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

Meeting Facilitator: Kendal Young Minutes Taken By: Kimberly Grissom

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order
2. Participant Introductions

Amy Rocha, Bill Haigh, Cathy Koos-Breazeal, Don Hittenmiller, Eric Kleinfelter, Gerald Schwartz, Gwen Starrett, Gordon Long, John Heissenbuttel, John Hofmann, Katherine Evatt, Kendal Young, Kimberly Grissom, Mary Sketch, Megan Fiske, Michael Pickard, Pat McGreevy, Reuben Childress, Rick Hopson, Robert Smith, Robin Wall, Steve Wilensky, Susan McMorris, Teresa McClung, Terry Woodrow, Tim Tate, Jay Francis, Rebecca Wong, Jay Francis, Kent Lambert, (two from CalFire, West Point), Joe Cho.

1. Modifications and and/or Approval of Agenda

Agenda is approved, with shifting Grants Opportunities discussion from Item 7 to Item 9.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Consensus is reached to approve the minutes for the November 18 ACCG meeting.

1. Review of Previous Meeting Action Items
2. Administration Work Group
   1. Consensus is reached on welcoming two new signators on the MOA, Mary Sketch and Robert Zellers, both Sierra Institute fellows working with CHIPS.
   2. An informal poll reveals many, to most of the attendees of this meeting would be willing and available to stay after the March meeting for a workshop. SI has volunteered to conduct a workshop on conflict resolution and building resolution, at no cost to ACCG.
   3. Consensus is reached on pursuing additional funds for extending and/or expanding ACCG administration through CFLR via the USFS. If needed, CHIPS will volunteer to be a cost-less fiscal agent, to facilitate management of those funds.
3. Planning Work Group
   1. In order to keep working toward a vision of what the Mokelumne and Calaveras watersheds should look like in 10 years, Pat McGreevy will lead a field trip into an area of the Butte Fire burn along the upper Standard canal.
   2. Renewed interest is expressed in outreach to local ranchers, and other groups. Steve Wilensky will attend a Friday January 22 meeting of ranchers and large landowners in the Butte Fire, as a representative of ACCG and CHIPS. He will provide an update on a future agenda.
   3. Butte Fire work group volunteers are Pat McGreevy, Reuben Childress, Amy Rocha, John Heissenbuttel, Tim Tate, Mary Sketch, Steve Wilensky, Gordon Long, Cathy Koos-Breazeal, Bill Haigh, Don Hittenmiller, Katherine Evatt, Susan McMorris, and the CalAm Team members not listed above (Jan Bray, Anne Heissenbuttel, and Paul Maben). Steve Wilensky will send out a doodle poll to coordinate a meeting.
   4. Bill Haigh from BLM provided updates on their activities in the Butte Fire response, and will check on BLM’s ability to hire local for those activities.
   5. Panther Project discussion in the Planning WG has focused on the purpose and needs statement, a decision tree for herbicide use, and issues around CA spotted owl requirements and GTR 220 recommendations.
   6. Foster Firs project modifications that are in progress include not removing seed trees of 40 inches or greater diameter, and road maintenance without public access. Other groups offered objections related to spotted owl concerns.
4. End of Year Review Discussion
   1. Tim Tate explained that biomass fuel buying is projected to stop in May or July 2016, unless there are changes to the biomass market from impacts of emergency declarations for beetle kill trees, or changes with PG & E or SMUD.
   2. Tuolumne County’s efforts regarding the bark beetle epidemic is agreed to be a good model, though the beetle problem is just as bad in Amador and Calaveras, who haven’t yet made an emergency declaration. NRCS had to get an exception to include Amador and Calaveras in potential future NRCS tree mortality funds because of the lack of emergency declaration. Tim Tate and Robert Smith will contact Mike Albright from Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions in Tuolumne County about Tuolumne’s efforts regarding the beetle kill trees, and see if he is available to update ACCG at a future meeting. Amy Rocha passes around the table a sign in sheet for the Tree Mortality Work Group.
