**Location:  Amador County GSA Building, 12200 Airport Road, Sutter Creek, CA 95685  
Meeting Facilitator: John Heisenbuttel ••• Minutes: Jill Micheau**

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| **Item Number** | **Agenda Item** | **Owner(s)** | **Est. Time** |
| 1 | Call to order | John Heissenbuttel | 9:30 AM |
| 2 | Participants introductions – Attendees: Joe Harvey (presenter from Calaveras Big Trees SP), Gerald Schwartz, Kent Lambert, Gwen Starrett, Joe Harvey, John Heissenbuttel, Reuben Childress, Don ~~Hintenmiller~~Hittenmiller, David Griffith, Rick Hopson, Ray Cablayan, Steve Wilensky, Sue Holper, Jill Micheau – ***note: participation was light at this meeting because of the fires in the area.*** | All | 9:30 AM |
| 3 | Modification and/or approval of agenda – A few changes were made to the agenda, mostly because several people slated to speak could not attend. One topic was inserted by Steve Wilensky -- #10 below. | All | 9:35 AM |
| 4 | Approval of June minutes – Approved. | All | 9:40 AM |
| **Presentations** | | | |
| 5 | Calaveras Big Trees State Park: long term forest management plan, fuels reduction, forest restoration – Presentation is attached here and is on the ACCG website. | Joe Harvey | 9:45 |
| 6 | Discussion of CFLR Business Plan Revisions   * Forest Service letter and ACCG comment letter sent with agenda for review before meeting. * Consensus from group is needed before FS can submit proposed plan revisions   **COMMENTS ON FOREST SERVICE LETTER:**  **Wilensky**: disparity between fire and goals: are we over- accommodating our failure: be sensitive to organizational imperatives; there are fire departments in Calaveras; plus more in Amador. Can we use same ideas as with meadows, consider partnerships that have more exponential possibilities?  Question to Rick and Ray: can we burn more if FS brings in more cooperators? Training and benchmarks needed; Role for a collaborative? Could provide better results.  **Hopson**: likes idea; local has been invited, in part because of these conversations. Many do not have the right skills yet, but are excited to get them. Where would Steve’s idea fit into the FS plan? Can we put it into the ACCG’s letter?  **Cablayan**: problem is trying to get our fire folks on board. Understaffed in many areas; hard to find burn bosses; build trust between CalFire and FS staff.  **Heissenbuttel**: Put in ACCG letter?  **Wilensky**: begin process with on-the-ground small things to build trust. Are we considering this for post CFLRA, long term or 2 years?  **Hopson**: 2 years – letter only addresses 2 years. FS would like to put longer term ideas in their letter. **Rick and Robin to do this.**  **Cablayan**: budget for fire projects is not being messed with too much. We have the people; we are challenged to back fill when senior people leave/retire.  **Childress**: one sensitivity: be cautious when these are sent to DC; FS letter – could discredit potential to get CFLR funds in the future. Need to highlight positives and small projects that are making progress. FS letter sounds like it’s making excuses; does not promote ACCG benefits; Also, what is the point of each letter?  **Hopson**: need to discuss with Lindsay.  **Childress**: Is our letter well timed?  **Heissenbuttel**: We need to put facts on table, or someone else will.  **Cablayan**: FS letter written for Lindsay, DC to simply address where we are and why in budget/plan;  **Wilensky**: maybe add “here is what we will try to do mitigate as part of our plan” Add what we might yet do to catch up or relate to new conditions.  **COMMENTS ON ACCG SUPPORT LETTER:**  **Starrett**: DC needs to know the background of what is going on here. Moving forward despite drought and fire; **Steve will draft his statement and send to Jill… Reuben will give something to Gwen.**  **Heissenbuttel**: point out that turnover is a systemic problem; fire, limited burn days: working in CA; squashes opportunities to burn because of air quality restrictions unique to CA. Skip Air Quality issues.  **Wilensky**: need to put more focus on resilient forests because of the greater carbon sequestration benefits; Most AQ money goes to automobile programs, carbon issues are not just about cars. Need to develop funding for resilient forests; forest relationship to carbon issues.  ***OUTCOME: LETTERS APPROVED: Group approved both letters with minor edits to the ACCG letter and 1 paragraph to be added to FS letter. ACCG edits to be sent to Jill – she will revise and send; Rick will work with Robin to revise the FS letter.*** | Rick Hopson | 10:15 |
