**Participants:**

Jan Bray, CalFire

Tim Tate, Sierra Pacific Industries

Matt Waverly, Sierra Pacific Industries

Marilyn Connor, Motherlode Job Training

Bill Haigh, Bureau of Land Management

John Hofmann, Consultant to Amador County

Teresa McClung, Stanislaus NF Calaveras Ranger District

Kendal Young , Stanislaus NF Calaveras Ranger District

Rick Hopson, Eldorado NF Amador Ranger District

Chuck Loffland, Eldorado NF Amador Ranger District

Kathy Hardy, Eldorado NF Supervisor

Cathy Kooz-Breazeal, Amador Firesafe Council

Amy Vicini, Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling

Merv Vicini, Vicini Brothers Green Material Recycling

Robert Smith, Smith Grinding

Rick Breeze-Martin, Breeze-Martin Consulting

Susan McMorris, Blue Mountain Community Renewal Council

Katherine Evatt, Foothill Conservancy

Peter Zaragoza Jr., CA Indian Manpower Consortium

Stephanie Moreno, Amador RCD

Amanda Cundiff, USFS Region 5

Steve Skochko, Bordges Timber

Amy Rocha, NRCS

Eric Kleinfelter, CA Department of Fish and Game

Warren Alford, Sierra Forest Legacy

Vance Russell, National Forest Foundation

**SNC Grant Program**

The Bailey Project application was disqualified. Concerns were expressed over the determination on the CEQA aspect of this project. SNC is not able to take the lead agency role for CEQA on any project that exceeds the criteria for a categorical exemption. DFG would not be able to take the lead agency role because they do not have discretionary authority over the project.

Suggest a letter from the administrative workgroup regarding CEQA and how it can be addressed in the future. Potential for a new exemption was discussed, however it raises concerns as to how that would be perceived by interested parties.

A practical solution suggested that there be a NEPA/CEQA crosswalk. This would be entering a whole new realm of discussion.

**Amador-Calaveras Cooperative Association for Biomass Utilization (ACCABU) MOA Request**

ACCABU has requested to be a signatory to the ACCG MOA. Robert Smith is to be the representative for ACCABU, and would be signing on their behalf. He will maintain his signatory status as Smith Grinding.

**DECISION: ACCABU adopted as an MOA signatory.**

ACCABU looks to have Vicini Bros. Green Material Recycling sign on to the ACCABU.

There is an ongoing discussion within ACCABU around prevailing wage, and especially workmen’s compensation. In the logging industry it’s a minimum 38% percent, unless there is a track record of 6-8 years of no safety issues. This comes out to around $300 an acre for workmen’s comp costs.

With AFSC projects they regularly budget $800-$1000 dollars per acre for mastication.

These are issues that all contractors are dealing with, and it’s an important issue. Contractors need to be involved in the discussion and we need to be clear about their costs.

We should look to agendize this item for a longer discussion.

**ACTION: Assign workmen’s compensation issue to the Operations workgroup.**

John Heissenbuttel is in DC right now, so Operations workgroup will meet sometime later in the month.

We need a structure for other contractors who are trying to enter the ACCABU to pursue membership.

**ACTION: Place contact information for ACCABU on the blog.**

**Cornerstone Project Workplan Development**

A conference call was held regarding the Cornerstone workplan. The document was revised to be an eight year workplan. The legislation authorizes these funds through 2019. Thus the need to revise the timeframe for Cornerstone project delivery.

We need to modify workplan, and it is in process and may already be done. Does the planning workgroup need to run that through the full group again?

Recommend that the planning workgroup be authorized to finalize and submit the workplan.

Major changes are basically in a couple of the tables. Rick Hopson was involved in the discussion with Kendal. We will keep the total dollar amounts and redistribute those amounts across eight years instead of ten. Essentially we are dropping two years off the program but not losing any dollars.

Part of the economic analysis tool which has been provided includes appropriated dollars, whereas the original tool only included CFLR funding.

ACCG is well represented on the planning workgroup.

Suggest that if these are the only changes go ahead and decide. Seen as a ministerial act, and has no major bearing on the overall project. It does not include the last two years of targets, given the shortened timeframe.

Rationale was discussed on why we would ask for more money, and that is because the unit cost hasn’t changed, though we were assuming that we needed to have a one-to-one match with appropriated dollars.

**DECISION: Planning WG authorized to finalize workplan and transmit to region.**

Moving forward with the planning workgroup recommendations of these four projects. Project evaluation forms were posted to the blog for review. These projects were discussed with the planning workgroup.

Sierra Forest Legacy expressed concern with supporting projects that are still NEPA-pending.

Are we okay with these proposals to spend this money for the work? This may not be the last time the ACCG sees these projects.

Goal is to have the TBL effect, and one of the things we are talking about is the Native American site restoration projects. Are we planning to include that in 2012? Barbara Balen is identifying the locations. Some of the current year funding may be applied toward those projects.

Relative to the marking crew there will be an effort to train some local folks to do the work for Callecat.

Calls are coming in from people looking for work. Many have been working through CHIPS and MLJT. Probation departments and CalWorks has candidates.

