

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group

Meeting Minutes


Wednesday March 21, 2018 -- 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Veterans' Memorial Building, West Point, CA

Meeting Facilitator: Steve Wilensky ♦♦♦ **Minutes:** Jill Micheau

Note: coding for minutes: **Red** text indicates a task; **green** text indicates something that has been completed; **black** text is for titles and headings; **blue** text is the notes taken during the meeting. If an item is **highlighted**, the scribe missed that item or did not understand it... please edit if you know what it is supposed to say.

Attendees: Shelly Blair; Tim Tate; Liz Gregg; Robin Wall; Rick Hopson; Ben Solvesky; Scott Tangenberg; Alissa Fogg; Sue Holper; Jay Francis; Heidi Beswick; Kent Lambert; Gerald Schwartz; Chuck Loffland; Jan Bray; Sue McMorris; Ray Cablayan; Joe Aragon; Eric Kleinfelter; Reuben Childress; Pat Noll; Monte Kawahara; Steve Wilensky; Jill Micheau

Item #	Agenda Item
1	Call to order (Wilensky) – 9:38
2	Participants introductions – see list above
3	Modification and/or approval of agenda and February minutes -- xxx
4	Collaboration Survey for Power Fire – an update (Reuben) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presented results; low response to online surveys; surveys help us figure out if we're doing the right work; survey will be posted to web and can be completed there or at this meeting.
5	Presentation: Shelly Blair and Eric Kleinfelter, "Wildlife of California – Keep Me Wild" <p>This presentation outlines the biology, behavior and California law concerning wildlife that sometimes cause human- wildlife conflicts. We will discuss how to identify damage caused by these critters, what to do to minimize or avoid damage and public safety and CDFW's policies concerning them.</p>  <p><i>Shelly is the wildlife unit biologist covering Eldorado and Alpine Counties. I oversee all wildlife management issues within those counties and am the land manager of 2 CDFW owned ecological reserves and 5 CDFW owned wildlife areas. I have served in my current position for 7 years; prior to that I worked in the Wildlife Investigations Lab learning about wildlife diseases statewide. My first position with the State of CA (beginning in 2001) was with the Department of Food and Agriculture working closely with the USDA Wildlife Services Program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lions, bears, coyotes, turkeys... great presentation on wildlife and how to keep them and you safe – don't feed them!!!
6	Professional facilitation of ACCG meetings (Hopson, Wilensky) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funding options – what's allowed, what's not, what's available to us? Laurence Crabtree has stated that FS will pay for facilitation; no decision needed today, but would like to know how the group feels about it.Lindsay Buchanan spoke with Rich recently... most CFLRA groups have a facilitator; must be cautious about funding; Dinkey Collaborative has used facilitation for several years; It is costly, like maybe ~\$2K/meeting.Facilitation vs. conflict resolution: ACCG is different – "all lands," not just CFLRA; would we need to keep CFLRA payments separate? (Other groups do not); Admin WG to bring proposals next meeting; Address when to use facilitation; Why; Where; John H brought a study done on this topic based on 4 CFLRA groups. It is insightful and helpful. Jill will post to website ASAP. It was noted that our style of facilitation (a volunteer for each meeting) is useful, but the same folks always do it. We need to determine the role

