

# Amador Calaveras Consensus Group

## Meeting MINUTES V1 - JMM

Wednesday July 18, 2018 -- 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Veterans' Memorial Hall, Hwy 26, West Point, CA

Meeting Facilitator: Rick Hopson ♦♦♦ Minutes: Jill Micheau

Attendees: Diana Symmonds; David Griffith; Rich Farrington; Gerald Schwartz; Susan McMorris; Kent Lambert; Jeff Blewett; Joe Aragon; Ray Cablayan; John Heissembuttel; Steve Brink; Heidi Beswick; Tim Tate; Jay Francis; Deb Phillips; Steve Wilensky; Terry Woodrow; Liz Gregg; Katherine Evatt; Pat McGreevy; Sue Holper; Michael Pickard; Jill Micheau; Rick Hopson.

Item #	Agenda Item	Owner(s)	Start Time	Mins
1	Call to order	Hopson	9:30	0
2	Participants introductions	All	9:30	5
3	Modification and/or approval of agenda and June minutes – <b>approved.</b>	All	9:35	5
<b>Presentations and Business</b>				
4	 <p><b>Presentation by Steve Brink, California Forestry Association:</b> Steve will speak about current events in Washington D.C. and in Region 5 that affect the Forest Service.  <i>See handouts posted to web, as well as presentation.</i></p> 	Brink	9:40	45
<b>Requests for Consensus</b>				
5	<p><b>ACCG Strategic Plan:</b> overview and request that it be adopted  <i>The strategic plan has been posted to the ACCG website since the June meeting for comments and editing; 3 comments received, all positive; Requested comments and/or edits at meeting. Request for consensus: can the ACCG adopt this plan, effective today, so we can move forward with implementation? Received verbal agreement; no dissent.</i></p>	Micheau	10:25	5
6	<p><b>Foster Meadow Project:</b> project funding  Rick Hopson is requesting ~30K to complete implementation from CFLR funds.  <i>Combining 2 projects. Is ACCG willing to approve expenditure of CFLR funds for this? SNC has slush fund of leftover grant money from Prop 84. This might be a great candidate for these funds. If wanted, must apply very soon. Needs about a month to process. Might be good to use up CFLR funds that are left over, not leave funds on table. Rick and Michael P to discuss this option.</i>  <i>A member expressed a preference for the SNC option. Fish &amp; Wildlife is also a possibility... but may require more technical info, as their grants are more intensely scrutinized.</i>  <i>Note: always want more info for decisions like this.</i>  <i>Would SNC CEQA on this project?</i></p>	Hobson	10:30	15
<b>Discussions</b>				
7	Grants: What applications are being submitted?	Hopson	10:45	20

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poll group on grant activity; explore opportunities for cooperation; which/any being worked with Planning WG? (Hopson) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Tuolumne County CALFIRE grant, \$14M to work with USFS under an MSA to increase pace and scale; large scale projects; MSA not subject to FAR, can generate own contracts. Tuolumne County has one dedicated grant writer; there are 2 volunteer grant writers at YSS; the Tuolumne County BOS has no argument re cannabis, unlike Calaveras County.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Calaveras County is pursuing an MSA; must coordinate with ACCG.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Jill Micheau: Highway 4 Corridor -- has applied for 1 CALFIRE grant (Murphys fuel break, ~\$1M); SNC pre-app for Forest Meadows Fuel Break (\$100K); SNC pre-app for Mill Woods Fuel Break (\$40K).</i></li> <li>○ <i>Pat McGreevy: SNC pre-app to expand SF Mokelumne River Watershed Restoration Program (\$100K)</i></li> <li>○ <i>John Heissenbuttel: 2 SNC pre-apps: Antelope Fuel Break and Tiger Creek Coop, both planning (\$100K)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Diana Symmonds: CSEDD has received a \$178K grant rec'd for business expansion, biomass, job growth etc. post info on web; she will send the flyer. Press event 7/25 and 7/26 Sonora and Ironstone.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Steve Wilensky: Power Purchase Agreement signed last month; needed \$60K grant for down payment; received.</i></li> <li>○ <i>David Griffith: ABC has submitted proposal for \$80K feasibility study to reduce biomass and provide local jobs. Working with CHIPS; have \$20K matching funds; EDA only asks for 20% match for 2 years after a disaster. Will announce next meeting.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Merit of bundling projects, integrated approach (Pickard):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Idea behind this is to build more grant projects together; help each other with applications. SNC puts weight on large strategic projects. Usually part of the planning groups; experiment... now have better applications.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Doing project-level EIRs to get NEPA/CEQA done more efficiently</i></li> <li>○ <i>It was suggested that we produce a "grant cycle chart".</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
8	<p>Report on July 10<sup>th</sup> Special Planning Meeting, Hathaway Pines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overview of why Hemlock Project worked so well (CSERC)</b> <i>Although John Buckley could not attend, Hiedi provided a write-up of the Hemlock project as well as an outline of the elements of a successful collaboration process. (Post to web)</i></li> <li>• <b>Outline of elements of a collaboration process (Aragon and Wilensky)</b></li> <li>• <b>Goal of meeting was to identify differences, close gaps, develop processes.</b> <i>Wide range of perspectives, neighbors, FS, environmental groups were in attendance. Tried to identify areas of concern; what are laws re timber harvest, removal of big trees in owl PACs? Complicated by fact that one PAC is very close to WUI; Conversation was productive; questions re jurisdiction... what part of ACCG needs to be involved? planning, admin, everyone? What is the role of others, i.e., homeowners? Decided to do a special field trip to include a mock marking process. Will discuss approach to marking, explore where we</i></li> </ul>	CSERC and Wilensky	11:05	25