Bob Carroll will be overseeing marking for Callecat, which is to be implemented based on GTR 220. ENDF will hire marking crew leader that will oversee the marking crew. Hopson will explore potential for working with local organizations that thave potential employees.

Review of the scoring process, which is exhibited on the project evaluation forms. Seen as a good process and discussion. Need to ensure the TBL folks are participating in the planning workgroup.

Emphasis on the importance of including MLJT and CIMC in the planning workgroup.

**ACTION: Add Marilyn Connor and CIMC to planning workgroup roster.**

Communication needs to be stronger with CIMC. Velma is the assigned representative for the Native American comminity on the workgroup.

Planning committee should be reviewing these projects to enusre they are meeting the goals of the group.

We don’t have any money until the workplan is transmitted to the region. Big opportunity to solidify all the processes so that we are better positioned for 2013.

**ACTION: Send these items to the operation workgroup following completion of the planning workgroup tasks.**

We are improving processes as we go, but need to be careful that we don’t lose momentum. Suggest that we adopt these projects and move them forward with approval. Follow-up with any improvement of processes.

There may be some cases when the planning workgroup and the operations workgroup work in a combined fashion.

Operations workgroup could serve as a tracking mechanism for projects. They can then follow it and maximize the potential for projects we already approved. A lot of the projects the planning workgroup is going to be looking at will be pre-NEPA projects. One questions is how do we assess the project in the context of the TBL. When we get in to greater detail that is when the operations workgroup gets inovled.

The succession of review was framed as Projects –> Planning WG –> ACCG –> Operations WG

**DECISION: ACCG endorses the four projects on the table.**

The group consensus was for Forest Service to make the needed corrections and transmit to region. No additional review or approval by the Planning workgroup or ACCG was necessary.

The planning committee would like to create a list of projects that have received review by ACCG. The list would indicate if the project received ACCG concurrence, and provide a link to the project form and project map.

In the future, the planning committee will have additional products and examples to post.Last thing on the planning workgroup, there will be a field trip for the West Calaveras Thin in June.

**Finance Workgroup**

No report, will meet to discuss backfilling Rick Breeze-Martin’s role

**Operations Workgroup**

Jan bray will invite ACCABU to a meeting of the operations workgroup, and also address veterans green corps.

**Master Stewardship Agreement Workgroup**

Draft preamble has been provdied to the ACCG. Follow-up MSA meeting resulted in the preamble. This will be framing the agreement between the ACCG Cornerstone partnership with the USFS.

Next step will be to put this on the front-end of the draft agreement. MSA workgroup will develop this basic agreement and bring back to ACCG and USFS to start digging into the details.

Region 5 wants to see the preamble and will then work with the group to develop the full MSA. Hopson checked in with Kellie Hamilton. She is reviewing and will have comments back sometime next week.

Prior to last ACCG meeting there was a meeting in Auburn regarding MSA where they came up with bullet items that need to be included in the agreement, and all of that is incorporated in the preamble.

This serves the purpose of clarifying the ACCG intent with Cornerstone and the MSA.

**DECISION: Adopt Pre-Amble**

Next steps in agreement development will start working on details with the Region 5 folks to start defining details of the MSA. Now it’s a matter of working out the specific details.

Definition of local is being called into question. Needs to be addressed and develpoed. MSA will reflect the definition of local.

Discussion needs to be inclusive of all parties. Workgroup will develop a proposal to the ACCG, not a closed group, if other folks want to be included in the process they need to step forward.

Agendize this for sometime soon…prior to July-August when there will be on the ground activity.

This will be brought back to the ACCG, and just depends on how quickly the workgroup and USFS can provide feedback and make a draft available to the full ACCG.

Pay particular attention to the definitions. Mark-up the draft in a way that somehow highlights areas that need further discussion. People who find other areas of concern can bring those forward.

**National Forest Foundation**

NFF provides capacity and funding support for restoration, stewardship and CFLRP projects, which has included establishing a network across the country and holding workhsops on issues that were identified by community groups. Networking with those groups has increased the understanding of CFLRP and other issues. Monitoring workshop in Colorado was designed to beef-up the TBL aspects of the CFLRP projects. Dinkey received a grant that is focused on monitoring…they are technically sound but they need additional support on the monitoring.

NFF is working with the national partnership office of the Forest Service to create a network of CFLRP participants via the networks and in-person meetings. Webinars are recorded.

**SCALE**

As part of MSA it is helpful to have something to bring to the table. Administraitve support could be a portion of that.

Ongoing conversations between the two areas (BHC and ACCG) have identified the need for a baseline to reflect future monitoring. Particularly as it relates to social and economic conditions on the ground. Having a tool to use for that, in addition to having a baseline report, is a desired resource.

Possible report from Kusel and Wilensky at the next meeeting.

**Reintroduction of Fire Workgroup**

Doodle poll for the fire group was sent out, but failed to get a meeting scheduled. Corrina Salves from SFL has been doing a lot of work on fire and smoke management, and coordinated a workship with the southern burning community. Request to have her come and do a presenation to this group at some point.

Cathy Koos-Breazeal is working to bring an event to Sutter Creek with folks form the burning community.