| 7 | ACCG needs to fill out its Media Response Team – discussion: **Heissenbuttel**: media opportunities since 2011 were handled by Mary ?????, Katherine Evatt, Gwen Starrett, Jan Bray and a few others. They put together ideas for articles, etc. Katherine is the only person left on that committee. Is anyone interested? Anyone else?  **Hopson**: Amador Ledger has recently reached out for stories… road damage one was first; they want more stories. Good opportunity for positive publicity on projects.  **OUTCOME: Steve and Jan Bray (volunteered in absentia) will join the media response team.** | John Heissenbuttel spoke for Katherine Evatt | 10:35 |
| 8 | ACCG response to Scoping Letter for PG&E Transmission Line Herbicide Maintenance Project – request consensus to submit letter.  **Heissenbuttel**: Explained the background of this project; went to planning group; letter was drafted and circulated for comment among ACCG members.  Scoping letter raises questions, not recommendations; Planning Work Group recommends that the letter go forward; Reuben has a few additional edits; EA, not EIS; state our desire to minimize herbicides.  **Jill will get language from Reuben to update ACCG letter.**  **OUTCOME: Consensus was reached to send the ACCG comment letter with minor edits from Childress.**  *Note: PG&E Program Manager for this project will come to August meeting to field any questions and provide more information on the project.* | John Heissenbuttel | 10:45 |
| 9 | CFLRA budget will be $0 – discuss impact on Forest Service projects going forward  **Wilensky**: Looks like Trump’s budget will zero out CFLRA funds, but Interior budget may keep close to existing funding levels; Congress is likely to have more influence on numbers; Should we write to local congress folks to support $38.98M budget? **Good idea to write letters.** We have not convinced our Congressman (McClintock).  **Heissenbuttel**: budget has been taken up by committee – good thing. House is where FS usually has most problems. Good that they came up with $38.98M in their version. Full house usually gives deference to committee recommendations Generally don’t take away. Good sign.  We are in a good place in the budget now, but not so good wrt fall shutdown.  Should ACCG write a Letter of support? If so, to whom? To all relevant congress people, including those representing other CFLRA areas across the country. To the Interior Appropriations Committee; copy our congressperson on all letters; copy other CFLR districts; House National Resources Committee (McClintock is Chair of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands); CFLRA-related congress people – ask coalition for list of 23 CFLRAs.  **Holper**: should community members who go to McClintock’s meetings mention this? There is a monthly meetng with his staff at Board of Supervisors meetings – good thing to bring up. Good to have cooperation; mechanisms;  Rick – come up with talking points. **Media team to develop.**  Katherine has started a draft.  She wants a group to work on this; also media response (she’s started to work on that). Gwen will write follow up letter to editor.  **OUTCOME:** **It was decided that the (new)** **Media Response Team should develop a list of talking points for ACCG members on this topic; Evatt has the beginnings of a draft. Starrett will write a follow-up letter to the editor (which papers?)** | Katherine Evatt | 10:55 |
| Added Item | Mariposa Indian Council – 6 weeks in Tuolumne Meadows in August; 2 weeks in Merced; 6 weeks in Yosemite Valley; meadow restoration work; ending trails, other projects; multi-disciplinary team will train volunteers; Work will take place from August into November; The national parks are well staffed and organized, so volunteers could come to learn. Opportunity for all ACCG members.  **Steve to send information to Jill to post to ACCG web.** | Steve Wilensky |  |
