

# Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Notes October 19th, 2022, meeting via Zoom

## Meeting Brief

- Meeting facilitator: Megan Layhee
- The ACCG TEK & Tribal Engagement Ad Hoc group presented the draft shared vision statement. Revisions will be made based on member concerns and a revised version will come before the ACCG at the November general meeting.
- Richard Sykes gave a brief update on Forest Projects Plan (FPP) Phase 1 and 2.
- Meeting participants briefly discussed the take aways from the CA Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force SN Regional Meeting that was held in September.
- Work group updates.
- Roundtable updates.

## Action Items

Actions	Responsible Parties
Post final version of meeting agenda to the ACCG website.	Layhee
Revise the ACCG shared vision on TEK and Tribal Engagement and bring the revised version to the ACCG at the November 16th general meeting to seek a consensus support, once concerns are addressed.	Rich Farrington John Heissenbuttel ACCG TEK Ad Hoc
Send out a reminder and the Phase 1 project materials on Friday, Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup> to the full ACCG to review ahead of the Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> planning work group meeting.	Layhee
Check to see if there is a Task Force summary of the Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup> field tour on their website.	Layhee

## Summary

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

There were no suggested modifications to the agenda or last month's meeting summary. Megan will post final versions of these documents on the website and remove the "DRAFT" watermark before doing so.

## Presentations & Discussions

### Consensus item -- ACCG Shared Vision on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) & Tribal

#### Engagement

Presenter: Rich Farrington representing ACCG TEK Ad Hoc

Discussion highlights:

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- An overview of the purpose and status of the draft shared vision ([supplemental material 03](#)) was provided to meeting participants.
- Concern was raised that the current version of the shared vision is focusing engagement on the TEK subject with only one entity, and was suggested that the shared vision be focused just on TEK and not on engaging with any particular entity. Others cautioned that by doing this the importance of emphasizing that tribes have the knowledge and expertise associated with TEK would be lost, and that tribes should be called out as experts in the topic in the shared vision.

**Action item:** Rich Farrington will work with John Heissenbuttel to address John's concerns and make revisions to the shared vision statement. Then the revised shared vision statement would come before the ACCG at the November 16<sup>th</sup> general meeting to seek a consensus support.

## Forest Projects Plan (FPP) Phase 1 and Phase 2 Update

Presenter: Richard Sykes

Update highlights:

- Phase 1: project is still on track, emphasis on ACCG marking their calendars for the October 26<sup>th</sup> ACCG Planning Work Group meeting where the Phase 1 team will be presenting and asking the work group for a consensus recommendation on the project. Also, that Megan would be sending out a reminder and the Phase 1 project materials on Friday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> for folks to be able to review ahead of the Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Phase 2: Cardno, contracted to UMRWA as the Phase 2 Leadership Team, are drafting work plan for completing NEPA/CEQA, began soliciting members for together the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), will be applying for an SNC planning grant in October, and anticipates the level of engagement that the Phase 1 team had with ACCG will be similar for Phase 2. FPP is UMRWA's top priority project at this time.

**Action item:** Megan will send out a reminder and the Phase 1 project materials on Friday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> for folks to be able to review ahead of the Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Sierra Nevada Regional September Meeting Debrief and Takeaways

- Group reviewed the list of take aways the Planning work Group discussed during their September meeting ([supplemental material 06](#)).

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- Group further discussed what appears to be the direction of the state and R5 in terms of large-landscape planning (i.e., Regional Resource Kits, Pillars of Resilience, and Planscape).

**Action item:** Megan will see if there are any summaries or documentation of the Task Force field tour that happened in September.

## 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 September 28<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. The group reviewed and discussed the ACCG Shared Vision on TEK and Tribal Engagement and ultimately provided a consensus recommendation on the version seen at today's meeting. The group heard a brief update on FPP Phase 1. The group discussed the take aways from the September 27<sup>th</sup> CA Wildfire Task Force SN Region meeting. The group had a brief continuation of internal work group discussion on FPP Phase 2. Also discussed upcoming general meetings and topics, and had participant and project-related updates.

### **Monitoring Work Group Update**

Chuck Loffland gave the Monitoring WG update. The work group met last on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> and a number of times since then. Main topic is Caldor Fire Field Tour. Landed on a date – Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. Official notice will be available this week and Megan will share with the ACCG.

- Steve Brink asked if tethered treatments will be a topic at the Caldor tour. Chuck said he didn't think so, but that the focus for the tour is more about restoration and regeneration. Chuck added that biomass removal is a big question since there is no mill/biomass plant capacity.