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	<p>of the facilitator and apply it when/where needed; Planning WG could often use it; would take some burden off the FS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems and potential solutions if we choose to use a facilitator, he/she would educate us on how to communicate without conflict; change paradigm from conflict to common ground; build a culture that works for all. Should we hold a workshop? Targeted facilitation, or do we just want well-organized meetings? It was suggested that we try it for a period of time; monitor results, determine the right venue and role. It was suggested that we ID role that is lacking – conflict management? Efficient meetings? Also, do soon so we can use CFLRA dollars while it is still here. Give it a shot! • Next steps Admin group to discuss options with facilitators; come up with options for group to discuss next month. <i>Add Sue Holper to Admin WG list for this topic.</i> • Can we set goals? Increase pace and scale; find common ground; get more work done; identify conflict topics, etc. design better projects – do this soon. Took SOFAR 6 months.
7	<p>Consensus Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alissa Fogg, Point Blue – Requesting letter of support (included with agenda) for “Eldorado National Forest – Bear River and Cole Creek watersheds – Meadow Restoration” (10 minutes) – NFWF grant wants support letter; prioritizing meadows; picking by size and accessibility; intention is to complete American river score care assessment in the fall; LIDAR data; GIS expert on team; working with Shana Gross; focus on frogs, flycatchers. Need to work with many stakeholders to determine priorities to downselect to 10 meadows; will be followed by more intensive surveys; develop restoration prescriptions; will use some volunteers; after field assessments will write up summaries and prescriptions, then downselect for 2-5 meadows and apply for more funding. Implement in next 3 years. Asking for Letter of Support and feedback; Need match 50%; want folks to participate in workshops to narrow selections; 2-3 meetings; will keep us informed and work with us. Join in field assessments; consistent with ACCG work, and with Gwen and Pat’s work; seems very well aligned with ACCG – move forward with letter? Q: what would be the end result? Want to implement x# meadows, x acres, x channel lengths restored; wildlife habitat; frogs; keep more water in watershed; connect frog populations; working with grazing population. <i>Outcome: Letter of Support was approved; Jill sent out via email same evening.</i> • Michael Pickard, Foster Meadows Restoration Project AND AOP Road Crossing Project: Michael will request two letters of support from ACCG. Request comes from Plumas Corporation, who cannot attend, but will call in to field questions (10 minutes) – Neither LOS is in competition with Gwen’s proposal; both are for Foster Meadows; aquatic organism passage; showed some pictures and information on project; NEPA will be completed soon; have a WCB grant to do H2O monitoring; have installed monitoring wells; pre- and post-restoration monitoring; 2nd project is channel fill to connect with old channels; Devin was on phone – There was a request to make re bidding times for local contractors known to ACCG. <i>Jill to post this information. Outcome: Letters of Support were both approved; Jill sent out via email same evening.</i>
8	<p>Admin Work Group update (Jill)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOA signatures: shall we eliminate the need for group approval of new members when new MOA is drafted? Current MOA language quoted at end of these minutes. Group determined that full-group formal approval should not be required; from this point forward, the MOA will be brought to meetings and made available for signature. MOA will be revised to reflect this (MOA is scheduled for a re-write over the next few months); Tim Tate signed the MOA for SPI! Welcome Tim! • SCALE Spring Meeting May 7th & 8th: Details can be found on the ACCG website (http://acconsensus.org/2018/03/11/scale-spring-meeting/); the \$25 fee is waived for ACCG members. Cost of lodging is being covered for ONE ACCG member; lodging was granted to Reuben Childress.