| 10 | **Tree mortality updates**  **Amador (John Heisenbuttel) –**   * Tree Mortality contract coordinator executed 2 major projects, 3-4 more planned; TM work to be completed by beginning of 2018. Only applies to trees that threaten county infrastructure. * RCD has had same problem as Calaveras using a percent reimbursement/cost share plan… people don’t want to pay anything. Modifying grant to increase percent of cost share and scope of project (area). Trying to find right balance. Should coordinate with Wilensky/McGreevy. * CalAm is still developing plans for TM. Steep drop in TM; pine species looks good here; problems up the hill with firs. Major kill took place last year; So Cal has few trees left… Tuolumne County also looks pretty good this year. Nothing like last few years. * Bunch of firs are dying off at higher levels. Maybe from last years’ beetles because the trees stay green a long time. * Next project is Ramshorn Grade – very steep. Will fall, limb, and treat slash with burn piles.   **Calaveras (Pat McGreevy) –**   * The curtain burner installed at the Red Corral Transfer Center is not operating.  It was manned by CAL FIRE personnel who are now fighting fire.  The original plan to train county personnel to operate the curtain burner before the departure of CAL FIRE did not happen. * The CAL FIRE saw mill installed at Red Corral Transfer Center is cutting lumber that is free to government agencies and non-profits.  Call Cam Todd at CAL FIRE if you can use this lumber. * The SRA Tree Mortality grant to reimburse homeowner expenses for hazard tree removal at Blue Lake Springs (BLS) is under used.  Only 30 homeowners have requested assistance since March.  Currently, the grant pays 25% of the tree abatement cost with a maximum of five trees.  The problem is that the homeowners cannot afford to pay their 75% match.  The grant is being amended to increase the reimbursement cost to $400 per hazard tree with a cap of $2,400. * The incidence of tree mortality at BLS is decreasing and the need to abate hazard trees is being replaced by the need to remove the estimated 4,000 trees on the ground.  These trees were cut by PG&E, but did not qualify for the utilities’ tree removal program.  The SRA TM grant is being amended to provide a reimbursement for log removal. | John Heissenbuttel,  Notes submitted by  Pat McGreevy | 11:10 AM |
| 11 | Admin Work Group update   * Nothing to report | John Heisenbuttel | 11:20 AM |
| 12 | Planning Work Group update   * Onion and Deer Valley Field Trip: July 20, 2017;   Meet at Amador Ranger District 9AM   * Plus 3 other meadows; considering SNC grant for assessment on those meadows; * NFWF Power Fire funding is parked with NFWF for meadow restoration; McGreevey and Starrett are leading the grant writing part; FS may join on field trip for input on meadow conditions and need for restoration; Anyone can come; Bray and Childress will attend; need to carpool because parking is very limited. FS staff turn out too. * Next meeting will be in Calaveras; field trip to Slick Rock. New private property owners gave us until next year before they fence it off; so FS will reroute. Not using CFLR funds because the work will be done by volunteers. | Rick Hopson | 11:25 AM |
| 13 | Monitoring Work Group update   * Thompson Meadows Field Days August 30-31: announcement is on ACCG web; please print posters and distribute widely. Focus will be on conifer encroachment on meadows; are treatments effective over time? Easy to register. Trainers will be there to assist and educate. Volunteers needed. Camping available 8/30 at Big Meadow. * November 8th: symposium on monitoring in Cornerstone. 12 speakers; HHS bldg. in Amador County, all day event. * Monitoring WG meetings are moving to conference calls… maybe more will join? * Socioeconomic studies: asking specifics about surveys: business and recreation aspects. Is it worth it? Do they know Zincke stuff? Chico state… need help from other groups. * **Heissenbuttel**: Region 5 has this expertise for this. * **Childress:** got proposal, was too expensive.   **Wilensky will participate in discussion. Gwen to let him know when.** | Gwen Starrett | 11:30 AM |
