Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Summary 06/17/2026, via Zoom and in person

MEETING BRIEF

- Meeting facilitator: Stan Dodson
- Presentation by UMRWA Aspen Team
- UMRWA-USFS PHASE I & MAC update
- Roundtable
- Work Group updates

ACTION ITEMS

Actions	Responsible Parties
Post agenda and last month's general meeting summary as final to the website.	Layhee
Share UMRWA Aspen Team's presentation slides on the ACCG website.	Layhee

MEETING OPENING/HOUSEKEEPING

Draft agenda and last month's meeting summary were approved following minor editing to the summary. Administrator will post them to the ACCG website.

GUEST PRESENTATION

PREVENTING SEVERE WILDFIRE

Presenters: Megan Layhee, UMRWA; Regine Miller, UMRWA; Helen Loffland, IBP

Find the UMRWA Aspen Team's presentation on the ACCG website here.

MAC UMRWA-USFS FPP Phase I & MAC update

Presenter: Richard Sykes (UMRWA)

Richard reported that most contractors have already started or are about to deploy in the Phase I footprint, primarily between Salt Springs and Lower Bear Reservoirs on the Amador Ranger District. Four commercial contractors are working in Phase I, along with two tribal partners, the Washoe Tribe has a contract for a small acreage, and the Buena Vista Rancheria has a contract that will start this summer. The seasonal goal is 4,000 + acres; last year 4,600 acres were completed. An additional several hundred acres are currently in a bid period, split into two bid items to attract local contractors. The local contractor incentive was increased from 5% to 8% by the UMRWA board. Prevailing wage requirements kick in for UMRWA on July 1st and the earliest bid award would be at the late July board meeting. CAL FIRE has supported Phase I with over $15 million in grants; a promotional video featuring UMRWA, the Forest Service, and CAL FIRE was filmed and will be posted on both organizations' websites.
MAC Project: A good planning workgroup meeting was held in the prior month to provide input on prioritization criteria. Bird surveys are underway in the Amador and Calaveras Ranger Districts. An implementation work plan is being developed to identify top-priority projects for the next 3–5 years on both districts. GIS work is about to initiate, breaking the landscape into roughly 1,000-acre units for

prioritization. A CEQA notice of exemption is scheduled for UMRWA's October board meeting. Grant pursuit for MAC is expected to begin, with a goal of returning to work on the Calaveras side in late 2026 or early 2027.

ROUNDTABLE

Helen Loffland – We've been working on a project collecting aspen seed with UC Berkeley and we collected some within our area here and sent it into the lab for another project.

Rich Farrington - The long-term funding of the MAC project has been a continuing concern, and it brought that to the attention of our board. They, as in the past, have an agreement with Blue Forest Conservation Group that enables us to utilize a line of credit to pay contractors pretty quickly with interest being covered by donations. Blue Forest is organizing another field trip, as they did last year for July with a lot of their partners. There's certainly partnership opportunities out there. Richard reported at the last meeting that we recently got a donation from Amazon of $3 million, part of the results of the Blue Forest Partnership.

Tom Hofstra - I've been busy at CSERC helping with repairing fence and putting fence up. We're also doing our pre-season grazing monitoring and keeping our wildlife camera surveys going.

Kaylee Dillashaw – If there's a need or an opportunity arises for CRCD to partner with either UMRWA or the ACCG, we would be interested in becoming a member. (Char to forward Kaylee information on becoming a member of the ACCG.)

Mary Boblet – I just wanted to share my appreciation for the level of analysis on the Aspen stands. It was very enjoyable to listen to all of the presentations today. Thank you.

Michael Pickard – Michael's update was given via the Zoom chat as Michael was unable to attend the meeting. The Wildlife and Forest Resilience Grant Program just opened up. Guidelines are on the SNC website. If any partners have a project, ideas, or any questions, feel free to give Michael a call.

John Heissenbuttel – The Fire Safe Council has their monthly board meeting today at the Amador AG Center near the airport, and they will be receiving an award from Senator Alvarado Gill for nonprofit of the year.

Ray Cablayan – 556 acres of prescribed burn on Irish O'Manuel, right behind the Logging Museum went really well, with a lot of community support, especially those who live in Arnold and White Pines. It went really well with the drone out there, which is a game changer when it comes to prescribed fire. The first day was about 175 acres. The second day, they did 350 acres. The speed in which they're doing prescribed fire now with drones is a game changer. You don't need as many folks. They don't have to have firefighters walking across the landscape with drip torches. Also, we are starting to hire. It's not out yet, but we're outreaching now for a few positions here on the Stanislaus and specifically here on the district. We will pick up two to three foresters and a wildlife biologist sometime in the very near future.

