**MEETING BRIEF**

* Meeting facilitator: Chuck Loffland
* Presentation by Brian Allen, UCCE, Assistant Specialist, El Dorado/*Amador/Calaveras/Tuolumne Co.*
* Work Group updates

**ACTION ITEMS**

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| **Actions** | **Responsible Parties** |
| Post agenda and last month’s general meeting summary as final to the website. | Layhee |
| Share Brian’s presentation on the ACCG website. | Layhee |

**MEETING OPENING/HOUSEKEEPING**

Draft agenda and last month’s meeting summary approved. Administrator will post the final versions to the ACCG website.

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

Presentation by Brian Allen, UCCE.

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

## **ROUNDTABLE**

* Chris Shull – looking to get active in forest service projects and would like to be considered for some of the MAC projects. Based in Auburn.
* John Heissenbuttel – Amador Fire Safe Council meeting this afternoon, all virtual, see our website, lots of projects going on; suggested the upcoming 2026 prevailing wage guidelines as a possible agenda item for the future.
* Michael Pickard – Prop 4 passed in California, SNC is receiving approx. 88 million to disperse in grants over the next few years, 33 million for wildfire fuels reduction, and 55 million for climate adaptation and resilience. New grant rounds yet to be determined. Most likely an open grant round next year, early summer. Access to funds in July, grants out to the board in Sept 2025. Conservation money is for land trusts, etc. Michael is sending the grant guidelines to interested ACCG members.
* John Buckley – Golden State Natural Resources is focusing on the Wood Pellet project. Open for public comments until January 25th.
* Steve Brink – Hazardous fuels transportation assistance grants for 2024 were announced on Nov. 13th, 7.2 million for California. Sequoia National Forest to the Oregon border. Search Google for: Hazardous fuels transportation assistance grants to see who the winners were by region. Another round is coming up in fiscal year 2025.
* Richard Sykes – UMRWA is wrapping up phase I MAC project implementation, 1000 acres completed this year, and all contracts are lined up to hit the ground running for next year, 4,000 acres of ladder fuel work; Cal Fire forest health grant solicitation is open and UMRWA will apply before the Jan. deadline; 4 million for further work on Phase I implementation, it is important to get the grant to get planning work going; Wildlife Conservation Board meeting tomorrow for an award of 4 million; 4K for planning for Phase II to keep planning work going; Monitoring Coordinator position interviews were conducted and an offer was made to the top candidate.
* Ray Cablayan – currently burning in Hemlock; last week in Tamarack and Big Meadow. Burning piles that have been around forever. Middle of fire hires, 1 -2 people to be hired in Fuels Dept.; not able to hire any temps this fiscal year.
* Jim Suero – Big Trees burn at the South Grove is 1300 acres. Going very well.
* Craig Case - tomorrow is the last day for fuel crews. Time to hire for next season.
* Richard Farrington – addressed water impacts of big burn areas, US geological survey has a program on debris flows, the Dixie fire generated two large debris flows resulting in lots of damage.
* Carinna Robertson – working on implementation plan; McKays is still operating, burning big piles along the highway; burned 1,000 piles.
* Chuck Loffland – one active timber sale (Panther sale), working on Aspen Phase I MAC bridge project, out for scoping soon, winter work – pile burning on the district and forest. Projects we conferenced on are coming back for batch one and batch two, which is good news.
* Linda Helm – prescribed burns going at Bear River and Silver Lake, rec. campgrounds are closed, permanent seasonals are on rotation, we can’t hire any seasonals that aren’t permanent. Rec. Dept. finished all permittees for residential housing including Kirkwood, Bear River, and Silver Lake.

