

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Brief Summary 05/17/2023, via Zoom and Amador County Building

Meeting Brief

- Meeting facilitator: Chuck Loffland
- Guest presentation: Golden State Natural Resources Wood Pellet Product Update
- Consensus item – Chris Trott new member
- Guest presentation: Joe Flannery with Vibrant Planet on their decision support tool, Land Tender
- Roundtable updates and Work group updates.

Action Items

Actions	Responsible Parties
Post final version of meeting agenda to the ACCG website.	Layhee
Update the Member list on the website and file Chris Trott's MOA signature letter into the Admin file	Layhee
Work group to go on hiatus until a meeting is warranted by the group.	Funding Coordination Work Group
Recirculate last month's <i>revised</i> meeting summary.	Layhee

Summary

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

The meeting's agenda was approved and will be finalized and added to the website. The April general meeting summary will be recirculated for review after the Administrator incorporates the notes provided to her by John Buckley.

A brief introduction to ACCG's new Administrator, Lisa Lucke, was then provided.

Presentations & Discussions

Golden State Natural Resources Wood Pellet Product Update

Presenters: Chris Trott

Project overview, background: Chris provided a power point presentation and overview of GSNR's wood pellet product project. He started with a brief overview of who GSNR are – subsidiary of Rural County Representatives of CA (RCRC) and a non-profit benefit forests resiliency company. And because they are run by county supervisors, their goal is to create sustain in able businesses in the rural community and reduce wildfire threats to communities. The project is estimated to use about 2 million tons/year of forest-derived sustainably-harvested biomass at 2 wood pellet plants and export up to 1 million metric tons/year of wood

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pellets offshore to mainly replace coal in power plants. With approximately \$520 million capital investment required. There is a 20-year MSA in place with USFS Region 5.

Project Status: GSNR approaching implementation phase for the two pellet processing facilities in Lassen County and Tuolumne County and one port facility at Port of Stockton. He listed several key components that still need solidifying including; biomass feedstock supply, plant site design, development and operations, port site development and operations, environmental and permitting, transportation (rail and truck) and logging capacity, offtake (pellet sales) and workforce development.

Overview of Central Sierra Site, Keystone, Tuolumne County: will produce 300K metric tons/year of wood pellets on a 60-acre site. All engineering is completed. At full load operation, employ 50 full-time people, process average of 80 truckloads of chips and logs per day to Oakland by 8 rail cars/day to Port of Stockton.

Overview of Northern California Site, Nubieber, Lassen County: will produce 700K metric tons/year of wood pellets on a 65-acre site, with an additional 40+ acres. All pre-engineering is completed. At full load operation, employ 60-65 full-time people, process average of 200 truckloads of chips and logs per day to Oakland by 25 rail cars/day to Port of Stockton.

Overview of Port Site, Export Terminal at Port of Stockton: develop the facility to receive, store, and load pellets on bulk ships. GSNR will own unloading, storage and ship-loading equipment. FEL 1 pre-engineering completed, but FEL 2 and FEL 3 engineering in process. Will include pellet storage silos and ship loading conveyor.

Feedstock Availability: GIS-based analysis looked at 100 miles radius of each processing site. These studies evaluated standing biomass columns by ownership, biomass residuals from timber harvest, and existing sawmill residuals available, estimated haul miles and times to service transportation costs. Excluded - PACs, riparian buffers, roadless areas, and wilderness. 5 million acres of practically accessible still green timberland in Northern CA supply region (which includes southern OR), including 48% on USFS lands, 18% on non-industrial private lands and the 32% on industrial private lands and the rest on BLM/BIA lands. And 1.8 million acres of practicality accessible still green timberland in Central Sierra supply region, including 46% on USFS lands, 40% on non-industrial private lands and the remaining on industrial private lands.

Question was asked about the analysis time frame and what constitutes available feedstock. Chris responded that the analysis was run in the last 18 months and that all of the standing green material is considered.

Tuolumne County site is estimated biomass volume 4 times of what the plant will use, within the 100-mile radius. Forest-derived feedstock will be a mix of: timber harvest residues (top piles, stacked burn piles), post-wildfire rehab efforts, unmerchantable roundwood logs removed in thinning, chips from biomass thinning and fuel reduction, and sawmill residues.

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Lassen County site is estimated biomass volume 5 times of what the plant will use, within the 100-mile radius. Forest-derived feedstock will be a mix of the same mentioned above for the Tuolumne County site.

