

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, February 17th, 2021, by Zoom

Meeting Brief

- Presentation by Megan Layhee on the SLAWG Mapping/GIS Tools
- Planning WG recommendation for updated project submission form - Tania, Rich Farrington and Shane Dante presented
- ACCG Work Groups and meeting participants provided updates of their activities.

Action Items

| Actions | Responsible Parties |
|--|---------------------|
| Remove the FCWG update agenda item from the Draft February General Meeting Agenda before finalizing. | Megan Layhee |
| Fix spelling error on MOA signatory list on monthly agenda template, specifically Angela (SNC) | Megan Layhee |
| Upload the updated project submission form docs on website | Megan Layhee |

Summary

Modification and/or approval of agenda and November 2020 Meeting Summary.

Regine noted that since the FCWG did not meet in February 2021, there will be not update to provide.

Tania gave a brief update on the Herbicide Panel and that Megan Layhee is working to confirm panelists.

Tania reminded the meeting participants that the Revised MOA signatory list is included on monthly General Meeting agenda.

There were no suggested changes to this month's agenda, with the exception of correcting Angela's (SNC) name on the MOA signatory list.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

SLAWG Tools Presentation

Presented by Megan Layhee (CHIPS, meganl.CHIPS@gmail.com)

Megan briefly went over the products that were developed as part of this effort. These products include a fuels reduction project inventory database, a wildfire risk assessment, a priority project identification process, ArcGIS Pro workflows for Tool upkeep and maintenance, and an interactive, online map through the SLAWG's webpage on the ACCG website (SLAWG webpage: <https://acconsensus.org/work-groups/slawg/>).

Megan then went on to give a brief background and overview on why the SLAWG tools were developed, citing the ACCG's 5-year Strategic Plan (2018-2023) Goal 3- "Get more work done on the ground". She went on to say that under Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan, there was direction to conduct an all-lands landscape assessment within the ACCG footprint. She went on to say that the plan noted the relevance

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, February 17th, 2021, by Zoom

of such an assessment to be able to provide a roadmap for future projects, identify needs and to aid in project planning.

She then went on to describe the process of the SLAWG Tools development, which included working closely and regularly with the SLAWG (meeting 1-2 times per month) and giving monthly updates to the Planning WG in order to provide that WG an opportunity to provide input and play an active role in the Tool development process.

She went on to describe, and showed a slide depicting, the SLAWG Tool development framework. This framework included the development of the fuels reduction project inventory database and mapper, the process of the wildfire risk assessment, and the development of a project priority list using the identification process product developed.

She then proceeded to give a more detailed overview of the components of the SLAWG Tools development framework. Starting with the fuels reduction project inventory database and mapper. She highlighted some important components of the database and mapper including, activity types (fuels reduction), defined project status and maintenance status, described the interactive capabilities and the online format, and briefly noted the fact that automated workflows have been developed for database maintenance and upkeep.

She went on to describe the process that herself and the SLAWG did to identify and rank high-valued resources and assets (HVRAs) used in the wildfire risk assessment model. Five broad HVRA categories were identified by the SLAWG: Communities, Infrastructure, Wildlife/Ecosystems, Economic Assets (Timber Resources), and Watersheds (Erosion Potential ratings). She noted that these broad HVRA categories were intended to ensure this assessment was aligned with the ACCG's triple bottom line. She went on to say that each of these broad HVRAs are further broken down into sub-HVRAs that are spatially representations of the HVRAs. The 8th slide listed all of the sub-HVRAs under each HVRA. Megan then showed a slide spatially depicting the HVRAs and sub-HVRAs across that are within the analysis extent.

The next section of her presentation depicted the FSim data that was used to depict wildfire intensity and likelihood across the analysis area for purposes of the running the risk assessment model. The Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment framework outlined in GTR-315 was used for this process, and the USFS Region 5 FSim data for the Southern Sierra Region was also used for the SLAWG's risk assessment process. She showed several maps depicting the predicted wildfire likelihood (burn probability) and wildlife intensity (flame length probability across 6 flame length intensity classes) from R5 SSRA FSim data.

She went on to describe the process that the SLAWG did to determine the predicted response function (RF) of each the sub-HVRAs to each of the FSim predicted flame length classes. She presented two slides depicting the RFs for the WUI sub-HVRA and the immature wildlife habitat sub-HVRA.