   3. Some groups which are no longer actively participating could be important to the issues discussed so far. These groups include CA Indian Manpower, Mother Lode Job Training, CA Rangeland Coalition and other agricultural groups, local Supervisors, Air Resources Boards, Homeowner Associations, and Veterans representatives. Steve Wilensky will contact these groups and invite them to the February ACCG meeting.
   4. Katherine Evatt will discuss with a resource management lobbyist issues regarding funding forest work on private land. It is understood that some of these agencies have suffered cuts and other issues that preclude their participation.
   5. Katherine Evatt will renew efforts to coordinate with USFS PIO regarding ACCG. Mary Sketch will put a link on the ACCG for the Blue Mountain Radio show on Forest, Community, and Fire, which has interviewed many ACCG participants.
   6. Strategic focus topics for ACCG in 2016 include Butte Fire Response, Tree Mortality, ACCG participants outreach, ACCG outreach to media, getting locals to work, Community Forest Plan development, and finding funding for tree mortality, biomass, and other forest work on private lands.
5. Grant Opportunities and Coordination
   1. Specific grants being applied for by ACCG participants include
   2. Letters of support from ACCG are requested for the following grant applications and projects
      * USFS Pumpkin Hollow, sub project of Hemlock (already drafted by Karen Quiddachay, will be brought through the Planning WG to the February ACCG meeting.
      * USFS Bear Valley Project
      * Jim Brannon of SNC suggests a letter emphasizing ACCG’s commitment to hiring locals who have the same socio-economic risk factors as CCC workers might encourage those contracts to deprioritize use of the CCC. Steve Wilensky will draft this letter and bring it back to a future ACCG meeting.
   3. The Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) works effectively with the Regional Water Quality Control grants. Perhaps similar work could be done to bring coordinated grants to the ACCG to review. This coordinated type of application usually has a greater change of being granted.
6. CHIPS and Wilseville Biomass Plant Update
   1. The Wilseyville Plant project is moving forward. The site has a temporary use permit to be used as a log deck for burnt log storage, until groundbreaking in the spring.
7. Agency/Organization Updates
8. Action Item Review
   1. Teresa McClung will provide an update on the USFS and UMRWA stewardship agreement in February.
   2. Steve Wilensky will speak to Calaveras CAO regarding the quickly closing deadline for a fire restoration grant written in part by the CalAm Team.
   3. The SI March Workshop on conflict resolution and building collaboration will be finalized, as most people will be able to attend.
   4. The Administration WG will pursue additional administration funds through CFLR via USFS.
   5. Pat McGreevy will organize a field trip into the Butte Fire burn area along the Standard ditch.
   6. Steve Wilensky will attend a Friday January 22 meeting of ranchers and large landowners in the Butte Fire, as a representative of ACCG and CHIPS, and give an update at a future ACCG meeting.
   7. Steve Wilensky will send out a Doodle Poll to convene a meeting of the Butte Fire response Work Group.
   8. Bill Haigh will investigate BLM’s ability to hire local for BLM post fire activities.
   9. Tim Tate and Robert Smith will contact Mike Albrecht from Tuolumne County about Tuolumne’s efforts regarding tree mortality, and see if he is available to update ACCG at a future meeting.
   10. Steve Wilensky will contact various potential ACCG participant groups and invite them to the February ACCG meeting.
   11. Katherine Evatt will discuss with a resource management lobbyist issues regarding funding forest work on private land.
   12. Katherine Evatt will renew efforts to coordinate with USFS PIO regarding ACCG.
   13. Mary Sketch will put a link on the ACCG for the Blue Mountain Radio show on Forest, Community, and Fire, which has interviewed many ACCG participants.
   14. Pumpkin Hollow, sub project of Hemlock (already drafted by Karen Quinanday, will be brought through the Planning WG to the February ACCG meeting.
   15. Steve Wilensky will draft a letter emphasizing ACCG’s commitment to hiring locals who are in the same socio-economic risk categories as CCC workers and bring it back to a future ACCG meeting.
9. Review Future Meeting Topics
10. Adjourn