

# Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

Planning Work Group Meeting Summary, April 28, 2021, On-line Meeting

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## Meeting Brief

- Good Neighbor Authority presentation and discussion. Guest speakers included Jason Ko (FS R5 Shared Stewardship Coordinator), Travis Thane (USFS ENF, District Fire Management Officer) and Tom Tinsley (CAL FIRE, Unit Forester). Guest participants included, Genevieve Villemaire (USFS Grants & Agreements Specialist) and Dan Smith (USFS, Contracting Officer).
- UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan. ACCG MOA signatories present at the WG meeting made a consensus recommendation to the full ACCG for submitting a letter of support for UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan (Phase 1) CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health grant application.
- WG briefly continued its discussion about Large Landscape Projects and ACCG's potential role.
- Brief update by Rx Fire Ad Hoc group.
- Reviewed upcoming general meeting speaker series and upcoming Planning WG meeting topics.
- Next WG meeting is Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm.

## Action Items

Actions	Point Person(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reach out to Jason Smith and Mike Vollmer (USFS Shared Stewardship Advisors) to ask availability to speak briefly at June 16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting about the program.</li></ul>	Megan Layhee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Send along information about landscape planning tools to UMRWA, including Land Tender (Vibrant Planet) and PROMOTE (Pat Manley).</li></ul>	Megan Layhee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add following topics to upcoming Planning WG meetings:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ continued discussion about Large Landscape Projects and ACCG's potential role</li><li>○ pyrosilviculture (Rich Farrington and John Buckley)</li><li>○ landscape planning tools (Land Tender, PROMOTE)</li></ul></li></ul>	Megan Layhee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider have YSS representative (John Buckley) be a third panelist for Herbicide Panelist, if another panelist cannot be secured.</li></ul>	All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow up with UMRWA about logistics for upcoming presentation and discussion at ACCG May 19<sup>th</sup> general meeting.</li></ul>	Megan Layhee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add Jason Ko's ppt slides to website.</li></ul>	Megan Layhee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add GNA presentation and discussion recording to website.</li></ul>	Megan Layhee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft Dr. Coen's general meeting presentation outreach notice for Admin WG to review at their May meeting.</li></ul>	Megan Layhee

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## Summary

### Agenda Review and May Meeting Summary Approval

The Planning Work Group (WG) met via Zoom video-conference. The WG confirmed the agenda and March meeting summary without revision.

### Good Neighbor Authority Presentation and Discussion

Jason Ko (USFS R5, Shared Stewardship Coordinator) gave a power point presentation on GNA and other partnership agreements. He listed different types of FS agreements including challenge cost-share, participating, inter-agency, cooperative, memorandum of understanding, and collection agreements. A large portion of Jason's presentation was comparing GNA with stewardship agreements. GNA is not necessarily a geographic neighbor, just a state, tribal or county partner with a shared interest, adjacency is not required. No RCDs, but CA JAP is uncertain. Please review the supplemental materials included in the meeting materials on the ACCG website to learn more about Jason's presentation and informational material about GNA: <https://acconsensus.org/about/agendas-minutes/2021-planning-work-group-meeting-agendas-minutes-and-materials/>

Travis Thane (USFS ENF, District Fire Management Officer) and Tom Tinsley (CAL FIRE, Unit Forester) discussed the first GNA signed in CA in 2016, the ENF-CAL FIRE El Dorado/Amador Unit Hwy 50 GNA, including an overview of the partnership and lessons learned. The agreement included treating 500 acres, including 400 acres along Hwy 50 and 100 acres near Pollock Pines, and NEPA/CEQA for additional treatments, and equipment to complete work. Refer to informational material about this GNA on the ACCG website: <https://acconsensus.org/about/agendas-minutes/2021-planning-work-group-meeting-agendas-minutes-and-materials/>

Genevieve Villemaire (USFS Grants & Agreements Specialist) and Dan Smith (USFS, Contracting Officer) were also present at the meeting to provide any questions.

There was a discussion whether GNA would be a good match for UMRWA and the FS. FS needs to formally asks the agency lawyers to direct the FS on how to proceed with a GNA with a JPA (with county agencies involved, like UMRWA). Need a legal ruling from the feds and from the county side if FS and UMRWA can sign on to a GNA. UMRWA requested to initiate a formal request with the FS to open a formal inquiry about whether a FS-JPA (and inquire about county authority of timber management/revenue under a GNA). Richard Sykes (UMRWA) and Jason Ko will connect after the meeting to start this GNA inquiry process.