She then proceeded to explain how all of these components come together to calculate a net value change value for each individual location (where an HVRA occurs) across the ACCG landscape. The expected net value change describes whether the cumulative likelihood and intensity of predicted wildlife will have a net negative impact or benefit to a particular location within the landscape based on the HVRA that occurs there. She showed a map depicting eNVC for the entire analysis area and briefly

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, February 17th, 2021, by Zoom

explained that the map shows that there are both areas that have a high predicted net threat of predicted wildfire (purple colors) whereas other areas have a high net benefit of wildfire (green, dark green, blue). She also showed another slide depicting how the SLAWG further used the eNVC output to understand where high wildfire risk areas are across the landscape.

She then described the project identification process framework developed by the SLAWG with a goal of community defense. She also described how the fuel reduction project inventory database and mapper is an additional tool in identifying priority projects for treatment, including identifying in-need of maintenance projects and shovel-ready projects in proximity to the high-risk areas identified in the risk assessment output.

She then went on to briefly describe potential future paths forward for SLAWG Tool expansion and further SLAWG Tool refinement and more focused assessment, including utilizing LIDAR derived-products.

She ended her presentation with a link to the SLAWG webpage on the ACCG website where the link to the SLAWG Tool Mapper is housed: <https://acconsensus.org/work-groups/slawg/>

Presentation Discussion

John Heissenbuttal: Great work, looks like the SLAWG priorities are aligned with the e-workshop that he participated, so it looks to be that we can move forward.

Randy Hanvelt (in the chat): Thanks for the effort.

Richard Sykes: Thanked Megan and the SLAWG, a ton of work. Already been useful to UMRWA for grant applications to the SNC and CDFW. UMRWA has used the tools to identify priority areas for future projects, Megan is helping with map development through CHIPS. Partners has to do ground-truthing, which Megan mentioned. Wants to see more green and less purple on the eNVC output map.

- Tania reiterated that it was helpful that Richard mentioned the steps for organizations to utilize the tools and observations that he made about UMRWA's.
- Richard – mentioned it would be helpful for ACCG how to keep the mapper current and what level of effort is needed to do that and one of the WGs figures out how to make them,
- Tania and Megan mentioned that the Planning WG will be the place for that discussion.

Regine: This tool is a great launching off point and in order to really maximize usefulness, it will require the ACCG participants to provide spatial data to keep the tool current and for the group to think about potential tool expansion. This is a living tool and all responsible to help keep it useful.

Greg Suba: Thanks to Megan, SLAWG and e-workshop participants, and great that the ACCG came to agreement on the tools, which is great, congrats to the ACCG.

- Tania added that it is really important to highlight that this was a highly interactive process and so many ACCG folks were willing to participate in the Tool development.

Rick Hopson: Does the SLAWG have a proposal for how to use it?

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, February 17th, 2021, by Zoom

- Megan mentioned that she will be providing a presentation to the Planning WG at their February meeting to propose one potential route of moving forward with accomplishing Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan and using the SLAWG Tools to achieve this.
- Tania added that the SLAWG said they have created the product and passing the Tool to the PWG and up to the PWG to answer the question that Rick raised.

George Dondero: Mentioned asked if the ACCG has considered how they will maintain the commitment and how will the land agencies carry on the commitment to utilizing the tools. He added that to be successful this needs to carry on for decades. Don't need a formal MOU, but thrilled to be a part of it.

- Michael Pickard addressed George's question by clarifying that since the SLAWG Tool developments was funded by SNC, Michael would like to see a successor be identified, but that SNC staff would ensure that it lasts.
- George then added that something like a formal MOU is not really necessary, but would hope something in place to ensure the tools will be maintained.

5-minute break

Updated Project Submission Form (& Socio-Economic Checklist Discussion) & Solicitation for Support

Tania gave background on the consensus building in the collaborative and gave an intro to the project submission form, ad hoc socio-economic group (developed checklist and sent out for comments last year). How can we ensure the future projects think about community and economic benefit? That is what the checklist does and when projects come forward for project proponents and ACCG to remember these items on the checklist. One thing to note- looking for consensus agreement on updating project submission form. Tania noted that this is a living and learning document. To reconcile checklist comments, conflict resolution process in MOA was used and brought together individuals that raised concerns, a neutral individual, members of the ad hoc and facilitator. That conversation was productive and led to revisions and conflict was resolved. PWG made a consensus recommendation to the full ACCG for the updated project submission form and the socio-economic checklist.