Carinna Robertson – We have two contracts on the ground operating right now. We have the Wolfboro Integrated Resource Timber contract with the Green Tree Timber cell. They're currently logging up on the highway just past the Cabbage Maintenance Station, so we have signs up there that say trucks are entering the road. We also have the Thompson Hazard Tree cell, which is before the Cabbage Maintenance Station on Highway 4, and they're logging out there. We're moving forward with MAC

implementation by identifying project areas and beginning partner coordination. A cell prep contract is now in place for the 2028 projects — Winton, Highway 4, and South Medusa. South Medusa remains within its original footprint, but MAC analysis has allowed us to refine treatment areas and address impacts more effectively. The Highway 4 project includes units along the corridor as well as the Sour Grass burn area to the north. We're also working with the regional office to issue a new contract for landline surveys, since many Calaveras boundaries were last established 20–30 years ago and need to be reverified. In addition, UMRWA's avian survey contractor is on the ground, and our two seasonal technicians are conducting surveys across the 2028 project areas. Botany work continues as well, though we're short-staffed — the expected GBI crew will not be arriving, leaving our botanist to cover multiple projects. Despite these challenges, Anna is staying ahead of priority survey needs. Overall, progress is steady as we begin shaping what MAC implementation will look like over the next few years.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

The Admin Workgroup update was given by Char. The Admin Workgroup met on Monday, June 8th via Zoom, and reviewed and approved the general meeting agenda for this meeting. The group discussed scheduling a McClintock staff virtual meeting, which has been pending for some time. The target is the November general meeting. (John Heissenbuttel commented that he had reached out to the staff contact (Brixton) and suggested November, noting October is 10 days before midterms.) A socioeconomic panel is planned for the August general meeting. John Heissenbuttel will serve as both a panelist and facilitator. Other potential panelists will include Hannah Grabowski, Alex Gorman, and Kaylee Dillashaw. Topics to be covered include 1) hiring local contractors; 2)prevailing wage requirements; 3) current state of the timber market; and 4) rising operational costs, especially fuel costs. Planning is underway for the September 16th field tour. A loose agenda will be developed at the August Admin Workgroup meeting and will be finalized in early September. Proposed tour stops include: Lily Gap Project (off Highway 26), Wilseyville Biomass Plant, Bummerville Project, PG&E Settlement Projects, and the Winton MAC Project.

The Planning Workgroup update was given by Megan. The Planning Workgroup met on Wednesday, May 27th via Zoom. The majority of the meeting focused on an overview presentation by UMRWA (Megan and Richard) on the proposed goals and approach for the MAC Implementation Plan. The plan intends to identify the first 20,000 acres of priority areas on both forests within the MAC footprint. The plan will include project priority rankings, maps/locations, a funding plan, and a maintenance schedule for those first 20,000 acres. Four proposed criteria were presented, modeled after the FPP Phase I framework: level of wildfire risk (higher severity = higher priority), areas within WUI, proximity to communities (community protection), infrastructure protection, and a 5th criterion — "Other" — was added by the workgroup to capture ecological and operational considerations, weighted at 10%. WUI and community protection were agreed upon to be kept as separate criteria, particularly given the large size of the Amador District WUI. All MAC proposed actions (forest thinning, fuels reduction, fuel break construction, hand thinning) require two-year protocol-level surveys for the California Spotted Owl and Goshawk. Exceptions include herbicide treatments for invasive plants and fuel break maintenance. UMRWA expects to begin the prioritization analysis in July, with draft priority area maps potentially ready for the August Planning Workgroup meeting. A local contractor utilization consideration was noted within UMRWA's procurement policy. The next Planning Workgroup meeting is on July 22nd at 9:00 AM via Zoom. The Planning Work Group is taking a break this month.

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The Monitoring Workgroup update was given by Megan. The Monitoring Work Group met on Wednesday, June 10th, virtually via Microsoft Teams. It was a small but productive group. The group conducted a final review of all MAC monitoring questions and associated indicators. After good discussions, the group agreed they are "really close" and that the June 10th meeting was the last session dedicated to revising the draft questions and indicators. Follow-up is still needed between Becky and Megan with two forest resource specialists to finalize botanical and aquatic-related questions and indicators. The full work group will have another opportunity to review all MAC monitoring strategy questions and indicators once the document is drafted, likely at the August or September workgroup meeting. The group reviewed a draft MAC monitoring funding plan, including budget and cost modules to help determine the cost of each question and associated indicator. Various funding scenarios are being developed because the future funding situation for monitoring is uncertain. Megan expects to have the monitoring funding plan drafted by next month's workgroup meeting. Becky and Ty are working on drafting the MAC monitoring field implementation plan and the MAC monitoring AGOL platform. All three items (funding plan, field implementation plan, AGOL platform) are expected to be on the agenda for the July monitoring meeting. The next virtual Monitoring Work Group meeting is Wednesday, July 8th at 9:00 AM via Teams.

MEETING CLOSE

Next general meeting: The next meeting is on July 15th, 2026, hybrid via Zoom and in-person at the Amador RD office in Pioneer. Michael Pickard will facilitate.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Count	Name	Affiliation
1	Carinna Robertson	USFS, STF, Calaveras RD (in person)
2	Ray Cablayan	USFS, STF, Calaveras RD (in person)
3	Rose Day	MLJT
4	Stan Dodson	CSERC (in person)
5	Chuck Loffland	USFS retired
6	Helen Loffland	IBP
7	Rich Farrington	AWA, UMRWA Board member
8	Jenna Narducci	TCSI
9	John Heissenbuttel	NRC
10	Tom Hofstra	CSERC
11	Kaylee Dillashaw	CRCD
12	Char Sarkis	ACCG Administration (in person)
13	Sophia Kaufman	MLJT
14	Sue Holper	private citizen
15	Richard Sykes	UMRWA
16	Regine Miller	UMRWA
17	Michael Jow	USFS, STF, Calaveras RD
18	Megan Layhee	UMRWA, ACCG Administration
19	Trina Walley	CCRD
20	Hannah Grabowski	SPI

21	Mary Boblet	Chickaree Group
22	John Buckley	CSERC (in person)
23	Amanda Watson	ARCD
24	Anna Bonnette	Botanist, Calaveras District (in person)