

Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Summary 5/21/2025, via Zoom and in-person

MEETING BRIEF

- Meeting facilitator: Michael Pickard
- Presentation by Jaime Kostelnik, Geologist, USGS
- Roundtable
- ACCG Administrator SOW/long term funding plan
- ACCG MOA signatory update
- UMRWA-USFS MAC Project update
- Work Group updates

ACTION ITEMS

Actions	Responsible Parties
Post agenda and last month's general meeting summary as final to the website.	Layhee
Share Jaime Kostelnik'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

Fire, Flood, and Mud: Post Fire debris flow hazards in the western U.S. Presentation by Jaime Kostelnik, USGS.

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

ROUNDTABLE

Stan Dodson – four wildlife survey stations have been set up in the MAC Project footprint, field season is starting, meadow surveys start next week.

Jeff Mabe – we have one permanent seasonal on staff; currently working on monitoring for FPP 1 in Amador; working on surveys for the MAC project for NEPA.

Amanda Watson – working on a maintenance plan; Amador Fire Council meeting at 3pm today.

Trina Walley – several fuels reduction projects going on right now.

Richard Sykes – UMRWA is waiting to get a notice of award from Cal Fire.

Carinna Roberson – PG&E is working on highway 4 cleaning up hazard trees; Hwy 4 is open; higher elevation reservoirs (where there is low calcium) are at low risk for Golden Mussels, self-inspections of vessels will be done at reservoirs on the highway 4 corridor.

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John Buckley – attended a major presentation at Hetch Hetchy Water and Power addressing golden mussels, they consume good algae which can devastate the river ecosystem; last month's field trip at O'Byrne's Ferry biomass plant was excellent, they use waste wood materials from the forest that otherwise wouldn't be utilized, yet another solution of what to do with waste materials; the Burnbot demo video is very good, Burnbot will be valuable for the MAC project at some point; YSS has millions of dollars of projects going forward including eight timber sales as well as fuel breaks.

Michael Pickard - the SNC board will be approving the guidelines for two grant programs including a recreation program and a fuel reductions program; for those of you who have project ideas, give me a call.

Steve Brink – there will be a 30% reduction in sold timber this FY, a reduction in force list should be coming out within a month, regional consolidation will involve reassignments at regional offices at the forest.

ACCG Administration SOW/Long term funding plan

Presenter: Megan Layhee

The current big task for the admin workgroup is the ACCG administration long term funding plan. Megan explained that the funding plan is deliverable for UMRWA. The current UMRWA grant is funding both Char and Megan's time spent on administration. UMRWA has proposed a contribution of 20K per year. Megan reviewed the attached SOW spreadsheet for the ACCG administrative long term funding plan. Column 1 is the current average hours spent on admin tasks per month. Approx. 33 hours per month for Char and Megan. Column 2 is the base scope of work (which is bare bones). This would reduce the number of general meetings to 6 per year. Column 3 is the expanded scope of work. This would include additional duties (i.e., more website maintenance and monitoring workgroup duties). The request for members of the ACCG is to go back to their respective boards to ask if they have the means to contribute to ACCG administration. The funding plan will not be finalized until it is known how much funding there will be annually. The goal to finalize it by November 2025. Current funding is good through the summer of 2026.

ACCG MOA SIGNATORY UPDATE

Presenter: Char Sarkis

Char reviewed an email that was sent to the entire listserv which asked members to respond with any updates to their MOA signatories and/or member contacts. Megan and Char are currently updating the ACCG MOA signatory membership and contact list based on responses received. So far, 25 of 167 have responded to the email, including three who would like to be MOA signatories. This is a work in progress and the next step will be for Megan and Char to follow up with those MOA signatories who have not been participating in the ACCG to potentially remove them from the list.

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UMRWA-USFS MAC PROJECT UPDATE:

Presenter: Megan Layhee

FPP I Implementation:

A lot of implementations are happening, starting this year we have highway 88 which will be finishing up 2300 acres with Burnbot funded by a Cal Fire grant; Arbor work is continuing with contractors Market and GTS; Birch, funded by SNC, includes contractors Redding Tree Growers and GTS Forestry; additional funds are available to contract with Redding Tree Growers for the highway 88 east project which is about 1,200 acres; just received a grant from WCB for the FPPI Cedar Project, contract TBD; 10 acres will go to the Washoe Tribe; currently waiting to see if Cal Fire will award a grant for the 1,200 acre Dogwood project; the UMRWA team is currently working on the FPPI draft workplan.

MAC update:

Currently working on finalizing the proposed action for the MAC project and when finalized the next step is to bring it to the ACCG and stakeholder group; currently finalizing forces modeling for the MAC project; working with both forests to finalize input parameters; rerunning forces in the next few weeks which will help ID where the treatments should go across the 250,000 acre landscape; working under the emergency authority to see what the proposed action looks like and how to expedite the project timeline.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

- The Admin Workgroup update was given by Megan under the ACCG Administrator SOW/long term funding plan discussion agenda item.
- The Planning Workgroup met briefly on April 23rd. There was not any substantial MAC related topic to cover. The MAC team is working on finalizing the proposed action for the EIS which will be brought to the planning workgroup and stakeholder group. The next planning workgroup meeting will be held on May 28th at 9am. The ad hoc group has not met. Next meeting TBD.
- The Monitoring Workgroup met on May 14th to discuss and brainstorm developing the MAC project monitoring strategy questions. Ty McCarthy along with Becky Estes developed the draft monitoring questions and received a lot of good feedback to be used to revise the monitoring questions. The next meeting will be virtual and in-person in Jackson on June 11th to finalize the monitoring questions. A draft will be brought to the full ACCG later this summer or fall.

MEETING CLOSE

Next general meeting: The next meeting is on June 18th, 2025, hybrid via Zoom and in-person at the Amador RD office in Pioneer. John Heissenbuttel will facilitate.

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MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Count	Name	Affiliation
1	Megan Layhee	Acting ACCG Administrator, UMRWA
2	Jaime Kostelnik	USGS
3	Stan Dodson	CSERC
4	Steve Brink	AFRC (in person)
5	Michael Pickard	SNC (in person)
6	Amanda Watson	Amador Fire Safe Council
7	John Buckley	CSERC (in person)
8	Andy Welsh	Acting District Ranger, Calaveras RD
9	John Heissenbuttel	NRC
10	Richard Sykes	UMRWA
11	Erin Livernois	CCRCD
12	Char Sarkis	Incoming ACCG Administrator (in person)
13	Trina Walley	CCRCD
14	Sue Holper	private citizen, ACCG member
15	Linda Diesem	private citizen, District 2, Calaveras
16	Carinna Robertson	USFS, STF, Calaveras RD (in person)
17	Chris Shull	Mason, Bruce and Girard
18	Anna Bonnette	Botanist, Calaveras District
19	Meredith Dean	Restore the Stanislaus
20	Jeff Mabe	USFS, ENF