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9	<p>Planning Work Group update (Wall, Aragon)</p> <p>Annual report (Wall) – 2017 CFLRA Annual report is posted to ACCG website here: http://aconsensus.org/2018/03/14/2017-cornerstone-annual-report-now-available/. <i>It was noted that the CFLRA report does not address indirect outcomes, only acres treated, board feet harvested, etc.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> POWs from Amador and Calaveras – will be discussed at the March Planning meeting, March 28th; next meeting in Pioneer; February planning meeting (in Calaveras) featured a successful field trip to view fuel breaks around the Ebbetts Pass Corridor.
10	<p>Monitoring Work Group update (Wall, Reuben)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socioeconomic monitoring WG status (Wall) – 11 participants last month; socioeconomic WG to work with Sierra Institute; agreement coming along, maybe done within 2 weeks, then we start; will develop game plan on how to do it. Those interested in participating, call Robin Wall or Becky Estes. All are welcome.
11	<p>Agency/organization updates (round table) – All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan Bray, CalAm – She and Pat McGreevy are working on a big map; got recent updates; Cal Fire agreed to cooperate with Amador, Eldorado, Calaveras, Madera, Mariposa, Merced; to have their GIS expert keep maps up to date; working on grants. Joe Aragon, Stanislaus NF, Cornerstone POC – complete his move to Columbia; district coming together in Calaveras; public engagement growing; employees are becoming more engaged. Jay Francis, SPI – Noted that Malcolm North’s planned presentation in April could be complemented by new paper published by SPI Senior Wildlife Biologist Kevin Roberts. <i>Will send info to Jill to determine when that could be presented to the group.</i> Chuck Loffland – Conservation strategy draft is now available. Will send link to Jill to post. Alissa Fogg, Point Blue – no summer work; current agreement with EDFs to do 19-20 monitoring sites. John Heissenbuttle, CalAm – working to complete fuel break from Hiway 88 to Lake ???; complete by 5/31; CYA and 3 contractors working on that, 2 local, 1 is CHIPS; In Placer County a registered professional forester is doing environmental work on 88 to Surrey Junction break. Ray Cablayan, Stanislaus NF – district wide, Joe Aragon is now the permanent CFLRA point of contact and resource management person; thanks for Letter of Support on Last Chance – bids now open; Ray sent link to Jill to post to web; Irish O’Manual -- still looking for time to look at burn plan; want to burn lots and more often; perhaps in April, about 5,000 acres; all located around WUI; ties into Butte dozer line. Will have staff make presentations once they have more information; looking for an additional farm bill type of project – identify an area somewhere in district; may identify by next month. Monte Kawahara, BLM – Project ready in June; NEPA by June; pilot project for EA is footprint of future community forest; archeological surveys done; new archeologist started last week; stand exams next; Hazard tree and vegetation removal for ??? EA; programmatic EA; Tiger Creek; Lilligap 1/3 done; Tiger Creek turned into a great collaborative project because it spans both sides of river; kudos to SPI, BLM, PG&E, etc. Scott Tangenberg, Stanislaus NF – forest level: we have been grouped with southern sierra forest as a zone; responsible for quantity of board fee and treatment on landscape; next year’s targets proceeding with 4 farm bill projects; cool new equipment; limited to 8” diameter trees; we have a shelf stock of opportunities while FS talks about multi-thousand acres of NEPA to authorize treatment across the national forest; will embark on planning for that this year, within 18 months, will involve

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	<p>this group; landscape-level planning, also more land than Cornerstone footprint. Also other groups, YSS collaborative; pace and scale; get NEPA cleared faster.</p> <p>At the National level: new chief of Forest Service; last guy resigned because of sexual harassment allegations; new chief is experienced; in DC for 7 years. Will post her resume.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Solvesky, Sierra Forest Legacy – field trip on April 15th -- steep ground equipment; June 8-9 F-Sat; Post information. • Liz Gregg, CSERC – first volunteer tree planning last month; Post Information; great volunteer opportunity. • Ken Lambert, EBMUD – RCD giving away trees this Saturday in San Andreas; SB1260 removes hurdles to prescribed burning; link to bill: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1260 • Tim Tate, SPI – not much going on; one working on fuel break; have not launched tree planting yet; 1M-1.2M trees to be planted. • Pat Noll, Citizen – environmental justice group; wants to mobilize volunteers for meadow restoration • Michael Pickard, Sierra Nevada Conservancy – March 6 watershed improvement program summit; recorded and on Youtube; lots of big players attended; June Board meeting in Bishop; will award 2 grants, one Cornerstone for Cabbage Patch and one for South Fork Mokelumne restoration, category 2 and implementation. Comments from strategic planning meetings and draft Plan will be available after the elections in early September, when SNC has a better idea about their funding levels. Will be open for public comment for a couple of months. • Robin Wall, Eldorado FS – Please turn in monitoring surveys! • Rick Hopson, Eldorado FS: ACCG members interested in Power Fire POW, ask Robin; working on contracts for reforestation EIS, monitoring component; key decision is to set aside some units for specific treatments is included; will be done this summer; will include funding for some training for ACCG; NFWF grant; looking at hazard tree stuff; Scottiago, Power Fire roadside hazard trees; also forest wide hazard trees. • Steve Wilensky, CHIPS; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o renewed Yosemite NP agreement for 14 weeks of work in Mariposa and Yosemite Valley; work to be performed by Piutes. o Trex coming to Lodestar Nov-Dec for training; Glencoe, Lodestar, Big Trees and adjacent; o Testifying 5/22/18 at PUC hearing in SF re PGE SB1122 – PUC will vote to make PG&E sign agreements, may go to court; o Humbolt Toyabe signed with CHIPS for many projects o Now accepting trees at Wilseyville site; what about the bio char?
12	<p>Wrap up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be careful with lions and bears; Admin will talk about facilitation options; 3 LOSs out today; Plumas make contracting options; Reuben will facilitate next meeting; • Lunch after the meeting at the Cozy Cabin – continue conversations and networking there! • Next meeting April 18, 2018 <p>Location: 12200 Airport Road, Sutter Creek</p>