- Rich – said that we are proposing a checklist that will help the project proponent think about how their project can provide benefits to social and economic components. The questions/concerns raised in the initial draft were helpful and we revised the checklist to address these issues.
- Shane – also noted that they took the checklist to the MWG to see if the checklist could be revised to inform monitoring, related to the last checkbox, and reworded the last checkbox from the MWG discussion, and the MWG proofed the checklist. Also noted that there will be further discussions in the MWG around how we might be able to create questions and benchmarks based on what checkboxes the project proponents check.
- Tania noted that this was important that Shane mentioned this and that in the last 2 years there has been an effort to document these WG interactions and set up procedures for that cross-WG interaction to occur.

Tania asked signatories to indicate agreement of updated project submission form. The following ACCG members indicated agreement with the updated project submission form:

- Regine Miller, CHIPS

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, February 17th, 2021, by Zoom

- Richard Sykes, UMRWA
- John Buckley, CSERC
- BLM
- Randy Hanvelt, ACL
- Gerald Schwartz, EBMUD
- Shane Dante, FC
- Greg Suba, SFL

Tania noted that John Heissenbuttal had to leave the general meeting early, but that he was part of the conflict resolution process for the updated project submission form socio-economic checklist. Tania noted that the form will be updated on the website.

UPDATES

Administrative Work Group Update

Regine – as it related to the MOA, ENF is prepared to sign MOA and developed a set of supplemental provisions that they will include as supplemental material to their signature form, and this was brought this to the Admin WG and discussed it. Also, administration and facilitation for remainder of 2021, Admin WG discussed this and identified scope of services, essentially Admin WG recommending CBI will continue to facilitate the Admin WG and General meetings, provide conflict resolution services and finalize the C&E plan, and help with developing facilitation/admin for the future past 2021. CHIPS/ENF agreement to fund CBI's work, CBI will be a sub-contractor to CHIPS with a total of \$40,000. CHIPS will modify an existing agreement with the STF to fund CHIPS support of general meeting administration, facilitation and administration of the Planning and Funding Coordination Work Groups, and maintenance of SLAWG Tools, and updates and maintenance of website, all through 2021 with a total budget of approximately \$25,000.

Tania – underscored that the Planning WG facilitation transition from Tania to Megan Layhee, Tania will be available for conflict resolution needs. Tania also stated that CBI's intention and approach is to help build capacity to get to next point, now in the last 10 months is going to be important to be purposeful to help transition to the ACCG's new facilitation framework for 2022. Tania then discussed the last task from the CES is the C&E Plan (in GM packet). CBI would like participants to submit comments to Stephanie by March 3rd, and give CBI an idea about how the plan can help the ACCG with engagement and outreach, and bring comments to Admin WG and bring back to the full ACCG in next month or so.

Planning Work Group Update

Tania mentioned some highlights from January 2021 Planning WG meeting summary including having de-brief on prescribed fire panel including mention of Rx Fire Ad Hoc group that was formed to work closely with FS (jurisdiction with greatest opportunity).

Greg mentioned the SB 332 – Prescribed Fire and Liability Issues, for a possible topic for upcoming Rx Fire Ad Hoc group

(https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB332).

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, February 17th, 2021, by Zoom

Monitoring Work Group Update

Robin mentioned the last MWG meeting topics, including socio-economic monitoring questions, discussion about applying adaptive management in the monitoring strategy, continued evaluation of existing monitoring programs, and also MWG requesting meeting with Megan to discuss what the WG wants on the ACCG website. Next MWG meeting March 10th.

Funding Coordination Work Group Update

Group did not meet in February. Next meeting is anticipated March 9th at 3-4pm.

Roundtable

Greg – Forestry NGO group have been talking a lot of biomass opportunities and challenges. Greg sees biomass as another place where diverse groups can all agree on. A Forest Biomass Utilization Statement (authored by: Sierra Forest Legacy, Watershed Center, CSERC, Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, The Fire Restoration Group, Sierra Business Council) has been put together and would like to share it with the ACCG, send to Megan cc'd Tania.

Megan – CHIPS CAL FIRE RFP out to bid.