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	<p><i>disagree; Strenuous walk; hope to get a diverse group to come along. Field trip to mark trees will hopefully build trust. People need to get on the phone and talk.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus that Hemlock project is a model. Noted that the entire staff at Stanislaus FS is new – were not around when Hemlock happened. ACCG needs to communicate process to them. Buckley has done this.</li> <li>• It was noted that the special meeting devolved into a discussion about PACs; ACCG should have had Zones of Agreement for these topics in place many years ago. Ray looked for them, asked Kendall; could not find process or ZOAs.</li> </ul>			
Updates				
9	<p>Admin Work Group updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on professional facilitation:</b> Contract issues in the works. Shoot for next month start.</li> </ul>	Micheau	11:30	5
10	<p>Planning Work Group updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting in Amador; agenda to go out tomorrow. Meeting will be specific to Scottiago, leaning towards no field trip. Look for areas of agreement on proposed action. Scoping period, no comment; less opportunity for interaction; do work in office, not field. Let Robin or Rick know if you want field-based information.</li> <li>• Last planning meeting field trip was to Last Chance mastication project. Good feedback. Right on peoples' yards.</li> </ul>	Aragon	11:35	5
11	<p>Monitoring Work Group update</p> <p><b>Socioeconomic monitoring WG status:</b> Alaina, on behalf of Robin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A videoconference was held June 26th with Sierra Institute; Discussed objectives, questions, and indicators; will create matrix for approach; then gather information and documents. SI will assign how we do that. Monthly updates... Next meeting will be August 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>, in person; being planned now.</li> <li>• Monitoring event 9/10 and 11, need volunteers, Onion Meadows. Group camp site being arranged. Contact Gwen Starrett if you wish to participate.</li> </ul>	Alaina O.	11:40	5
12	<p>Agency/organization updates (round table)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Farrington, UMWRA:</b> umwra talking with fs re projects, hemlock, black springs, tom black, panther fb; updating regional water plan and watershed improvement. proposals due aug 6th. board meets 7/27 at pardee.</li> <li>• <b>Rick Hopson, FS:</b> Planning WG will provide response to issue about roadwork; Eldorado NF is looking at reorganization; reduce size but not complexity; 4-to-3 ranger district reduction. Mostly internal implications. Laurence Crabtree will put flyer on web. Have draft map. Jill to post to web.; Big piles along Highway 88 need to be moved/burned. Working on it. NFWF awards soon; one more RFP expected in January.</li> </ul>	All	11:45	15