Brief discussion about whether this GNA a good match for ACCG participating entities. Specifically, how to get state agencies more involved in a possible FS-State-UMRWA partnership. Jason Ko also reminded folks that SNC is another state agency option for GNA, not just limited to CAL FIRE as the state agency partner for GNA.

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## **Next steps:**

- FS and UMRWA will look into the GNA as a potential option for a future partner agreement.
- Megan Layhee will add Jason Ko's ppt slides to ACCG Website.
- Megan will add recording of GNA presentation and discussion to ACCG Website.

## **UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan**

Tania Carlone (CBI) guest facilitated this discussion, since Megan Layhee is sub-contractor to UMRWA for this project. Karen Quidachay (Landmark Environmental) and Richard Sykes (UMRWA) presented on UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan, asked for feedback from meeting participants, and ultimately were looking for a consensus recommendation from the Planning WG for providing an ACCG letter of support for UMRWA's CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health Grant application for the Forest Projects Plan. It was discussed and made clear during the meeting that the CCI grant application is for planning and implementation of Phase 1, not Phase 2. There was a suggestion to revise the draft letter of support to make this clearer. There was a clarification that Calaveras RD is involved in Phase 1 *and* Phase 2.

ACCG MOA signatories present at the Planning WG meeting made a consensus recommendation to the full ACCG for a letter of support for UMRWA's CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health Grant application for the Forest Projects Plan, specifically for **Phase 1** planning and implementation work. UMRWA will plan to present to the full ACCG at the May 19<sup>th</sup> general meeting and look to receive an ACCG letter of support signed immediately after the general meeting in time for the application deadline (May 19<sup>th</sup>).

There was a suggestion for a Project Phase 1.5 to keep moving forward with mutually agreeable/non-controversial implementation work across the large landscape proposed under this project. It was also noted that the Phase 2 discussion will continue in the WG setting. In a couple months UMRWA will come back to the Planning WG to keep the conversation going.

To view UMRWA's ppt slides and other related informational material about UMRWA Forest Projects Plan, go to the ACCG website: <https://acconsensus.org/about/agendas-minutes/2021-planning-work-group-meeting-agendas-minutes-and-materials/>

## **Next steps:**

- Megan Layhee will work with UMRWA to prepare for presentation to full ACCG at May general meeting.
- UMRWA will consider adding clarifying language to the draft ACCG letter of support for UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan CAL FIRE CCI Forest Health grant application, making it clearer which project phase will be included in the grant application. And that the Calaveras RD will be part of Phase 1.

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## Large Landscape Projects & ACCG's Potential Role

The WG continued briefly discussing large landscape projects and ACCG's potential role in increasing pace and scale. The discussion first centered around continuing the UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan Phase 2, and how at a large scale, reduce surface and ladder fuels with prescribed fire and mechanical, not just mechanical, and broad scale application of fire (which someone mentioned is not what UMRWA wants to do). Should there be a consideration about "thinking outside of the box" and changing the normal approach.

There was also a suggestion that right now, ACCG is not planning large-scale burn treatments. It was suggested that we need a large block of time on an upcoming WG agenda to discuss this. A large burn project on FS lands, related to the papers recently published about pyrosilviculture to utilize the best available science to make a difference on the landscape, is being discussed in the Rx Fire Ad Hoc group and needs to be discussed in the PWG setting soon.

It was also noted that planning for large landscape, and thinking outside the box, we can do it, but is there the appetite in the ACCG do that? And does the FS have the capacity? It was suggested that we need to have this discussion at a future PWG meeting.

### **Next steps:**

- Megan Layhee will ensure there is time set aside on upcoming WG meeting agendas to continue this discussion.

## Prescribed Fire Ad Hoc Meeting Update

The Ad Hoc group met in April where they focused on several key topics: 1) can the ACCG assist the FS do more burn projects with their large number of constraints and utilizing new technologies and thinking outside of the box (possible solutions discussed: broadcast burns with drones)? 2) FS staff are stretched, so ACCG needs to be realistic about what can get done, and 3) the role of pyrosilviculture in the ACCG footprint and how can we incorporate this with the resources we have and what can ACCG do to enable and support an ACCG entity to take on roles/responsibilities to build capacity to do this?

