don’t think so, check that with Pat).       * Suggestion for future projects: ACCG should have more projects ready to go before funding opportunities arise. Plan ahead to enable more robust discussions on projects.       * No objections to letter;  **Note: letter was sent 10/19, JMM** | Pat McGreevy |
| 6 | **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Strategic Action Plan** – Pickard sent an email about SNC planning; they are updating their plan; hope to be done by June or Sept of 2018; data gathering process now; want participation; ACCG is an in-region partner; asking for feedback – how can SNC be more useful and better serve the region; what are general big needs of the region? How function in future? Participate with an online collaborative tool (anonymous); idea generating tool; prioritizes ideas based on interest.  MP will sign up people soon.  2nd process is a sub-regional meeting for Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties, probably in Sonora or Angels Camp, probably mid-January. Other participation options include letters, interviews, etc**. PLEASE CONTACT MICHAEL PICKARD FOR MORE DETAILS. Michael.pickard@sierranevada.ca.gov** | Michael Pickard |
| 7 | **ACCG Strategic Planning Update and Discussion**  Over the past 6 months, a team of ACCG volunteers has worked to create a 5-year strategic plan. They have tried to engage the entire ACCG group at the general meetings and via online tools. At the September strategic planning meeting, we developed a first-draft plan and several strategic questions. At today’s meeting, John Heissenbuttel engaged the full group in a discussion on some of the issues we are trying to solve. Notes on that discussion:  **Things we do well: communication…**   * PR/Media team is currently Bray, Wilensky, Evatt; need to update website to reflect those names; need to flesh out function; now mostly POCs for media, but would be better if more robust; subgroup of admin or separate? More defined roles, more structure needed. Recent press release issue demonstrates, we are not automatically consulted. We’d like Board of Supervisors, water agencies, etc. to check with us first – include in future state vision.   **Working with the Forest Service:**   * Current model is OK… should it be changed? Do we have the bodies to get involved in all the details? What about Pat and Gwen’s Onion Valley meadow project model (a bottom-up project)?   + Cablayan: thinks that’s a great idea;   + Evatt: Hemlock example included field trips, etc. lots of interaction *before* project was defined. No objections; on other projects we were brought in after scoping; we developed alternatives, which were often disregarded;   + Buckley: re Hemlock, in the early days of the project it was clear that ACCG mattered. Eldorado NF style of interaction has been different; doesn’t assume ACCG is pivotal to outcome. YSS has a leadership team, includes 4 core plus a fiscal agent – not a flat structure. How does collaborative group role make a difference or impact FS projects? Are we partners? YSS is more of a partnership.   + Evatt: statute requires that projects be *developed* collaboratively with ACCG and FS;   + Heissenbuttel: CLFRA funding is going away soon – put us in a unique spot; we won’t be there for long; will that change how we operate?   **Regarding lack of/declining participation:**   * We do not have enough bodies outside of general meetings. What is major constraint? Meeting times? Lack of volunteer time for project work? * Overlapping question: what is the value of participation? CSERC is involved with 4 collaborative groups; that’s where the action is. Challenge is does ACCG or YSS help FS accomplish more than if we weren’t there? Are we adding value or just networking? Are projects moving forward more smoothly because of our involvement? ACCG has a mixed track record… * Losing members; meeting times – is there a better time? * Whom do we need in the room? * **Jill:** Circulate lists of whom to invite to join ACCG (in MS Word format) and ask for input. * McGreevy – need more focus on BLM. People are worried about fire and restoration in communities. Pat works with HOAs on Highway 4; residents are not empowered; don’t know about funding opportunities or how to access them; Pat works on the ground. Not enough capacity. The Calaveras new RCD now has 4 new volunteers to write grants. * Maybe goal should be to build community capacity for community restoration, like Pat does. – Focus on WUI-type projects? “My backyard” type of projects. * Office of Emergency Services in county needs to be involved.   **Regarding adopting an all-lands approach:**   * Jay Francis, SPI: SPI is open to this; uses ACCG as a way to learn what everyone is doing (communication); SPI projects are all open to public review; they do receive comments, usually not positive – don’t really want to increase that. * Buckley: perhaps focus on areas where there *ARE* areas of agreement – lots of work there. Challenge with private lands, too many private land owners. * Holper: would her 38 acres worth the attention of this group? Should ACCG be a resource or information hub for private land owners?   **Regarding ACCG’s “zone of agreement”:**   * Evatt: we have some areas of agreement, but there are lots of things that break down consensus. Principles and policies in the MOA. We haven’t gone beyond high-level to define what they really mean on the ground. | John Heissenbuttel |