While showing a slide picture of a shaded fuelbreak pile, John Buckley asked Chris Trot to clarify and reiterate what will get used at the facilities – and this is both logs and sticks.

CEQA: Currently working through CEQA for both pellet plants and port. Public meetings already happened. Revised notice of preparation for public input, next week, couple minor tweaks, and with that there will be a 30-day input periods and more meetings. Draft EIR for public review in expected in July 2023. Go to GSNR website to stay involved. Final EIR cert would be ideally in November 2023.

Next steps/targets: Expected that in Q2 of 2024, to begin receiving and stockpiling biomass feedstock, mainly otherwise unmerchantable logs in 2024 until plant operations begin. Chain of custody and sustainability certifications is what Chris is working on right now. Ultimately, 2024 is the first year for production, as mentioned above and in 2025 expected to begin pellet plant operations.

Q&A with participants:

Stan asked if there was a difference in viability of burned logs than green slash. Essentially Chris answered that the dryer the better. Dryer materials equate to less drying processing steps.

Michael asked if they anticipate in the first two years whether feedstock will be coming mostly from the large wildfire scars? Chris responded that yes, but burn material only lasts about 5 years for a pellet facility. So, the target 80 truckloads at the Tuolumne site will require a mix of burned and green resources.

John H. mentioned that 200 truckloads a day is about a million board feet a day, so around 300 million board feet per year. He added that the sawmill in Nubieber went bust because of supply. He added that he would be nervous about supply, and asked Chris if he was. Chris responded that multiple issues were linked to the sawmill going bust, including the fact that the mill was only working within the USFS working circle (essentially USFS wasn't able to provide the volume for the sawmill). Chris added that GSNR's pellet plants will reach out a lot further than the FS working circle. The biggest challenge is not the wood, but the trucks and truck drivers, and to increase logging infrastructure to actually be produced.

John B. mentioned that although CSERC is supportive of biomass utilization, he echoes what John H. shared, and added three points: (1) that 40% of what is supposed to come from non-industrial forest property is really debatable whether these property owners will engage and provide the wood product; (2) USFS lands supply would come from STF and some from ENF, and some from Sierra NF, but we will

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have to wait and see if these forests product supply play out and actually be feasible. And (3) process that is being decided by RCRC (GSNR being a subsidiary to RCRC) is a bit controversial.

Steve D. (CAL FIRE) asked if there will be transfer yards in neighboring counties to the pellet plants. Chris said that transfer yards might not necessarily be needed, but satellite log yards might be developed for the Tuolumne site, including one in the north (ENF) and south (Sierra NF). But these satellite log yards have not been identified yet, but personally thinks they are going to be necessary.

New ACCG Member – Chris Trott

ACCG members came to consensus on Chris Trott, CT Bioenergy becoming a member of the ACCG.

Action item: Megan will update the Member list on the website and file Chris Trott's MOA signature letter into the Admin file.

Vibrant Planet's Land Tender

Presenters: Joe Flannery

See video recording on [ACCG website](#).

UPDATES

Roundtable

- Michael - SNC wildfire resilience grant is open, and June 17th close date for concept proposals, email Michael if you need assistance with developing proposals.
- Richard - since the last general meeting, UMRWA was awarded a 7 million grant for Phase 1 implementation, including half million funds phase 2 planning.
- John H. - CAL Fire crew were on River Pines FB project. Will pass along the video when it becomes available.
- Ray – district-wise Rx burning on Arnold-Avery, conditions are favorable, crews are split between Hwy 4 and Hwy 108.
- Carinna - last season in A-A and why it's ready to burn. McKays in early June. Stanislaus Hazard tree project comment period closed last week. Several green sales (6) on district.
- Chuck - still digging out from snow and figure it out what the roads are like, Ellis Road closed. Salt Springs road slide on STF side, PGE is working on clearing. Salt Springs Road is now open to before that point. State has also requested another round of snow surveys.

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Had an UMRWA-FS Phase 1 CAL FIRE pre-op meeting this week. Essentially most of the district is still covered in snow, which is an issue for implementation.