Materials available on ACCG website and at meeting:

- February minutes for review (to be approved at meeting) — [February 2018 ACCG MINUTES For Review](#)
- Collaborative survey – Power Fire – related documents — [Survey](#)
- Bear River and Cole Creek watersheds – Meadow Restoration Proposal — [Power Fire Meadow NFWF 03192018 short version](#)
- DRAFT letter of support for Eldorado National Forest – Bear River and Cole Creek watersheds – Meadow Restoration, Alissa Fogg — [ACCG Draft Letter of Support Power Meadows NFWF](#)

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- Background info for Foster Meadows Restoration Project — [Foster Meadow Restoration Project Description](#)
- Foster Meadows Design Report: [FosterMeadowDesignReport](#)
- Fosters Meadows Full Proposal Project Narration: [Foster Meadow NorCal 2018fullproposal+v3](#)
- Background info for AOP Road Crossing Project — [Foster Meadow AOP Project](#)
- Foster Meadows AOP Full Proposal Project Narration — [Foster Meadow AOP Full Proposal](#)
- Foster Meadows DRAFT Letter of Support: [Foster Meadow Draft Support Letter – ACCG](#)
- Foster Meadows AOP DRAFT Letter of Support: [Foster AOP Draft Support Letter – ACCG](#)
- Link to 2017 Cornerstone Annual Report: http://acconsensus.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Cornerstone_FY17_Annual-Report_signed-12012017.pdf

***RE Item 8:** Membership is open to all stakeholders be they individuals or organizations’ signatories that live, work, manage public and/or private forest or watershed lands, or assist in local sustainability of the environment, community and economy. Membership requires signing a copy of the ACCG MOA *and acceptance as a member by the Group at a regularly scheduled meeting.*

2018 Meeting Schedule:

Meeting Date and Location	Presentor	Topic
March 21 West Point Facilitator: S. Wilensky	Shelly Blair and Eric Kleinfelter, CA Fish & Wildlife	“Wildlife of California – Keep Me Wild”: This presentation outlines the biology, behavior and California law concerning wildlife that sometimes cause human- wildlife conflicts. We will discuss how to identify damage caused by these critters, what to do to minimize or avoid damage and public safety and CDFW’s policies concerning them.
April 18 Sutter Creek Facilitator: R. Childress	Malcolm North Research Ecologist Southwest Research Center, Davis	Spotted Owls and Forest Management
May 16 West Point Facilitator: J. Heissenbuttel	Kevin Vella District Biologist California/Nevada National Wild Turkey Federation	Partnering for Success: The National Wild Turkey Federation has entered into a 10 year stewardship agreement with the Eldorado National Forest. Within this agreement, the NWTF is able to assist the ENF in increasing the pace and scale of fuels reduction projects that aid in wildlife habitat enhancement. We will be taking a look at how things are going so far, and how this agreement will impact the future of our forest.
June 20 Sutter Creek Facilitator: G. Starrett	Tom Black, SW Research Center	Power Fire Roads Assessment Using the GRAIP Road Inventory and Model. Note that Tom’s bio and links to his research are posted to the ACCG web calendar for this date.
July 18 West Point Facilitator: R. Hopson		
August 15 Sutter Creek	Dr. Hugh Safford	Natural Range of Variation for Yellow Pine and Mixed Conifer Forests in the Sierra Nevada

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Facilitator: R. Wall		
September 19 West Point Facilitator: K. Evatt		
October 17 Sutter Creek Facilitator: Deb Phillips		
November 21 West Point Facilitator: Gordon Long		

If you have recommendations for speakers, please email contact info to jillMicheau@gmail.com