| 14 | Operations Work Group update   * Nothing to report | John Heisenbuttel | 11:35 AM |
| 15 | Strategic Planning Update   * Mission Statement update and survey: SP team worked on ACCG mission statement; output was sent to all ACCG members via email, along with link to a SHORT survey to get additional input and comments from the full group. All survey results will feed into next strategic planning meeting. * SWOT exercise – survey with a prize! The SP team also spent considerable effort working on a SWOT analysis. Results were sent to full group, along with link to a short survey to allow all ACCG members to contribute. A prize of a pound of smoked salmon (from John Heissenbuttel’s Alaska trip) is offered for the best “head slapper”. All survey results will feed into the strategic planning process. | Jill Micheau | 11:35 AM |
| 16 | Agency/organization updates (round table)   * **Wilensky** -- CHIPS:   + Wilseyville site, 4 organizations bidding; investment interest; expect deal next month; Calaveras County gave us our Administrative Use Permit; ready to build pending financing, which is close at hand. Some offers are big enough that CHIPS could hire an Executive Director – interested parties, please apply. Will issue a request for applications.   + Regarding accident reported last month: victim is out of ICU, out of danger, but will have long recovery * **Cablayan** – Calaveras FS:   + Spicer Road was opened in time for July 4th;   + Next Friday UMRA board will approve proposal for Pumpkin Hollow hand mastication project. At least one local bid; needs to meet with them re 2nd SNC grant; discussion will take place in next week or two. * **Hopson** – Amador FS:   + Panther EA: closed on 7/10; 2 objections and 1 letter; working on now.   + Power Fire: working refor EIS; looking for Aug 25 for draft Record of Decision. Shooting for planning mtg on 23rd for draft. How can we be involved in NEPA? ACCG to engage I about a month   + NFWF ahs hired someone to rep NWFW in a couple of NCal forests; * **Griffith** – ABC   + ~~Alpine BOD approved feasibility study for bio plan; no commitment yet~~; Alpine BoS approved being included in the Rural Community Development Initiative application for funding that could be used for a feasibility study for a biothermal heating system of the County buildings in Woodfords.~~. if so will apply for feasibility study~~. Mono County has one in Bridgeport… small, quiet, clean.   + ABC is weighing in on practice of fire borrowing… fire fighting funds taken from other programs when needed to fight fires. Bipartisan. * **Hittenmiller** – ABC   + Saving the West grant website—grants.gov. Looking for leadership; FIP consultants; Interesting group – diverse. See website and put in link. Govt and private money to build a forest industry on eastern face of Sierra; 4 or 5 national forests. Link to website: <http://www.savingthewest.org/> * **Childress** – Foothill Conservancy   + SC hired and Executive Director; should have invited her to this… Amanda Nelson;   + SC held a benefit raft trip last week; another this Sunday; on Moke River. * **Lambert** – EBMUD   + Pardee full; did not spill Comanche   + Final analysis on Butte Fire sedimentation not ready yet; only done about every 20 years… would be nice to have figures for avoided costs. * **Heissenbuttel** -- CalAm: Giants won!! | All | 11:45 AM |
| 17 | Wrap up and Adjourn   * Next meeting August 16, 2017,  **Veterans’ Memorial Hall, West Point, CA** | John Heisenbuttel | Noon |

# 2017 Meeting Schedule:

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| **Date** | **Location** | **Facilitator** | **Speakers/Topics** |
| August 16 | West Point | Steve Wilensky | * Scott Conway -- Lidar and hyperspectral imaging – uses in forestry * Peter Beesley, Project Manager for PG&E Transmission Line project |
| September 20 | Jackson | Shana Gross | Shana Gross: tree mortality |
| October 18 | West Point | Robin Wall |  |
| November 15 | Jackson |  |  |
| December 20 | West Point |  |  |