

# Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes July 20th, 2022, meeting in-person at Amador County Building and via Zoom

## Meeting Brief

- Meeting facilitator: Michael Pickard and Megan Layhee
- Guest presentation and discussion with Dr. Malcolm North.
- Richard Sykes gave a brief update on Forest Projects Plan (FPP) Phase 1 & 2.
- Michael Pickard gave an update on UMRWA’s SGC pre-application submission.
- Kellin Brown gave an update on the additional unit approved under Arnold-Avery Project, including addition of unit 907a.
- ACCG Work Group updates.
- Roundtable updates.

## Action Items

Actions	Responsible Parties
Post final version of meeting agenda and last month’s summary, removing “DRAFT” watermark, to the ACCG website.	Layhee
Follow up on 2019 ENF LiDAR.	ENF
Discuss CA Strategic Growth Council Regional Climate Collaboratives Program grant application at next Admin WG meeting.	Pickard Sykes Admin WG
Provide Spatial Informatics Group with ACCG project spatial data.	Layhee
Dept of Conservation and Water Resources request for ACCG interview.	All

## Summary

### Modification and/or approval of agenda and last month’s meeting summary.

Megan Layhee reviewed the meeting agenda with participants. There were no suggested modifications to the agenda or last month’s meeting summary. Megan will post final versions with “DRAFT” watermark removed to the ACCG website.

### Presentations & Discussions

#### Dr. Malcolm North

#### *Operational resilience in western US frequent-fire forests*

Presentation materials: [slides](#), [presentation recording](#)

See presentation video for presentation and discussion.

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## Forest Projects Plan (FPP) Update

Presenter: Richard Sykes

Update highlights:

- Phase 1: Showed a map and acreage summary table of Phase 1 treatment areas – [see handout here](#)
  - Project remains at about 25,000 acres. Mostly ladder fuel work with primary method is mechanical mastication.
  - Obtained resources to fund archeological surveys for all areas that were identified as potentially needing surveys for possible mechanical fuels work. About 4,000 acres being surveyed. Work in progress now.
  - Planning Phase is fully funded and should be complete this year.
  - Detailed presentation at September ACCG meeting. Letter of support from ACCG expected prior to ENF decision.
  - UMRWA recently awarded Cal Fire grant which will fund implementation of about 12% of Phase 1. Pre-application to SNC for next 10-12% to be submitted at end of month.
- Phase 2:
  - Meeting held this past month with ENF Supervisor to confirm approach and plan for getting PM and Env. Planning assistance.
  - Discussion held this past month with others engaged in similar efforts.
  - Reviewed preliminary physical scope in Calaveras and Amador Ranger Districts. Potentially 220,000 acres.
  - RFP issued beginning of the Month. Proposals due by August 1. Selection by mid-August. Key deliverables of initial scope of work:
    - Prepare Draft Work plan (description, goals, objectives, major tasks to achieve NEPA/CEQA compliance, preliminary schedule, and budget)
    - Outreach and Communication Plan
    - Fundraising Strategy
    - Meeting Organization and Facilitation (kick off TAC and Stakeholder group)
  - UMRWA is looking to ACCG as a partner in Phase 2 and it should be seen as an ACCG sponsored effort. This will be critical to obtaining funding.

John Buckley asked what the \$1-3 million would actually cover for Phase 2.

- Richard said to getting the programmatic EIS to completion would be perhaps covered by that, but to cover the surveys needed would cost additionally. But that figure of the total budget will be clearer in a few months.
- John estimated that \$8million is the rough estimate for survey work alone.

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- Richard added that about 10% of the survey work for Phase 2 will already be completed in Phase 1, and that the total budget

### **CA Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) Regional Climate Collaboratives Program UMRWA's pre-application**

After the June general meeting discussion, Michael Pickard had a follow up conversation with SGC to determine whether this funding program was appropriate for funding ACCG administration and that ACCG's focus fits the funding program of work. Outcome of the meeting -- the ACCG's focus does fit within the SGC program of work, but unwilling to grant awards less than \$500K, which is far more than what would be needed to fund the Administrator for 3 years. Michael and Richard Sykes developed and submitted UMRWA's pre-application to SGC on July 15 for \$500K. The pre-application included:

- ACCG Administration/Facilitation
- Tribal stipend
- FPP Phase 2 Project Coordinator
- ACCG member stipend funding to participate on FPP Phase 2 TAC
- Phase 2 surveys

Also required to have co-applicants for the grant – like a letter of intent, co-applications would agree to work with UMRWA to finish the grant deliverables, but with no fiscal responsibility. They identified 5 co-applicants for the pre-application, including CSERC, SFL, FC, USFS STF and USFS ENF. There was a question about who can be co-applicants for this grant application. Michael emphasized that only ACCG members (revised MOA signatories) should be co-applicants. Meeting participant also mentioned that the local RCD is interested in applying for this application.

Richard Sykes added UMRWA is always searching for additional funds for Phase 2 and reminded the group that this would directly benefit ACCG. Richard will be discussing this funding program to the UMRWA Board at their upcoming meeting. But that submitting this pre-application does not mean we have to submit the full grant application, and if the ACCG does not give full support then UMRWA will not submit a full application.

Meeting participant concerns:

- whether ACCG is or should be a climate collaborative;
- who the co-applicants should be;
- original intent was just for ACCG Administration support, but it's changed to \$500K;
- a stipend for any entity to attend ACCG meetings;
- premature to ask for Phase 2 funding when the project is not clearly defined yet.

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Comment made about how it wasn't clear in the pre-application about how ACCG is already focused on a climate-related issue – reducing wildfires, which directly impacts greenhouse gases from wildfires,

Comment in the chat - not have potential funding lead to divisiveness in the group.