**MAC 2 PROJECT UPDATE**

Presenter: Megan Layhee

* Megan presented a slideshow overview of the planning workgroup recommendations, including the chemical herbicide recommendations for the MAC project. Also prescribed burning, mastication, hand treatments, targeted grazing, and the limited chemical herbicide application (max of 300 acres per year) on each district with locations to be determined by the US Forest Service.
  + A lengthy group discussion of the 300 acres target followed Megan’s presentation. John Buckley explained the discussions that took place to determine the collaborative agreement reached for the target of 300 acres per year.
  + Megan asked the ACCG MOA signatories present to approve the MAC project chemical herbicide use consensus agenda item. It was approved by all present.
  + Richard Sykes thanked the planning work group and Megan for their efforts.
* Phase II MAC Project – the NOI came out last month, team is working on scoping comments. Meeting tomorrow with TAG. Coming up with 120,000 to 140,000 acres of priority landscape, this number is a moving target, also continuing the analysis of CSO pack and territory habitat, bringing initial information to the TAG tomorrow; funding for Phase II – there is a WCB board meeting tomorrow, waiting to hear if we will get implementation funding for the phase I Cedar project, as well as a small pot of money for phase II.

## **WORK GROUP UPDATES**

* The Admin Workgroup met on November 12th via Zoom. The group approved this month’s general meeting agenda; no meeting scheduled for December. Next meeting is on January 6th, 2025.
* The Planning Workgroup met on November 12th via Zoom. They buttoned up their draft herbicide recommendations that were just reviewed. Also reviewed the study that Brian Allen and Scott Oneto authored about the fuel maintenance study and cost analysis. Brian is scheduled to present on that study at the April 16th, 2025, general meeting. Discussed a new MAC project topic, Aspen Restoration, and came up with some tentative recommendations. More to come. Next Planning workgroup meeting is January 22, 2025, via Zoom.
* The Forest Plan Amendments Ad Hoc meeting was postponed, allowing more time for analysis of CSO habitat and input from the TAG.
* The Monitoring Workgroup met on November 13th and discussed Phase I and Phase II monitoring funding opportunities, the monitoring coordination position, and remote sensing validation for the MAC project. Next meeting will be held in January.

**MEETING CLOSE**

**Next general meeting:** There is no December meeting. The next meeting is January 15th, 2025, hybrid via Zoom and in person at the Calaveras RD office in Hathaway Pines. John Heissenbuttel will facilitate.

# **MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Count** | **Name** | **Affiliation** |
| 1 | Megan Layhee | Acting ACCG Administrator, UMRWA |
| 2 | Brian Allen | UCCE (in person) |
| 3 | Stan Dodson | CSERC |
| 4 | Linda Helm | USFS, ENF, Amador RD (in person) |
| 5 | Michael Pickard | SNC |
| 6 | Kelsey Retich | STF |
| 7 | John Buckley | CSERC |
| 8 | Chuck Loffland | USFS, ENF, Amador RD (in person) |
| 9 | John Heissenbuttel | Cal Am Team |
| 10 | Sue Holper | private citizen, ACCG member |
| 11 | Ray Cablayan | USFS, STF, Calaveras RD |
| 12 | Char Sarkis | Incoming ACCG Administrator (in person) |
| 13 | Helen Loffland | IBP (in person) |
| 14 | Katie Wilkinson | USFS, STF |
| 15 | Linda Diesem | private citizen, District 2, Calaveras |
| 16 | Carina Robertson | USFS, STF, Calaveras RD (in person) |
| 17 | Chris Shull | Mason, Bruce and Girard |
| 18 | Rich Farrington | AWA, UMRWA Board member (in person) |
| 19 | Richard Sykes | UMRWA |
| 20 | Jim Suero | CA State Parks |
| 21 | Matt Brown | USFS |
| 22 | Craig Case | CHIPS |
| 23 | Michael Jow | USFS, SNF |
| 24 | Kelsey Retich | USFS, SNF |
| 25 | Jill Micheau | Phoenix Biomass Energy |
| 26 | Steve Brink | California Forestry Association |
| 27 | James Thornock | USFS, ENF, Amador RD (in person) |