

Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes, September 15th, 2021, by Zoom

Meeting Brief

- Presentation by and discussion with Dr. Janice Coen.
- Decision to continue with virtual meeting format for the October 2021 general meeting due to uncertainty around COVID-19 and since the guest speaker can only join remotely.
- ACCG Work Groups and meeting participants provided updates of their activities.

Action Items

Actions	Responsible Parties
Make the August 18th general meeting summary as final and add to the website.	Megan Layhee
Follow up with Dr. Coen about wind spatial data availability.	Rich Farrington
October general meeting will be a virtual meeting. November general meeting is still planned to be in the hybrid format (e.g., in-person and virtual participation options).	Megan Layhee

Summary

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

There were no suggested changes to the August 18th, 2021 General Meeting summary.

Presentation and Discussions: Dr. Janice Coen, “Weather, Fire Behavior and Trends in the Central Sierra”

The ACCG hosted a presentation and discussion with Dr. Janice Coen on *Weather, Fire Behavior and Trends in the Central Sierra*. Dr. Coen is a Project Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, and studies wildland fire behavior and its interaction with weather. Go to the ACCG website to view the recording of Dr. Coen’s presentation and discussion: <https://acconsensus.org/resources/videos/>.

Discussion and participant questions with Dr. Coen

Greg Suba - Are the weather-dependent fire/smoke behavior model outputs you've described information that is available to incident personnel in real-time during an event, or is it a body of information generated after-the-fact?

- Dr. Coen - Yes, models are being introduced into operations. Not so much a technical issue, but a change in the cultural and political model. Adds there is a lot more interest in applying this model in practical use for active wildland fires. They will need to rely on

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feedback and direction on distilling information. Models being run remotely is a culture shift.

Rich Farrington – is it possible to create layers of modeled wind direction to help inform where priority areas should be or fuels reduction should occur?

- Dr. Coen – the lack of wind data in fire risk models (FSim) is kind of product of who develops the risk models (ecologists, forestry specialists, fire specialists). There is regional pattern wind data, but not necessarily for local events. So, what's available is not necessarily good at predicting specific locations of the wind extrema at very fine scales. Not one product out there that is available to help with identifying priority treatment areas.

John Buckley – Fuel/topography factors were the predominant factors in our region's fires, and the fact that dominant factors impacting wildland fire are often unique and not easily predictable.

- Dr. Coen – correct, they don't do predictive wind modeling at 100-m scales; can't forecast at fine scales.

Dr. Coen - identify priority areas from a meteorological standpoint

- Rich – are certain wind event maps able to be generated?
 - Dr. Coen - Yes, wind patterns on certain wind events.

Action Items

- Rich Farrington –follow up with Dr. Coen about wind spatial data availability.

DISCUSSION: Meeting format for October 2021 general meeting

Should we continue the virtual meeting format for the October general meeting? The Planning WG recommended to continue the virtual meeting format for at least through the October 2021 meeting.

- Group approved the all-virtual meeting format for the October 20th general meeting.

Action Items

- Megan Layhee – set up the October 20th general meeting as virtual via Zoom.

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UPDATES

Administrative Work Group Update

Megan Layhee gave the Admin WG update. The admin WG did not meet in September, but alternatively corresponded via email to approve the September general meeting agenda and other group items (e.g., approving September general meeting press release, recommendation to continue with virtual meetings for the October general meeting). The group intends to meet via Zoom in October.

Planning Work Group Update

Megan Layhee gave the Planning WG update. The Planning WG met last on August 25th, 2021. Had a debrief on Dr. Malcolm North's presentation on the pyrosilviculture concept, and the ACCG Pyrosilviculture Shared Vision Statement that was approved by the full ACCG. Discussed upcoming guest speakers. Continued discussion on large landscape projects, including performing a mapping exercise to review ACCG SLAWG tools, R5 existing PODs delineation (SERAL priority PODs), and STF LIDAR products. Finally, the group had participant project-related updates and other updates. Next WG meeting is Wednesday, September 22nd, 9am-12pm via Zoom.

Monitoring Work Group Update

Megan Layhee provided a brief update. There were no September Monitoring WG meeting. The next virtual Monitoring WG meeting is scheduled for October 13th starting at 9 am.

Funding Coordination Work Group Update

Megan Layhee provides the work group update. The group met on September 14th via Microsoft Teams from 3-4pm. Contact Michael Pickard or Megan Layhee to get on the work group meeting listserv, if you are not. The group discussed upcoming funding opportunities and also developing a dynamic grant list/table on the ACCG website. The group also discussed those ACCG members and participants that did not get funding.