UMRWA will wait to hear back from SGC before taking next steps, probably sometime in August.

### **Arnold-Avery Project Update**

Presenter: Kellin Brown

Update highlights:

Unit 907a (14.8 acres) was added to the project. PIF went out the Specialist in April 2022, returned and signed by the Ranger and DM signed in May 2022. Contractors have already treated the unit. This unit originally got overlooked in the original DM.

Carinna Robertson added that the treatment wasn't controversial (just mastication), but that since the contractors were already working in Unit 907, FS wanted to push this through quickly so the contractors that were already out there could get the work done.

## **UPDATES**

### **Administrative Work Group Update**

Megan Layhee gave the Admin WG update. Discussed the inquiry from the Dept of Conservation and Water Resources for an ACCG interview. Group discussed YSS' experience with this 1-hr long interview process and asked if anyone would be interested in participating to reach out to Megan. Also talked about the next steps for finding a new Administrator – posting flyers in the area.

### **Planning Work Group Update**

Megan Layhee gave the Planning WG update. The Planning WG met on June 22<sup>nd</sup> via Zoom. They had an update on the development of the ACCG Shared Vision Tribal Engagement, had a debrief on June 15th YSS/STF SERAL Project presentation, discussed upcoming general meetings and topics, and had participant and project-related updates. Next meeting is July 27<sup>th</sup> via Zoom starting at 9am.

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## Monitoring Work Group Update

Chuck Loffland gave the Monitoring WG update. The work group did not meet in July. The Monitoring WG Symposium did happen though on July 14 (virtual day 1) and July 15 (field trip on the Power Fire), and first step to bridging the gap between ACCG and SOFAR.

## Funding Coordination Work Group Update

Michael Pickard gave the FCWG update. Group did not meet in July, but next meeting will be next month in August

## Roundtable

Carl Rideen with Spatial Informatics Group is working with the CA Wildfire Resilience Task Force and helping them with their interagency tracking system. And requested that ACCG share project spatial data. Megan will follow up with the link to the shapefile. Links provided in the chat by Carl:

- <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/forest-wildland-stewardship-interagency-tracking-system/>
- <https://sig-gis.com/roadmap-to-a-million-acres-rma-strategy/>

Rich – UMRWA Board meeting this Friday at 10am is via Zoom and in-person at Pardee.

Carinna – McKays Project DM has been signed.

Chuck – rotating acting district ranger, currently is Chip Morrell.

Steve Brink – Liz Berger, R5 Deputy Regional Forester for Resources is going on detail DC office for the Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff Officer at end of July and Alison will be the acting R5 Deputy Regional Forester.

Michael Pickard – SNC Forest Health grant is still open, concept proposal is due on July 29<sup>th</sup>. And to call Michael with questions.

John H. – the Pine Acres FB that was put in by Amador FSC, the CAL FIRE CYA Camp and PG&E held against the Electra Fire.

Dan Ganas – GVCC is working with Tuolumne FSC and others, but looking to expand into prescribed burning, surveys and anything else, so GVCC is looking to connect with the ACCG to find build partnerships.

Phil D'Amo – new Fuels Technician Jorge Pacheco, lost Forester so they will be posting that position to.

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John Sikora – El Dorado Chapter of Trout Unlimited, group is focusing on restoration in the Caldor Fire, particularly the ENF hazard tree removal project and what will be proposed for stream buffers and the use of felling hazard trees used to reduce sedimentation into streams.

Mary Boblet – Lilac Park community applied and was awarded a CAL FIRE Fire Prevention grant. Need fiscal sponsor.

Next meeting is August 17<sup>th</sup> virtual only.

### Meeting Participants

Count	Name	Affiliation	Time Committed to Meeting
1	Megan Layhee	ACCG Administrator (co-Meeting Facilitator) in-person	3.0
2	Richard Sykes	UMRWA	3.0
3	Meredith Sierra	Foothill Conservancy (in person)	3.0
4	John Heissenbuttal	Heissenbuttel Natural Resource Consulting, Cal Am Team	3.0
5	Rich Farrington	UMRWA Board (in person)	3.0
6	Sue Holper	ACCG member	3.0
7	Marie Powers	Calaveras Big Trees Association	3.0
8	Regine Miller	UMRWA, Landmark Environmental	3.0
9	John Buckley	CSERC	3.0
10	Carinna Robertson	STF CRD (in person)	3.0
11	Michael Pickard	SNC	3.0
12	Chuck Loffland	ENF, Amador RD (in person)	3.0
13	Manny Eicholz	CSERC	3.0
14	Paul Prescott	Calaveras Big Trees Association	3.0
15	Kellin Brown	STF, Calaveras RD	1.0
16	Jan Bray	Cal Am Team	1.5
17	Pat McGreevy	Cal Am Team	1.5
18	George Dondero	CHIPS	3.0
19	Kaylie Dillashaw	Cal Am Team	1.5
20	Emily Dondero	?	1.5
21	Mary Boblet	Consultant	3.0
22	Philip D'Amo	BLM	3.0
23	John Sikora	Trout Unlimited	3.0
24	Steve Brink	CFA	3.0
25	Steve Cannon	RFP, ARCD	3.0
26	Chuck Beckman	EBMUD	3.0
27	Carl Rideen	Spatial Informatics Group	3.0
28	Marie Davis	Placer County Water Agency	3.0
29	Bud Hoekstra	Private citizen	3.0
30	Julia Costello	?	3.0

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31	Dan Ganas	GVCC	3.0
32	Linda Diesem	Private citizen	3.0