### **Funding Coordination Work Group Update**

Megan gave the FCWG update. Group did not meet in October, but they will tentatively meet on November.

## **Roundtable**

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Chuck Loffland - crews are wrapping up for the year, and annual reports are being drafted and completed. Suggest folks attend the Caldor Field Tour.

Rich Farrington – Amador-El Dorado Forest Forum ([forestforum.org](http://forestforum.org)) is tonight and former CAL FIRE Director (Ken Pimlott) will be speaking about the Veneto Declaration setting up a plan on mega-fire crisis. Tomorrow Rich will be attending the Association of CA Water Agencies Region 3 is holding a conference in Calaveras County – “Fire, Water and Wine”.

Sue Holper – some health issues and will be planning to attend more.

Richard Sykes – other things UMRWA is working on besides FPP is grants through Dept of Water Resources for Calaveras County Water District treatment plant upgrades, also application for water treatment upgrades for Calaveras Public Utilities District, and trying to execute a contract with Amador Water Agency and Foothill Conservancy for conservation work in Amador County.

Steve Brink – ENF acting forest supervisor is Jim Bacon. Also, reemphasized tethered operating equipment can be used for steep slopes for thinning, mastication, and vegetation removal using skidders or skyline (and 7-8 active tethered operations are currently happening in the state). On the ground tours of tethered. Also the importance of using tethered equipment for building fire lines on steep slopes, instead of sending hand crews down. Lastly, ENF is the first forest in the region using the new Fuelbreak CE in the infrastructure act by the forest and Great Basin Institute (GBI) near Grizzly Flatts with 4 evacuation routes with fuelbreaks on both sides, completed in four months.

- Carinna – cost per acre for tethered. Steve said its between what it costs for regular tractor and skyline, and it depends on how much tree/veg removal you’re doing.

Carinna Robertson – trying to get some hazard tree sales on the district (white fir predominately in Hemlock), including in the Hemlock project area, in some campground and admin sites up the hill, and along Hwy 4 near Ebbetts Pass. Reached out to Cal Trans and work with them to address the dead tree issue to start up next year. A-A project almost done (all 3,000 acres completed). Calaveras County GNA is waiting for one more signature and submitted the first SPA with Calaveras County. Second SPA with Calaveras County will be developed soon. Cal Am Team is submitting an application to SNC this month for implementation on the McKays Project.

- Steve asked about white fir and researchers are saying that it is linked to drought (lack of water).

Craig Case – CHIPS crews finished up in the Tahoe Basin and Yosemite up to the first snow, in the winter season crews will work down in the Tule River Reservation until their winter sets in. Thurman will be working with the Tule Reservation to continue to develop partnership with CHIPS.

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Ray Cablayan – at the forest level continuing to hire new staff, process is slow. Lifting of the 90-day on prescribed burning for a formal review. Out of that review, at the forest level, came several new Rx burn requirements. Agency Administrator/Line Officer have to spend a certain amount of time on a burn is an example of one of the new requirements.

- Steve Brink – noted that it appears that the Agency Administrator/Line Officer staff have to clear their calendars during a burn. Ray agreed that there is a big commitment. Will it create an increase in resources needed for a burn?

Next meeting is November 16<sup>th</sup> via Zoom and in-person at the Amador County Building in Jackson.

## Meeting Participants

Count	Name	Affiliation	Meeting Time
1	Megan Layhee	ACCG Administrator (co-Meeting Facilitator) in-person	2.5
2	John Heissenbuttal	Heissenbuttel Natural Resource Consulting, Cal Am Team	2.5
3	Rich Farrington	UMRWA Board	2.5
4	Kelsey Retich	STF, Calaveras RD (in-person)	2.5
5	Carinna Robertson	STF, Calaveras RD (in-person)	2.5
6	Chuck Loffland	ENF, Amador RD	2.5
7	Chuck Beckman	EBMUD (in-person)	2.5
8	Linda Diesem	Private citizen	2.5
9	Craig Case	CHIPS (in-person)	2.5
10	Richard Sykes	UMRWA	2.5
11	Steve Brink	CA Forestry Association (in-person)	2.5
12	Ray Cablayan	STF, Calaveras RD (in person)	2.5
13	Gerald Schwartz	EBMUD	2.5
14	Sue Holper	Private citizen	2.5
15	Brian Brown	ENF	2.5