



**North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP)
Policy Review Panel (PRP) & Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) Meeting
SUMMARY**

**Friday, October 18, 2019; 10 am – 4 pm
Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Tish Non Community Center**

I OPENING TRIBAL WELCOME

Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Tribal Council Secretary Sam Grifford provided the opening Tribal welcome.

NCRP PRP Chair Trinity County Supervisor Judy Morris thanked Edwin Smith for hosting the NCRP quarterly meeting and thanked the Bear River Tribe for its wonderful meeting space, hotel and restaurant.

II WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

NCRP PRP Chair Trinity County Supervisor Judy Morris welcomed Humboldt County Supervisor Rex Bohn and explained that he has joined the PRP as an alternate. She also stated that unfortunately, Executive Committee member Brandi Brown and TPRC members John Friedenbach and Hank Seemann had taken ill, and wished them all a speedy recovery.

She explained that there would two panels presenting on the topic of forest health and fuel load reduction. She expressed appreciation for them taking time from their busy schedules to join the NCRP. She welcomed all panelists:

- John Driscoll, District Representative, Congressman Jared Huffman
- Tom Weseloh, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, CA State Senator Mike McGuire
- Debbie Franco, Water and Rural Affairs, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, Department of Water Resources
- Jenny Di Stefano, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Division of Land Resource Protection, California Department of Conservation
- Nick Goulette, Executive Director, The Watershed Center
- Jill Demers, Executive Director, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- Jason Wells, Forester, Sonoma Resource Conservation District
- Jill Demers, Executive Director, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- Jason Wells, Forester, Sonoma Resource Conservation District

NCRP PRP Chair Morris welcomed and introduced other participants:

- Erin Dunn, District Representative, Assemblymember Jim Wood
- Nuin Tara Key, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Jenny Lester Moffit, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Denny Grossman, Senior Advisor for Environmental Science and Policy, Strategic Growth Council
- Kurt McCray, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Chief

- Ted O. McArthur, Six Rivers National Forest, Forest Supervisor
- Lenya Quinn-Davison, UCCE, Fire Advisor
- Yana Valachovic, UCCE, Fire Advisor

The following PRP members formed the meeting quorum:

- Chair: Supervisor Judy Morris, Trinity County
- Vice-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Director of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe, Northern District
- Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County
- Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County
- Alternate: Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
- Supervisor John McCowen, Mendocino County
- Alternate: Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County
- Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County
- Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County
- Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Alternate: Nathan Rich, Water Quality Specialist, Kashia Band of Pomo, Southern District
- Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County

Chair Morris thanked the Public: Betsy Stapleton (Scott River Watershed Council), Sam Grifford (ENR Bear River Tribe), Kurt McCray (CAL FIRE), Chris Ramey (Cal Fire) Patricia Vellinis (DWR), Christine Manhart (LACO), Barbara Cross (DWR) , Rachael Capistrano (Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept), Elliot Brown (Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept), Lyn Javier (Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept) Sarah Stawsz (ENR Bear River Tribe) , Julia Cavalli (County of Humboldt, NCRP Staff), Lauren Rowan (County of Humboldt, NCRP Staff), Steve Navarez (California Indian Environmental Alliance), Hillary Renick (Sherwood Valley Pomo) , Earl Crosby (Dept. Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe), Megan VanPelt (Resighini Tribe), Bradly Norman, Mark Franco (Traditional Lifeways), Richard Gienger (Institute for Sustainable Forestry), Liz Harwood (Institute for Sustainable Forestry), Emily Ontiveros (DWR), Mark Tuckman (Tuckman and Associates), Jessica Clayber, Richard Nelson (Yurok Tribe), Frank Bickner (Jacobson James and Associates), Terry Supahan (Karuk Tribe).

III REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

- **Motion:** John McCowen
- **Second:** James Gore
- **Vote:** Unanimous

IV PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

V NCRP JIMMY SMITH LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT: LEAF HILLMAN, NCRP VICE CHAIR

NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris explained that in 2016, the NCRP Executive Committee approved a process for a NCRP award to honor the late Jimmy Smith and the many qualities that he embodied as the founding NCRP Policy Review Panel Chair. In April 2017, the NCRP presented the first award to Jake Mackenzie and in April 2019 the PRP elected Leaf Hillman. Chair Morris described that she has said many times that we are all working to fill the great, big shoes of Jimmy Smith. She also stated that she could not speak enough about what a great man Leaf is - they have been working together for 8 years now. Leaf he is a man of strength and wisdom, she thanked Leaf and said that it is a true honor to work with him and join him on lengthy road trips.

Chair Morris read the award, stating that the Leadership of the NCRP is proud to bestow the second Jimmy Smith Leadership Award upon Leaf Hillman because he embodies the many wonderful qualities of Jimmy Smith, including

leadership, vision, passion, ethics, integrity, inclusiveness, and because he is a man of strength and wisdom, who thoughtfully takes action on behalf of native people, the land, and our North Coast community.

Leaf stated that it was a great honor to receive this award. He went on to say that being in this building, seeing faces in the crowd like Tom Weseloh, John Driscoll, reminded him of Jimmy. He learned from Jimmy Smith that we are not enemies, but at the end of the day we are human beings and we share this place as our home. Leaf stated that he was honored and thanked his friends and colleagues for working with him and the NCRP.