- CSERC - quarterly Task Force meeting is worth sitting in
- Michael - still trying to see how the inflation reduction act funding is going to go, not a whole lot of info and or Fuji x coming down.
- Coleen - agent to the Task Force, streamlining partnerships down the road, examples of tribal partnerships, meetings are recorded, like John mentioned. FPP Phase 2 TAG kick off meeting happened the afternoon after the April general meeting, made up of FS resource specialists and technical expertise folks. Next meeting in August for TAG, and also discussed
- Regine - emphasis on collaborative planning and implementation, priority investment funding. FPP Phase 1 CAL FIRE funded \$5 million grant project UMRWA operations team had a meeting with the FS yesterday. Issued a pre-application last week for potential bidders.
- Megan

Work Group Updates

Admin work group – The group met last on May 8th, approved this meeting draft agenda, and continued discussions on updating ACCG strategic plan. Also discussed with Megan and Lisa that process for training Lisa.

Planning work group – The planning work group did not meet in April, nor did the Forest Plan Amendment Ad Hoc meeting in April or May. The groups are waiting for the ENF-STF leadership team meeting to occur, where leadership will decide on the direction of the Phase 2 project. This is set to happen late May/early June. The Planning work group plans to meet next on May 24th via zoom, and the Ad Hoc group will plan to meet next on June 12th.

- Richard mentioned that Joe and Jason had initial discussions already and that it's leaning toward a single document (e.g., EIS).

Monitoring work group – Group met last on May 10th virtually. Chuck Loffland mentioned that field tour was talked about, the field tour will be on North Yuba that was decided after the work group. Thompson meadow field visit this summer. Talked about access issues for monitoring this summer, including the WCB aspen project. Website work.

- Carinna encourages the Thompson meadow field monitoring since it's been two seasons since the logging happened.
- Regine asked when the workshop was going to be held. The date is TBD in August or early Sept.

Funding Coordination work group – Group met last Tuesday, May 9th, was a short meeting. Michael posed the question to the ACCG whether to put the work group on hiatus. The original

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goal of having the work group was to decrease competition between ACCG members. But currently there is really only one group that goes through the ACCG membership -UMRWA. Is there other purpose? Otherwise suggests that the work group will go on a hiatus.

- Regine added that pre Covid, the idea was to use the work group to ensure certain organizations in the ACCG were not competing for grant funding, including CHIPS, RCDs, Cal Am Team. But that's less of an issue now. She added that using the work group to find funding to support administration is still of value.
- Carinna added that she was hoping the counties would utilize the work group more.
- Richard told Michael that he thought that was the right decision, to take a hiatus. The question of who's in charge for finding funding to retain an Administrator might fall to the Admin work group.
- Megan suggested to Michael to potentially send out a feeler before upcoming funding opportunities to see if there's a need to meet to prep and strategize upcoming funding opportunities.

Group agreed to put the work group on hiatus.

Next general meeting will be on June 21st hybrid via Zoom and in person at the Calaveras RD office.

Meeting Participants

Count	Name	Affiliation	Meeting Time
1	Megan Layhee	ACCG Administrator (in person)	3.0
2	Chuck Loffland	ENF, Amador RD (in person)	3.0
3	Lisa Lucke	New ACCG Administrator (in person)	3.0
4	Joe Flannery	Vibrant Planet (in person)	3.0
5	Chris Trott	CT Bioenergy (in person)	3.0
6	John Buckley	CSERC (in person)	3.0
7	Stan Dodson	CSERC (in person)	3.0
8	Michael Jow	STF (in person)	3.0
9	Katie Ross-Smith	Stantec, FPP Phase 2 (in person)	3.0
10	Coleen Shade	Stantec, FPP Phase 2 (in person)	3.0
11	Regine Miller	Headwaters Environmental (in person)	3.0
12	Ray Cablayan	STF, Calaveras RD (in person)	3.0
13	John Heissenbuttel	Cal Am Team, Heissenbuttel Natural Resource Consulting	3.0
14	Carinna Robertson	STF, Calaveras RD (in person)	3.0
15	Steve D.	CAL FIRE	3.0
16	Corinne Munger	Stantec, FPP Phase 2	3.0
17	Justin Mynk		3.0
18	Richard Sykes	UMRWA	3.0

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19	Michael Pickard	SNC	3.0
20	Brian Brown	ENF	3.0
21	Sue Holper	Private citizen, ACCG member	0.25
22	Mary Boblet	Consultant	3.0
23	Zach Browning	Sierra Institute	2.5
24	Kimberley Petree	El Dorado Band of Miwok Chairwoman, Executive Director of CCAWW	3.0
25	Anna Clare	Stantec	1.5
26	Rosie Gonzales	USFWS	0.25