

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Summary 6/19/2024, via Zoom

Meeting Brief

- Meeting facilitator: John Heissenbuttel
- ACCG Administration update
- ACCG 2024 Field Trip update
- July 2024 SCALE Meeting ACCG update
- Roundtable
- FPP Phase 1 and Phase 2 update
- Work Group updates

Action Items

Actions	Responsible Parties
Update May summary with two suggested edits and then post as final to the website. Post agenda as final to the website.	Layhee
Approved to have M. Layhee provide the ACCG update at the July SCALE meeting. Megan will complete the ACCG update narrative, but will not bring that back to the July meeting for another review.	Layhee
Megan will share with Richard that the ACCG is willing to help UMRWA ask FS for critical funding to complete Phase 2 planning, if needed.	Layhee
Rich will follow up with a Dr. Stephens to see if he is available to present to the ACCG in early 2025 on Dr. Stephens et al 2022 paper, "Mass fire behavior created by extensive tree mortality and high tree density not predicted by operational fire behavior models in the southern Sierra Nevada"	Rich Farrington

PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS

Quick review of the participants, no formal introductions. Review of agenda and last month's meeting summary.

- **Action item:** Two updates to the May summary.

Interim ACCG Administration

- Char Sarkis is the incoming ACCG Administrator. Megan Layhee will continue as acting Administrator while Char is trained up.

2024 ACCG Field Trip

- Purpose: Megan provided an update at planning for a 2024 field trip. Purpose would be to focus stops and discussions on forest health and resilience treatments on the Amador RD in the context of the FPP Phase 2 planning project. The target audience would be the ACCG, particularly those involved in the project.

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- Discussion topics:
 - Need to have enough time at each stop to have quality conversations.
 - Consider a stop at a recently untreated area of the district.
 - Since CSO treatments are a big topic in the AD Hoc, propose two spots for CSO discussions.

July 2024 SCALE meeting

- **Action item:** Megan was approved to provide the ACCG update at the July 2024 SCALE meeting.
- Group went over draft update and made modifications, additions.
- **Action item:** Megan will provide a brief update at the July general meeting, not a detailed discussion on the updated ACCG update language she will provide at the SCALE meeting.

FPP Phase 1 and Phase 2 Update

- Phase 1 Update: Pre-bid meeting on Monday of this week for Phase 1 Arbor and Birch projects totaling, contracts expected to be awarded later this summer. Arch and botany surveys are underway for the Arbor and Birch projects now. Stewardship West will be performing project management and field oversight for Arbor and Birch. Phase 1 88 project under contract with Burnbot has resumed, 2,056 acres to complete. UMRWA should know by later this month whether the WCB board will consider awarding a grant for just under \$7M for the Phase 1 C Cedar Project area, just over 1,800 acres and Phase 2 planning. Regine and Richard are continuing to conduct tribal outreach for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects. UMRWA team will be having a meeting next week to discuss development of a treatment tracking system for the FPP Phase 1 projects. More to come on that.
- Phase 2 Update: ACCG Planning work group will be hosting a FPP Phase 2 Stakeholder meeting June 26th 9-12 via Zoom and in person in Murphys. In person attendance is strongly recommended. Next virtual Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting will be on July 25th to review the results of our modeling effort with the Planscape team. UMRWA executed a grant with SNC for Phase 2 planning for just over \$700K. And As part of the UMRWA WCB implementation grant for Phase 1 Cedar project mentioned earlier, we did ask for a portions (\$620K) of that for Phase 2 planning. We did just received word that we did not get the CAL FIRE FHRP grant for just under \$250K to begin implementation of the FPP Monitoring program. We will be receiving funds through SNC RFFCP Round 3 funding to bring on the FPP Monitoring Coordinator to develop the FPP Monitoring Strategy and as part of that will also be developing a long-term funding plan for monitoring. SNC RFFCP Round 3 will also provide funds for the FPP Tribal Liaison and also to fund the ACCG Administrator for the next year to year and half. The NOI is still in review at the Washington Office. And we are still expecting public scoping in July.
- **Action item:** Group had discussion about getting ACCG to help ask the FS for help funding the FPP Phase 2 planning project. Megan will share with Richard that the ACCG is willing to help UMRWA ask FS for critical funding to complete Phase 2 planning.

