

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes September 21st, 2022, meeting via Zoom

Meeting Brief

- Meeting facilitator: Chuck Loffland
- Regine Miller gave a brief update on UMRWA’s Strategic Growth Council pre-application and also an update on Forest Projects Plan (FPP) Phase 1 & 2.
- John Buckley gave a brief overview of the State Funding meeting he attended this week and about the CA Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force SN Region Meeting being held in Grass Valley on Sept. 27th.
- ACCG Work Group updates.
- Roundtable updates.

Action Items

Actions	Responsible Parties
Post final version of meeting agenda to the ACCG website.	Layhee
Send out August general meeting brief summary to ACCG this week for comments, then post to website on Friday.	Layhee
Follow up on 2019 ENF LiDAR.	ENF
Send out Task Force meeting info to full ACCG later today: https://wildfiredtaskforce.org/sierra-nevada-regional-meeting/ .	Layhee
Include on the October general meeting agenda a discussion on the Task Force meeting.	Layhee

Summary

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

There were no suggested modifications to the agenda. Megan will post final version of the agenda “DRAFT” watermark removed to the ACCG website. Megan will send out August general meeting brief summary to ACCG this week for comments, then post to website on Friday.

Presentations & Discussions

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

Presenter: Regine Miller

Update highlights:

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Did not submit full application because: there was voiced concerns from some ACCG members that the ACCG was not a climate collaborative, concern over UMRWA partnering with some ACCG members to ensure the grant deliverables, and the fact that SCG received 4-5 times funding requests than they had funding for. Instead, there will be additional future funding opportunities, so ultimately UMRWA decided not to move forward with a full application.

- John Buckley thanked UMRWA for addressing his and others concerns, and although CSERC was willing to stand aside, he added that he thought it is better for full ACCG support for something like this.

Forest Projects Plan (FPP) Update

Presenter: Regine Miller

Update highlights:

Phase 1: on schedule; some specialist reports have been drafted including the botany report, wildlife report should be drafted next week; InContext consulting Arch have been timely and on track to complete field surveys and report to Chuck H. by October 15th; specialist reports on track and no major issues so far; expecting to draft decision memo to Planning work group by October 21st and ask for consensus recommendation for Phase 1 support on October 26th. USFWS Consultation (Jeff Mabe) staff seem to have everything they need from the BA, so there shouldn't be any issues. November 16th general meeting will present.

Phase 2: Cardno was awarded the Phase 2 team contract (\$50K budget); kickoff meeting on Sept 7th with Phase 1 team, Phase 2 team (Cardno) and FS staff from both districts – reviewed scope of work that Cardno is contracted to perform for preliminary planning; id team and id possible TAC members and stakeholder group members; this initial effort will hopefully serve as a spring board for additional planning funding; work plan for Phase 2 planning development of an communication and outreach and engagement plan and develop fundraising strategy for balance of Phase 2 planning and will coordinate and facilitate initial ID team, TAC, stakeholder and ACCG meeting updates ; formation of TAC at the start of 2023; SNC funding request for Phase 2 planning up to the point of scoping (\$740K request) – approved to submit a full application at the end of October; see ACCG as a partner on Phase 2 like Phase 1.

There was a question about planning timing for Phase 2 – Regine said to begin in early 2023. There was also a question about BA and BE timing - Regine said that Cardno will identify that timing as part of their scope of work.

Coleen Shade (Cardno) reiterated what Regine had said that Cardno is charged with developing a program of work for the entire Phase 2. They plan to have more information out in December with dates for TAC and stakeholder meetings for 2023.

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State Funding Update

John Buckley gave an overview of a meeting he attended yesterday; the context -- he reminded the group of the products developed by the ACCG SLAWG and UMRWA's work and that the districts have a good sense of where projects need to happen; he added that the state has agencies that are working together to decide where forest health funding should go. Regional Resource Tool Kit (prioritize where projects should occur) will be required to be used to apply for state funding. Include regional metrics and assessments and grant inventory. Apply elements and metrics that are going to help stakeholders justify getting funding for a project. TCSI 10 pillars of resilience framework, with 3 metrics per pillar, 30 metrics are going to produce a common set of data applied. Next week there is CA Wildfire and resilience Task Force Meeting in Grass Valley and there they will go into greater detail about these products. Link to meeting page was provided in the Zoom chat: <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/sierra-nevada-regional-meeting/>.

Chuck asked John if the TCSI pillars are the same as ENF's Resilient Strategy pillars. As far as John knows they are the same. Chuck also recommended to the FPP Phase 1 team to use Phase 1 as a test run of the toolkit.

Coleen added that she is also pretty sure that the pillars are the same; the Sierra Nevada bioregion is the first bioregion to come out with a plan and a tool; and that there are at least 4 different modeling tools being used to identify values and priorities currently (e.g., 10 Pillars TCSI and North Yuba Project, Vibrant Planet developed Land Tender; ForSys; and now the Resource Toolkit). Cardno will be working with Stantec modelers to better understand the different options to help inform the process that Phase 2 will use.

John added that Patrick Wright was emphasizing consistency in terms of the modeling approaches used. And that it was mentioned that ForSys may be the tool used.

John Heissenbuttel thanked John Buckley for bringing this to the ACCG's attention. He added that he and others would need to understand who developed and what went into each pillar of resilience. He added that what he sees happening is that rather than building from the bottom up based on local knowledge, this new tool is more based on what the state feels is most important. Another variable to consider for grantees, which is AB 1717 will require any fuels reduction, fire prevention work funded by state grants will require to pay prevailing wages come Jan. 2024 and affect non-profits Jan. 2025.