## Meeting Participant Updates

There was a reminder about the CA Vegetation Treatment Program Implementation Training on May 13<sup>th</sup> ([https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_euGTrMUnQtaTMfLsHBMm7Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_euGTrMUnQtaTMfLsHBMm7Q)) and May 20<sup>th</sup> ([https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_5vsahGCATDSscnwmTk0uTA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5vsahGCATDSscnwmTk0uTA)).

## General Meeting Speaker Series

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Herbicide Alternatives Panel Presentation Planning
<b>Date:</b> July 21, 2021 general meeting
<b>Suggested duration:</b> 90-minutes
<b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define and discuss alternatives to herbicides.</li><li>• Conditions where alternatives to herbicides would apply.</li><li>• Discussion on some of the shortcomings of herbicide alternatives.</li><li>• Can project objectives be adjusted to avoid the proposed use of herbicide treatments?</li></ul>
<b>Prospective Speakers:</b> The WG recommended no more than 3-4 speakers for the panel. <b>List of Possible Panelists identified in by Planning Work Group Members:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dan Macon</b>, UCCE in Placer Co. use of goats and sheep for veg management (confirmed for July 21<sup>st</sup> Panel as of COB 3/24)</li><li>• <b>Sean Kriletich</b>, Agricultural Consultant and Producer/Owner of Paloma Pollinators) (confirmed for July 21<sup>st</sup> Panel as of COB 3/24)</li><li>• <b>TBD</b></li></ul>
<b>Related Confirmed/Potential Future Presentations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Janice Coen</b>, “Weather, Fire Behavior and Trends in the Central Sierra.” Confirmed for May 19<sup>th</sup> general meeting.</li><li>• <b>Jeff Marsolais and Jason Kuiken</b>, “Forest Resilience Initiative”. Confirmed for June 16<sup>th</sup> general meeting.</li><li>• <b>Herbicide Alternatives Panel</b>, Confirmed for July 21<sup>st</sup> general meeting.</li><li>• <b>Dr. Malcom North</b>, Confirmed for August 18<sup>th</sup> general meeting (by video conference)</li></ul>

## Next steps:

- Megan Layhee will continue outreach to find a 3<sup>rd</sup> panelist for the herbicide alternative panel scheduled for the July general meeting. John Buckley offered to provide about 10 minutes during that panel discussion to speak to YSS’ experiences related to this topic.
- Megan Layhee will reach out to Jason Smith and Mike Vollmer (FS Shared Stewardship Advisors) to see if they would be able to come present and to the ACCG during the June 16<sup>th</sup> general meeting.
- Megan will work with Regine Miller to discuss potential speakers and presentation formats for a future TEK general meeting topic.
- Megan will send information about Vibrant Planet’s Land Tender to UMRWA, and will also keep it on the list as a tentative WG meeting agenda item.

## Next Steps

- The next Planning Work Group meeting will be on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The meeting will take place on-line via Zoom.

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## Meeting Participants

#	Name	Affiliation	Miles (N/A-online)	Hours
1	Caitlyn Rich	CSERC		3
2	Carinna Robertson	USFS Calaveras RD		3
3	Chuck Loffland	USFS Amador RD		3
4	Dan Smith	USFS		1
5	Genevieve Villemaire	USFS		1
6	Gerald Schwartz	EBMUD		3
7	Greg Suba	SFL		3
8	Jason Ko	USFS R5		2
9	Jason Smith	TSS Consultants		2
10	John Buckley	CSERC		3
11	Karen Quidachay	UMRWA/Landmark Environmental		3
12	Marc Young	USFS Amador RD		1
13	Megan Layhee	CHIPS (facilitator)		3
14	Randy Hanvelt	Associated California Loggers		3
15	Ray Cablayan	USFS Calaveras RD		1
16	Rich Farrington	UMRWA		3
17	Richard Sykes	UMRWA		3
18	Rick Hopson	USFS Amador RD		3
19	Robin Wall	USFS Amador RD		3
20	Sara Husby	CSERC		3
21	Steve Brink	CFA		3
22	Tania Carlone	CBI		2
23	Tim Tate	SPI		3
24	Zoe Kaminsky	USFS R5		1