| **Updates** | |  |
| 8 | **Admin Work Group update**   * Nothing apart from the Strategic Planning update | John Heisenbuttel |
| 9 | **Planning Work Group update**   * Next meeting is next Wednesday at 9AM in Pioneer; Craig Ostergaard of SPI will send field trip locations; Field trip will focus on SPI plantation treatments in the Power Fire area. * September meeting and field trip focused on the Power Fire EIS; bee monitoring locations. Foster Meadow. * Heissenbuttel: Letter responding to the recent Record of Decision (ROD) issued by the Forest Service for the Power Fire Restoration Project – update: Last month at the Planning WG meeting, a small group was designated to develop a comment letter; the letter was drafted and circulated; got 6 comments; made adjustments; submitted on time. We will have a seat at the table at the objection meeting on November 21st. | Robin Wall  John Heisenbuttel |
| 10 | **Monitoring Work Group update**   * Socio-econ issues; seeking agreements with outside agency or state agency, university, or other options, etc. Steve was at the last monitoring meeting; he will make other contacts. Working through that. * Science and Monitoring Symposium Nov 8th in Jackson – please register on website at: <http://www.cafiresci.org/events-webinars-source/accg2017>. Share the flyer with your friends and social media groups. Should be a great day. | Robin Wall |
| 11 | **Agency/organization updates (round table)**   * **CalAM (McGreevy):** Forestry Challenge update – MaryAnne Garamendi; forestry clubs sin schools; added fire lessons to programs. Looking for money for vests. Pat working on that. Maybe have her speak again? Perhaps invite school groups to field trips? Gwen is a good link; also FC director Kelsi Himmel, a science teacher. * **BLM (Kawahara)**   + Lily Gap Phase 2; boundaries surveyed; logging contract granted; should start in next few weeks. Has prescription for that project; may be of interest to others here; prescriptive standards.   + Mokelumne Community Forest: not sure what mechanism to use; Ray – perhaps look for lessons learned from Weaverville Community Forest? * **Calaveras Ranger District (Ray)**   + New Forest Supervisor starts next week; he is pro-partnerships; will probably attend these meetings once settled in.   + KCRA interview: Las Vegas massacre and Napa fires pre-empted this coverage; will do soon;   + Cabbage Patch moving forward; UMWRA will apply for additional grants; mostly laid out; mastication and hand thinned units complete;   + Pumpkin Hollow: currently hand thinning; creating piles; GVCC and CHIPS are doing the work. * **EBMUD (Schwartz):** some staff lost homes in fires; many over in Santa Rosa to assist. * **Foothill Conservancy (Evatt):** Attended Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority strategic planning meeting: asked for a vote to strengthen process to hire locals; they agreed to look at it. Constrained by state law. * **ABC (David Griffith):** last week 200 acres mastication started, cost is $600/acre. 1st Tuesday of November, speaker will be Shelly Blair, Cal Fish & Wildlife; February speaker will be Malcom North. Biomass: Loyalton plant up and running; 18 megawatts; selling power to a consortium of local utilities on other side of state; profitable at 9.5 cents/kilowatt hour; * **EBMUD (Lambert)**: Debris in Pardee from winter storms needs to be cleared; got some funding from Mother Lode Job Training; work has started. * **CalAM and Amador Fire Safe Council (Bray):** Have 2 contractors working on 5 roads; evacuation route project for emergency ingress and egress. PG&E funds through ??? 4 or 5 years. Pine Acres fuel break. * **Sierra Nevada Conservancy (Pickard):** Next board meeting in Calaveras County. Will feature a tour; meeting will be in Mokelumnne Hill; Supervisor Jack Garamedi has been active; tour will be somewhere near here. Send ideas to Mike – need sponsors for food and wine, etc. Wineries? Snowshoe Brewery? Must get food from Hotel Leger. Need ~$300. Bus rented for tour; Steve Wilensky will provide a story re community and environment Date: December 6th. Rainy day alternative? Pardee Center location? Perhaps do it HERE (West Point)??? Bring city people here to see the actual rural community. * **Forest Service (Wall):** annual report info needed. Info requested and NEEDED. Please respond to Robin soon… turnaround time for annual report is fast. | All |
| 12 | **Wrap up**   * Need facilitators for 2018 meetings * Next meeting November 15, 2017 **Location: West Point** | Robin Wall |

# 2017 Meeting Schedule:

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| **Date** | **Location** | **Facilitator** | **Speakers/Topics** |
| November 15 | **West Point** | Steve Wilensky | Erik Kleinfelter – Mule Deer |
| **NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!!!** | | | |

# 2018 Meeting Schedule:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Location** | **Facilitator** | **Speakers/Topics** |
| January 17 | West Point |  | Stephanie Heller, Tahoe Meadow Restoration (confirmed) |
| February 21 | Jackson |  |  |
| March 21 | West Point |  |  |
| April 25 | Jackson |  |  |
| May 16 | West Point |  |  |
| June 20 | Jackson |  |  |
| July 18 | West Point |  |  |
| August 15 | Jackson |  |  |
| September 19 | West Point |  |  |
| October 17 | Jackson |  |  |
| November 21 | West Point |  |  |