When you look at CLFR website, there are reporting reuquirements for fire and fuels reduction.

Review roster for this fire prescription workgroup.

USFS is looking for assistance in working with the county APCD’s. Suggest the Fischer family be included in the conversation as well.

**Cost Avoidance Study**

Looking to put together the technical committee that will primarily do the modeling as part of the study, for example, after fire what does modeling show? Also looking at roads and associated impacts.

Some folks are still a little confused about this and would like further information. At one point a presentation from Kim Carr at SNC was requested, and will need to be followed-up on.

Funding was provided by USFS and SNC, trying to develop a snapshot of avoided-costs. Mokelumne Environemental Beneftis Project ties into this closely, and receieved a conservation innovation grant. Avoided cost study is intended to help inform activities in the watershed. Hypothesis is if you do a lot of fuel reduction that it actually saves the utilities money that could be put into the work itself.

PGE and EBMUD have said they are not affected. They’ve been attending the meetings. The connection is that what we do up here matters to downstream intersts. What does preventing a huge fire in the canyon have to do with preventing the costs? We need to both do the work effectively but also monitoring the outcomes and avoided costs.

Seems that EBMUD is much more engaged. CalFire should be invovled, as most of the modeling has been based largely on Forest Serivce data.

**ACTION: Katherine Evatt assigned as CFLR rep, Heissenbuttel as alternate.**

**Request to ACCG from Amanda Cundiff – Regional Partnership Director and Vance Russell NFF CA State Director**

Regional office team is somewhat focused on the Upper Mokelumne. Pubilc prtivate partnerships are of great interest. Regional office has Bruce Goines who has particpated in the avoided costs study. Working to draw the nexus between the downstream users.

Down the road they hope to build stronger partnerships with utilities. Basically what NFF and Amanda are heare to do is start asking for support in initiating those conversations with us. Also interest in starting to talk to businesses in the East Bay. Developing talking points and a story to start approaching businesses.

NFF overview included coordinating and developing a coalition of water users in the East Bay on a number of levels. Chevron identified as a potential funder for the work, matched or leveraged with federal funds. Lots of opportunities to work with utilities. Exhibited successes in Arizona and Denver.

NFF would like to see some local involvement in the project, and want to be sure there is local involvement with the group when they go to give presentations.

Looking for participants and potential contacts. Brainstorm on folks who would be good to approach. Not just in the East Bay but ayone who might take interest in making investments.

Katherine Evatt interested in participated in this. Has knoweldge relative to EBMUD, East Bay water users, etc.

Differents needs at different times dependent on the audience. TBL approach to the effort.

**ACTION: Katherine Evatt, John Heissenbuttel, Steve Wilensky, Robert Smith assigned to support this effort.**

ACCG was encouraged to weave Native American aspects of ACCG proejcts. Arvada Fisher suggested as a key contract. NFF to develop presentation and will follow-up with ACCG.

NFF was first organization to fund this area, having awarded CHIPS a grant about seven years ago. They funded the first two capacity building activities. Those were fundamental moments when NFF put funding in place during the early stages of the activities.

USFS also provided funding. Final report for that is pending.

**THANK YOU TO NFF FROM ACCG and CHIPS**

**SBC Sierra Vision Awards**

ACCG received the Sierra Vision Award from Sierra Business Council. May 1st there is an event at Sierra Health off Garden Highway in Sacramento where the awards will be presented. SBC is requesting RSVP’s They have 20 seats available for ACCG members.

**ACTION: RSVP to Cathy Koos-Breazeal ASAP**

Will there be an acceptance speech and who will give it? Suggested that it be a group representative of the TBL.

**Amador Firesafe Council**

Encumbered a CAG grant for Sherwood forest, 105 acres, just put the job out to bid to the RPF community. Bid will be awarded at the May meeting. 8-10 weeks to get the project laid out. Looking at ground work to start in the fall.

**NRCS**

Provided funding to Amador RCD to do public outreach and enhance their website. Amador RCD is working toward become clearinghouse for a variety of resources and information. Another round of funding is coming up for 5 contracts for a combination of range and forestry work. Picked up $120K worth of forestry work contracted over three or four years.

**Smith Grinding**

BLM projects are coming up. CHIPS crews are working right now at the biomass plant. Buena Vista anticipates being back on line by May.

**BLM**

Finishing up pile burning in Glencoe. Big thanks to Chris Post and CalFire

**Calaveras Ranger District**

Working with MLJT to get crews of 4-8 members to help with wildlife, botany and archaeological surveys for this summer.

Big thanks to Forest Service for their assistnace with WBUG combined heat and power engineering grant application for Wilseyville. Strong feasibility study, many letters of support. If it moves forward will be largely due to these pieces being in place.

ACCABU and Rick Breeze-Martin submitted a USDA RBEG to acquire equipment and technical assistance for Wilseyville. USDA Rural Development is reviewing that now

ACCABU has gotten many requests for newmembers. Next meeting they will provide an update on who has been added, etc. Struggling wth what does “local” mean.

**NEXT MEETING IN CALAVERAS COUNTY ON MAY 16th**