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Michael Pickard, Sierra Nevada Conservancy: grants; strategic plan out next month for comments; August 17th meeting at Ironstone Winery.</i></li> <li>• <i>Ray Cablayan, Stanislaus NF: success with Hemlock; UMWRA gets \$1M SNC grant; Pumpkin Hollow roads and mastication; also Black Springs within Hemlock; met with reps of Calaveras County BOS – they are interested in doing an MSA; wanted to not step on UMWRA's toes. wants to work on fuel break maintenance. August 4th grand opening of reroute around private property – <i>where?</i> Bear activity is very high in camp grounds. Ferguson Fire on Sierra border of 140.</i></li> <li>• <i>Joe Aragon, Stanislaus NF: will attend field trip – it won't be hard. Fire season wrapping up.</i></li> <li>• <i>Alaina Osimowitz, Stanislaus NF: invited all to field trip tomorrow, 9am couple of hours. Meet at Hathaway Pines Ranger Station.</i></li> <li>• <i>Deb-Phillips Susan McMorris, Greater Valley Conservation Corps: Mother Lode Jobs and Blue Mountain Community Renewables -- acquired park in Railroad Flat; 1-yr lease; return to community; friends of chads lake; vandalism issues. sticker plan, only stickers can get in.</i></li> <li>• <i>Katherine Evatt, Foothill Conservancy: Governor Brown signed North Fork Mokulumne River as a wild and scenic designation. Lots of collaboration made this happen.</i></li> <li>• <i>Steve Wilensky, CHIPS: Out of Yosemite work due to fire; too smoky to work; moved crew to West Point, 12 people short. Need more employees. Need campsites. 1st experiment truck, ship, grinding to produce chips for schools and parks. Transportation is the bottleneck. Trying to figure out efficient and effective way to move biomass. Need some subsidy for transportation. CHIPS delegation to Tennessee to Proton Power (<a href="http://www.protonpower.com">www.protonpower.com</a>) to see their patented clean energy system that produces inexpensive hydrogen-rich gas stream on demand from biomass and waste sources.; came out of nuklear research; 2x temps with ore biochar; lots of industries interested. Keen on that technology; looking for funding to put on our site.</i></li> <li>• <i>Tim Tate, SPI: halfway through normal season; on target; balance mills, amount of log infrastructure; amount of trucking capacity – major problem. Lost only 30 acres to fire.</i></li> <li>• <i>Steve Brink, California Forestry Association: SNC for trees for biomass off national forests; CALFIRE did not send to round 2. American Forest Foundation, same proposal for private land ok'd.</i></li> <li>• <i>Terry Woodrow, Alpine County BOS and Calaveras Fire Safe Council: FSC applied for 7 CCI grants; PG&amp;E seniors and chipper programs -- got 61 applications.</i></li> <li>• <i>David Griffith, ABC: Good Neighbor Authority agreements; State of CA working with regions 4 and 5 to get a Good Neighbor Authority agreement.</i></li> <li>• <i>John Heissenbuttel, Cal Am: Amador County Fair starts next Thursday. We have a booth with Amador FSC, Amador RCD, and UC Extension.</i></li> </ul>			

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13	<b>Wrap up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lunch after the meeting at the <b>Cozy Cabin</b> – continue conversations and networking there!</li> <li>Next meeting Aug 15, 2018. Speaker will be Dr. Hugh Safford</li> </ul> <b>Location:</b> 12200 Airport Road, Sutter Creek	Hopson	Noon	0
Meeting Adjourns at Noon				

### Task List from July Meeting (review in August):

Owner	Task	Status
Jill Micheau	Things to post to ACCG website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Approved June meeting minutes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Steve Brink's presentation and supporting materials</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Foster Meadow project slide (Hopson)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CSEDD flyer (Symmonds)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> July minutes for review (this document)</li> </ul>	
Hopson/Pickard	Discuss Foster Meadow funding options; SNC funds or ACCG?	
Micheau/Pickard	Would SNC do CEQA on Foster Meadow project? Put on August agenda	
Joe Aragon	Put Arnold-Avery Fuel Break on next planning agenda; need grant money	
David Griffith	Update on ABC grant (\$80K for feasibility study)	
Unassigned	Produce a grant cycle chart for the group	
Joe/Alaina	Report on how the "mock tree marking" field trip for Arnold-Avery FB went.	
Evatt	Edit Buckley's document re Hemlock and the email string about Arnold-Avery treatments; distribute for discussion at August meeting; pass to new facilitator.	
Unassigned	Compile list of collaboration best practices; also for Zones of Agreement; borrow from others.	
Jill/Robin	Get professional facilitation going; many issues arose this meeting; note that Jill may not be here September meeting AND that we have no scheduled speaker that month... good time to start with facilitator?	