Regine – tribal workforce initiative including training, partnering with AFSC reducing fuels in the county with CHIPS crew, received notice Sierra Institute (High roads training partnership) workforce development and training grant - \$1million grant.

Thurman – update on his work for CHIPS on the Upper Mokelumne Forest Restoration Project through a Wildlife Conservation Board Grant for thinning, planting and aspen stand restoration.

Liz – acting assistant field manager (Chuck Jakens) with them for 120 days, permanent position being flown on USA Jobs, also new forester Liana Weisberg from Redding office. Officially done with Lily Gap, about 200 acres that they treated, thanked Michael for help. Working with CalAm Team on a number of planning and implementation work including AmCo stewardship and Bummerville planning.

- Regine mentioned PGE grant – fuelbreak construction in Cal and Am counties and part of work on BLM lands, CalAm is looking at NEPA doc to see if it needs to be refreshed.

Shane - passed, but thanked ACCG for approving checklist.

Kellin – pile burning continues even with snow, approx. 600 acres this winter.

Michael Pickard – Governor's budget released last month lays out 1billino for wildfire prevention and suppression with specific pots for SNC program, SCN on track to receive potential 50million starting July 1st for and 20million for emergency funds for this fiscal year, maybe. Waiting on state legislature to make any modifications. SNC March BM will be ratifying grant guidelines for emergency funds and releasing the guidelines next week he thinks.

Steve Brink – Talking with CAL FIRE CCI Grant staff and asked if she had insight about 500 million separate from the budget and she had no news which is not good. Hopeful next month legislature will set up and allocate for fuels. CFA is working with Nature Conservancy and they are drafting legislation and expand state gov doing good neighbor authority fuels reduction projects/efforts mainly CAL FIRE, which could be a chunk of money that would allow a dept of forestry in CAL FIRE, that what Steve hopes.

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, February 17th, 2021, by Zoom

Robin Wall – SCALE virtual meeting is Feb 25th 12:30-4:30 pm and you do need to register.

Randy – 8297, may want to look at it. Yuba Co water agency investment in managing watershed, hope that is a trend for other water agencies.

Rich – UMRWA is working on a couple of grant proposal for forest project planning. Blue Forest Company on potential forest resilience bond and what that could mean, board approved developing MOU with company, cost analysis done, possibly similar to Yuba water agency, UMRWA may be looking for partners and good neighbor authority may be helpful and needed.

Richard – UMRWA just executed DWR integrated water regional grant west point potable water treatment plant. DAC needs assessment for water and wastewater facilities with T-Stan IRWM for Am, Cal, and Tuolumne Co.

Tania closed the meeting and reminded about the PWG on fourth and materials out by COB Friday, Feb. 19th.

The next General Meeting will take place on March 17^h from 9-noon.

Meeting Participants

| Name | Affiliation | Time Committed to Meeting |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Caitlynn Rich | Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center | 3.0 |
| Carinna Robertson | Calaveras Ranger District | 3.0 |
| Chuck Jakens | Bureau of Land Management | 3.0 |
| Chuck Loffland | Amador Ranger District | 3.0 |
| Craig Christensen | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 3.0 |
| George Dondero | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions - Board Member | 3.0 |
| Gerald Schwartz | EBMUD | 3.0 |
| Greg Suba | Sierra Forest Legacy | 3.0 |
| John Heissenbittel | Cal Am, Amador Fire Safe Council | 1.0 |
| Kellin Brown | Calaveras Ranger District | 3.0 |
| Liz Meyer-Shields | Bureau of Land Management | 3.0 |
| Megan Layhee | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 3.0 |
| Michael Pickard | SNC | 3.0 |
| Randy Hanvelt | Association of California Loggers | 1.0 |
| Ray Cablayan | Calaveras Ranger District | 1.0 |
| Regine Miller | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 3.0 |
| Rich Farrington | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority | 3.0 |
| Richard Sykes | Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority | 3.0 |
| Rick Hopson | Amador Ranger District | 3.0 |
| Robin Wall | Amador Ranger District | 3.0 |
| Sara Husby | Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center | 3.0 |
| Shane Dante | Foothill Conservancy | 3.0 |

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, February 17th, 2021, by Zoom

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-----|
| Steve Brink | California Forestry Association | 3.0 |
| Tania Carlone | Consensus Building Institute | 3.0 |
| Thurman Roberts | Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions | 3.0 |