

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Summary 9/18/2024, via Microsoft Teams only

MEETING BRIEF

- Meeting facilitator: John Heissenbuttel
- Presentation by Ellie Routt, Executive Director of the Mother Lode Land Trust Overview and Updates
- Roundtable
- MAC 2 update
- ACCG Field Trip debrief
- Work Group updates

ACTION ITEMS

Actions	Responsible Parties
Update “June” to “August” in agenda. Then post agenda and last month’s general meeting summary as final to the website.	Layhee
Share Ellie email’s, share the website link, including the blog and also looking for lead nature hikes. Opportunities Community Harvest Festival October 19 th	Layhee

MEETING OPENING/HOUSEKEEPING

Update “June” to “August” in agenda. Revised draft agenda and last month’s meeting summary approved. Administrator will post the final versions to the ACCG website.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Presentation by Ellie Routt, Executive Director of the Mother Lode Land Trust provide a presentation on “Mother Lode Land Trust Overview and Updates”.

Go to the ACCG website to view Ellie’s presentation: <https://acconsensus.org/resources/videos/>

Action item: Share Ellie email’s, share the website link, including the blog and also looking for lead nature hikes. Opportunities Community Harvest Festival October 19th

ROUNDTABLE

- Richard Sykes- UMRWA board meeting in October to award contract for replacement contract for Phase 1, and presentation on CAL FRAME biomass initiative.
- Jay Francis- SPI extending fuelbreak project and along with additional harvesting in both Calaveras and Amador counties. Next Monday SPI will be having a ribbon cutting at nursery in Northern CA. 6.5M seeds sown for planting next year. Getting up to 25M seedlings by next year. SPI also recently celebrated 300M trees planted across the Sierras.
- Ray Cablayan- just got back from fire. Currently in objection phase of STF forest wide hazard tree removal NEPA. Carinna Robertson will be back from fire next week. Still remain at PL 5 (more fire activity then there are resources). Major fires still in ID, OR and southern CA.

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Summary 9/18/2024, via Microsoft Teams only

- Chuck Loffland- Eldorado NF now has an Acting FS Supervisor Aimee Reed. Rifle hunting season starts this Saturday.
- John Heissenbuttel- Amador FSC was successful in getting grant from CAL FIRE for Volcano Hills Fuelbreak that goes from FB on Buckhorn Ridge (SNC funded) down to Volcano and loops around the town of Volcano. Received another CAL FIRE grant to update county CWPP. Finally, BLM grant to create fuelbreak on BLM lands.

MAC 2 PROJECT UPDATE

Presenters: Richard Sykes and Megan Layhee

Project overview: The objective of the presentation was to provide the ACCG an update on the Mokelumne Amador Calaveras Forest Health and Resilience Project, Phase 2 (MAC Phase 2) planning effort- a forest health and resilience planning effort and in the midst of analyzing approximately 250,000 acres on the Amador RD and Calaveras RD. The purpose and need include reducing safety hazards, restoring ecosystem health and resilience, promoting a fire-resilient landscape, and maintaining and supporting local economies. The proposed project actions include: forest thinning, mechanical fuels treatments, prescribed fire, FB construction, invasive species management, ecological restoration, maintenance of the already mentioned treatment types, removal of wood products, hazard tree removal to facilitate safe project implementation, treatment access, and potential forest plan amendments.

Update on public scoping and Notice of Intent (NOI): provided an overview of the tentative project timeline, scoping package contents, and opportunities for input, including the 30-day scoping period to begin once the NOI is filed in the federal register, which is anticipated to happen this week or the next.

Overview of preliminary project conceptual alternatives: three conceptual alternatives and a no action alternative. Overall difference in the three conceptual alternatives is to balance between safety and resilience goals with minimizing impacts to resources. Presenters noted that the NOI/scoping package does not include this suite of conceptual alternatives, instead the team will use scoping public comments to develop the project alternatives.

Modeling, analysis update: presenters gave a broad overview of the work the team is doing with the Planscape Team and initial results of ForSys runs, also delineation of the initial fuelbreak network and aspen stand delineation.

Monitoring: presenters quickly reviewed the MAC project monitoring program, which is intended to be a long-term, multi-spatial scale monitoring questions with field-based assessments, will include utilization of remote sensed data to address large-landscape questions, and development of an online data-viewing platform. Next steps for the program including bringing on a Monitoring Coordinator to lead the development and execution of the program.

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Summary 9/18/2024, via Microsoft Teams only

ACCG engagement to-date: presenters reviewed the opportunities for the ACCG to actively engage in the planning project, including through the Planning work group, Monitoring work group, Ad Hoc and attending general meetings.

ACCG SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP DEBRIEF

Group briefly discussed the field trip the ACCG hosted on September 10th on the Eldorado NF, Amador Ranger District to view recent projects and locations along the edge of the Caldor Fire burn scar to discuss results of treatments, lessons learned in the context of the UMRWA-USFS MAC Phase 2 project.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

- Admin work group met last on Sept. 9th via Zoom. The group approved this month’s general meeting agenda and briefly discussed the upcoming ACCG field trip.
- The Planning work group met last on August 28th via Zoom. The work group had a presentation and update on the UMRWA-USFS Aspen Restoration Planning Project. The team is currently conducting implementation-specific field reconnaissance to finalize the project areas. The second half of the meeting the work group continued discussions on potential use of herbicides in the MAC project Phase 2. The work group has developed two alternative approaches to herbicide use for fuelbreak maintenance that they have asked the FS and project team to consider and to come back to the October Planning work group with their feedback.
- The Forest Plan Amendments Ad Hoc group met last on September 9th via Zoom and continued their discussions on the USFS Region direction on project-specific spotted owl-related forest plan amendments. The group will be rescheduling their October Ad Hoc meeting due to a federal holiday on their scheduled meeting date.
- The Monitoring Work Group met on September 11th via Teams. Work group continued discussions on the MAC/ACCG Monitoring program including funding and bringing on the Monitoring Coordinator. Group also discussed the upcoming field monitoring event, Caples Legacy Tree data collection. This event will tentatively be on October 9th instead of a Team monitoring work group meeting.

MEETING CLOSE

Next general meeting: October 16th hybrid via Zoom and in person at the Calaveras RD office in Hathaway Pines.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Count	Name	Affiliation
1	Megan Layhee	Acting ACCG Administrator, UMRWA
2	Ellie Routt	Guest presenter Mother Lode Land Trust (in person)
3	Stan Dodson	CSERC (in person)
4	Amanda Watson	Amador RDC, FSC
5	Michael Pickard	SNC (in person)
6	Richard Sykes	UMRWA

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Summary 9/18/2024, via Microsoft Teams only

7	John Buckley	CSERC (in person)
8	Chuck Loffland	USFS, ENF, Amador RD (in person)
9	John Heissenbuttel	Cal Am Team, Guest facilitator (in person)
10	Sue Holper	private citizen, ACCG member
11	Kelsey Retich	USFS, STF, Calaveras RD
12	Char Sarkis	Incoming ACCG Administrator (in person)
13	Jeff Mabe	USFS, ENF
14	Ray Cablayan	USFS, STF, Calaveras RD
15	Jay Francis	SPI
16	Michelle Wolfgang	USFS, ENF
17	Zach Browning	Sierra Institute
18	Kellin Brown	USFS, STF, Calaveras RD