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ROUNDTABLE

- Rich Farrington- next UMRWA board meeting has been changed to August to fit the bidding of contracts for Phase 1 project; proposed having a presentation at an upcoming ACCG general meeting on the 2022 Scott Stephens et al paper, "Mass fire behavior created by extensive tree mortality and high tree density not predicted by operational fire behavior models in the southern Sierra Nevada"
 - **Action item:** Rich will follow up with a Dr. Stephens to see if he is available to present to the ACCG in early 2025.
 - Noted that the tree mortality was very different down there than our conditions here in the ACCG landscape, not clear that will have relevance for FPP Phase 2 since we don't have that situation, doesn't mean we shouldn't have the presentation.
- Craig Case – CHIPS Tahoe crews start Monday in LTBMU, another crew near Scotts Lake/Hope Valley and finish that in a couple months and move into Nevada and work with Nev Division of Forestry. Yosemite Crew will start on July 8th and supplemented with Fresno Crew to work together in Yosemite Park. Fresno crew is growing and will work on an urban project near Fresno. Also mentioned that CHIPS is struggling to find new crew members, and though the Sierra Institutes High Roads Initiative is to develop four new crews, the challenge remains in filling these crew positions.
 - John B. - FS is also having staffing issues 35% of staffing for fire crews, suggestion to Craig to reach out to Modesto Bee or other paper to cover this issue
 - Craig- noted that CHIPS will be working with Blue Forestry to help with outreach; and also critical to get training happening; also noted that Irene Vasquez with the Yosemite NF, Southern Sierra Mi Wok has just joined CHIPS board.
- John H.- AFSC has begun the Crestview Project FR project adjacent to Pine Grove (17 acres) that SNC is funding through left over funds from another grant to get this FB completed. Highly visible project, adjacent to housing development. And should be complete before the end of June.
- Sue- is in the process of selling her property in Calaveras County, but a good chance that she'll be staying in the area and continue to engage with the ACCG.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

- Admin work group met last on June 10th via Zoom. They reviewed and approved this general meeting agenda. Also discussed the 2024 ACCG draft field trip itinerary in preparation for this meeting. They also discussed the July SCALE meeting and my offer to provide the update in preparation for this meeting.
- Planning work group met last on May 22nd via Zoom. The group conditioned to have discussions with the UMRWA WCB Aspen project team on reviewed the draft proposed action and hearing an update on the NEPA process and timeline. The work group also discussed the 2024 ACCG field trip and came up with the draft tentative field trip location and initial topics.
- Forest Plan Amendments (FPP Phase 2) Ad Hoc met last on June 10th via Zoom. Group agreed to develop alternative recommendations for CSO territory desired conditions and definitions and to not develop potential management approaches, in light of disagreement on direction to take (e.g., 2019 CSO Strategy vs Sierra-Sequoia NFs Plans). The disagreement lies in whether the Ad

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Hoc recommend to aggressively treat in CSO habitat to minimize future fire, drought, insect, disease risk, or to ere on the side of caution in CSO habitat to maximize short term protection of the CSO that is now to be listed. Wording the Sierra- Sequoia NF Plans would minimize impacts to CSO habitats, low threat to near term. Whereas others would like to flexibility to perform more effective treatments as possible to minimize the risk of future wildfire. Ad Hoc has agreed to disagree, but it's unclear how this will play out with the project and ACCG support. Ad Hoc recommended that UMRWA and two Forests ask the Region to provide them direction.

- Broadcast herbicide application as a potential option for fuelbreak maintenance in the project is another area of concern in terms of water quality. The Planning work group will continue those discussions soon.
- Monitoring Work Group met last on Juen 12th via Teams. The group got an update from UMRWA on FPP monitoring funding opportunities, continued discussions on brining on an FPP Monitoring Coordinator, and discussed next steps for development of field validation of remote sensed data protocols.

Next general meeting: July 17th hybrid via Zoom and in person at the Amador RD office in Pioneer.

Meeting Participants

Count	Name	Affiliation
1	Megan Layhee	ACCG Administrator, UMRWA
2	John Buckley	CSERC
3	Stan Dodson	CSERC
4	John Heissenbuttel	Heissenbuttel Natural Resource Consulting, Cal-Am Team (facilitator)
5	Michael Pickard	SNC
6	Rich Farrington	UMRWA Board, AWA
7	Sue Holper	ACCG member, private citizen
8	Criag Case	CHIPS