John B. – John Battles was saying at the meeting yesterday that the pillar metrics in the kit will allow individual stakeholder groups to choose the three pillars of the 10 pillars to prioritize. Peter Stein will lead the effort related to developing the ForSys model that will be used.

- **Action item:** Megan will send out Task Force meeting info to full ACCG later today: <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/sierra-nevada-regional-meeting/>.

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- **Action item:** Include on the October general meeting agenda a discussion on the Task Force meeting.

UPDATES

Administrative Work Group Update

Megan Layhee gave the Admin WG update. The Admin WG did not meet this month since the Administrator was sick that week. They did however correspond via email to approve this month's general meeting agenda.

Planning Work Group Update

Megan Layhee gave the Planning WG update. The Planning WG met last on August 24th via Zoom. They had an update on FPP Phase 1 and Phase 2 by the FPP team. They reviewed the first draft of the ACCG Shared Vision Statement on TEK and Tribal Engagement developed by the TEK Ad Hoc group, minor suggested modifications to the document were proposed, next revised draft will be reviewed at the September Planning work group meeting. They had a debrief on the ACCG Aug. 18th general meeting presentation about the Power Fire fuels study. They also reviewed upcoming general meeting topics and heard updates about projects and other participant updates.

Monitoring Work Group Update

Chuck Loffland gave the Monitoring WG update. The work group met last on Sept. 14th via Microsoft Teams. They discussed whether or not to have the Caldor Fire field tour and they decided to move forward with it - looking at either the week of October 31st or week of Nov. 7th for the field tour. Tentative list of discussions will need to be honed down, but the idea to help inform Caldor Fire. Follow up with Becky Estes if you have questions or ideas.

Funding Coordination Work Group Update

Megan - gave the FCWG update. Group did not meet in September, but next meeting will tentatively be next month on October 11th.

Roundtable

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Megan – still working on finding a new Administrator; will send out the Taskforce meeting information to the full ACCG after the meeting.

Carinna Robertson – Arnold Avery project, all 3,000-acres will get treated. McKays field tour with SNC yesterday for potential funding. GNA with Calaveras County was put on the back burner, but it will be signed at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Also, working on GNA with Alpine County early next fiscal year (will help with FS support if more partners coming forward for FPP). She plans on attending the Task Force meeting next week to help her forest understand what has to be done FPP.

Helen Loffland – working with UMRWA on the WCB Aspen Project and will be providing an overview presentation of the project to both the Monitoring Work Group before the end of the year and also a presentation to the Planning Work Group in Jan. 2023.

Jeff Mabe – will try participate at ACCG meetings more often into the future.

John Heissenbuttel – McKays project is going to submit Cal Am Team proposal to SNC for implementation. Amador FSC just put out RFPs for contractors to do ingress/egress road clearance work on private lands throughout Amador County. Work started on county roads from Cal Fire grants. Mastication projects to create community fuelbreaks. Asked the group to tell contractors about their RFPs.

John Buckley – added about Carinna's update that Jason wants consistency between FPP Phase 2 and SERAL, but clarification that Jason is presenting next week and will clarify how the SERAL approach will be applicable to the new Resource toolkit.

Rich Farrington – no UMRWA-related update. Rich did share concerns about process paralysis with the 10 pillars and appreciative that just 3 pillars will be focused.

Thurman – S212 training is happening for CHIPS crews with help from Sierra Institute. Yurok and other tribes are also interested in getting the training for their crews as well. Also working with Shasta, Lake Tahoe and Columbia Colleges to possibly develop training and workforce development programs for tribal communities, with a standardized curriculum that colleges can follow. Craig Case is the new Executive Director for CHIPS.

John B. – replied to Thurman's update by saying that there is funding right now through workforce and education training (SERF) for seven counties. That there is opportunity for partners to participate with Columbia College or others to figure out how to build workforce training program to be eligible for contractor positions or FS positions. Noted that over half of the contracts going out for SERAL are from out of state

Heather Reith - Staff is working and prepping for burns in South Grove and North Grove, will provide a more detailed update at a later meeting.

Chuck – Forest Supervisor is moving on to WO once Mosquito Fire is handled, detail role will be coming soon. Foster Meadow project – currently there are active revegetation work going on

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right now. In terms of the Amador RD District position – Karl Goodman is the acting in detail through the holidays.

Next meeting is October 19th via Zoom and in-person at the Calaveras RD office.

Meeting Participants

Count	Name	Affiliation	Time Committed to Meeting
1	Megan Layhee	ACCG Administrator (co-Meeting Facilitator) in-person	1.25
2	John Heissenbuttal	Heissenbuttel Natural Resource Consulting, Cal Am Team	1.25
3	Rich Farrington	UMRWA Board	1.25
4	Regine Miller	UMRWA, Landmark Environmental	1.25
5	John Buckley	CSERC	1.25
6	Carinna Robertson	STF, Calaveras RD	1.25
7	Chuck Loffland	ENF, Amador RD, Meeting Facilitator	1.25
8	Manny Eicholz	CSERC	1.25
9	Chuck Beckman	EBMUD	1.25
10	Linda Diesem	Private citizen	1.25
11	Jeff Mabe	ENF	1.25
12	Thurman Roberts	CHIPS	1.25
13	Coleen Shade	Cardno	1.25
14	Ray Cablayan	STF, Calaveras RD	1.25
15	Heather Reith	CA State Parks	1.25
16	Helen Loffland	IBP	1.25