- John Buckley recommended that the group identify shove-ready projects so that we are ready to apply for funding.
 - Carinna Robertson added that their district does not have the shovel-ready projects done, that is why UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan. Recommended that the ACCG should jump onto what UMRWA is doing and support the development of that project.

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- Rich Farrington added that he brought up the topic of the Good Neighbor Authority during the FCWG meeting. And that this should be continued to be looked into as an avenue for getting funding to increase pace and scale, instead of competing for limited funding from for instance SNC or CAL FIRE.

Roundtable

Megan Fiske (via chat) - For the round table I wanted to invite folks out to the annual river cleanup this Saturday August 18 from 9 - 12, meeting at Vaught's beach off Electra Road. More details at foothillconservancy.org. I think it is a good idea to do an all-virtual meeting for October if there is concern about technology affecting our guest speaker.

Rich Farrington – UMRWA submitted a pre-application to WCB for aspen stand restoration. UMRWA also submitted an SNC early action concept proposal for FPP Phase 2. UMRWA will also be holding a strategic planning workshop on October 1 at Vet Hall in Valley Springs, open to the public. Megan will follow up with Rich about getting the strategic planning workshop agenda to the ACCG. Rich added that politicians need to claim a state of emergency and what's needed is management directed to protect the forest from catastrophic wildfire.

- John Buckley – noted that there will be \$1.5B coming from the state applied toward forest treatments in the next year and half, but the state (e.g., CAL FIRE) has limited capacity and not in a position to do more, and that the FS is not going to grow its staff capacity. So, a huge amount of money with limited ability from the state and federal government to implement the work. It will be critical for the ACCG and partners to find the entity that has the capacity to do the work.

Carinna Robertson – Calaveras RD had a meeting with Alpine County about getting fuels reduction done around the Bear Valley and Alpine Lake communities. Talked about partnerships, and Carinna invited Terry Woodrow (Alpine Co. BOS) to ACCG Funding Coordination WG, also how to get Alpine Co. to get on existing GNA, if NEPA coverage are done and then the partner can start managing the lands. Reach out for help in planning. Also, the Forest will be opening back up tonight at midnight.

Ray Cablayan – Henry Fire back in June, just over 1300 acres of managed wildfire, successfully. Still in fire season.

Steve Brink – 1) have an infrastructure act at the end of the month \$5.8B to FS for restoration and other activities, 2) FS fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill could double another \$370M and require 6-month progress reports for accomplishments. FS shovel-ready projects are going to be extremely important, the ACCG and the FS need to be ready for that in the not-so-distant future.

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Randy Hanvelt – TuCARE summit meeting at Sonora fairgrounds on Oct 8. Field Tour FB activity on Oct. 7. Megan Layhee will share the meeting information with the full ACCG listserv later today.

The next General Meeting will take place on October 20th via Zoom from 9-noon.

Meeting Participants.

Count	Name	Affiliation	Time Committed to Meeting
1	Bud Hoekstra	Private landowner	2.5
2	Caitlyn Rich	CSERC	2.5
3	Carinna Robertson	USFS, Calaveras RD	2.5
4	Charles Beckman	EBMUD	2.0
5	Gerald Schwartz	EDMUD	2.5
6	Greg Suba	SFL	2.5
7	Dr. Janice Coen	Guest speaker	2.0
8	John Buckley	CSERC	2.5
9	Johnathan Gomez	EDGD RCD	1.5
10	Kellin Brown	USFS, Calaveras RD	2.5
11	Megan Fiske	FC	2.5
12	Megan Layhee	ACCG Administrator	2.5
13	Michael Pickard	SNC	1.0
14	Mike Dvorak	?	2.25
15	Pat McGreevy	Cal Am Team	2.5
16	Randy Hanvelt	ACL	2.5
17	Regine Miller	Consultant	2.5
18	Rich Farrington	UMRWA Board	2.5
19	Shane Romsos	Spatial Informatics Group	1.5
20	Steve Brink	CFA	2.5
21	Sue Holper	Private landowner	2.5
22	Tania Carlone	CBI	2.5
23	Sara Husby	CSERC	2.5
24	Thurman Roberts	CHIPS	2.0
25	Ray Cablayan	USFS, Calaveras RD	2.5
26	Brittney Burke	EDGD RCD	1.5
27	Johnathan Gomez	EDGD RCD	1.5
28	Cherilyn Ashmead	EDGD RCD	1.5
29	Brittany Burke	EDGD RCD	1.0