- Supervisor Gore spoke and mentioned that it was great to hear how this group started and the battles that were overcome and how the governance reset and learned how to work with the Tribes. He appreciates the quote used by Leaf to be the “radical middle”. He sees it as a way to move in the middle to work together.
- Tom Weseloh, congratulated Leaf and said that his main reason for attending the meeting was to honor Leaf receiving the Jimmy Smith award. He stated that Leaf is a great friend, and so was Jimmy Smith. They represent the same thing, watershed, fish and making things better.
- John Driscoll stated that it’s a great honor to have Leaf receive the award, Jimmy Smith was a great friend and with this award he lives on.
- Terry Supahan a longtime friend of Leaf congratulated him and told the group that he was a great man.
- Debbie Franco, met Leaf a long time ago and acknowledged Leaf how for making space at the NCRP table for North Coast Tribes; she stated that he is an ambassador for many tribes and deserves the honor.
- Supervisor Madrone stated that Leaf and Jimmy Smith both have incredible humility, Leaf has been a leader in collaboration, it is an honor and privilege to be on the PRP with him.

VI LEGISLATIVE & AGENCY UPDATES: WATERSHEDS, COMMUNITIES & FIRE RESILIENCY

Panel Chair: NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris thanked the panel and introduced the agenda topic: an update on legislative and agency actions and opportunities related to forest health and fuel load reduction – both current and future opportunities for the North Coast.

PANELISTS:

Debbie Franco, Water and Rural Affairs, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Debbie Franco started the panel conversation; Debbie mentioned that she works on climate resiliency and the Governor’s Water Resilience Portfolio and other long-range planning initiatives for the governor and state. It will be a monumental task to improve the forest. To date, we have been doing things all wrong. Humans will not continue to exist unless we are able to reconnect with everything else. Water and watershed health are connected to forest health. Debbie described three interconnected imperatives: to improve the health of forests, we need healthy communities, and we need economic drivers to make healthy communities. The NCRP is off to a great start because it has Tribes at the table. She recommended that a Tribal Forest Institute get convened to provide trainings and guidance on forest management.

She mentioned California Forest Management Task Force meets once a month and information about the program is available on the website. Recent bond measures and the current ‘Resiliency Bond’ does not include IRWM but she thought that could be an opportunity for the NCRP and offered that the NCRP is in a good position to pivot to whatever new programs emerge in the state.

John Driscoll, District Representative, Congressman Jared Huffman

John stated that Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties are largely owned by the Federal Forest Service. He went on to report that they were recently contacted by wilderness advocates to develop a wilderness bill for these areas. Congressman Huffman flew over the area and determined that the bill needed to include extensive watershed /forestry management. Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forest Act includes 260, 000 acres of wilderness and provides management plans for 101 miles of river. There is a South Fork Trinity watershed focus, with fuel breaks in fire prone areas, thinning out of thick unmanaged plantations from logging, which are prone to high intensity fires; this bill helps with fisheries by prohibiting logging, mining and new roads. There is an economic component to provide logs to the saw mill, deals with unmanaged roads, and protects the community around the wilderness area.

Last year Congressman Huffman visited the Karuk Tribe; he was the first Congressman to visit Orleans in California. The Karuk Tribe is working to bring traditional practices to fuel management (Bill Tripp), in a holistic approach to watershed health. We want to encourage the work of the Karuk and Mid-Klamath Watershed Council.

Congressman Huffman had hoped that biomass energy would create the economic driver to make fuel load reduction economically viable. Recently he spoke with Schatz Lab, about the results of a long-term study that they conducted evaluating biomass utilization under a number of conditions and the outputs do not look promising. Congressman Huffman hopes that using biomass as building materials may be the next frontier.

Congressman Huffman is working to develop the Secure Rural Schools Act (a bipartisan bill) that provides stable funding for roads and schools in small communities that used to be generated from logging industry payments. The bill is expected to be released in late 2019/early 2020.

Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, California Department of Water Resources

Anecita opened her remarks stating that it was an honor to meet on sovereign land when travelling around California. Her department at DWR works with all Tribes and will be conducting meetings (in conjunction with Christina Snider) with Tribes on the Water Resilience Portfolio and have recently held two Tribal listening sessions. The strategies are not new.

She expressed that it was an honor to all Tribes that the NCRP is honoring Leaf. The NCRP is seen as the gold standard for Tribal inclusion. The NCRP is also recognized for funding Tribal projects. The governor needs to be able understand about the success of the IRWM program especially as a model for tribal integration. Anecita described a number of important bills emerging in the California legislature:

- AB 658 - Water Rights and Water Management, a bill for water rights and groundwater management agencies regarding a 5-year permit to store groundwater during high flows.
- SB 160 – Emergency Services and Cultural Competence – requires counties to provide cultural competency in its planning products and emergency plans.
- AB 275 – was pulled because the definitions for (federal and non-federal tribes) were not workable for tribes
- What do you mean by cultural, communities – these definitions need to be established at the local level
- AB501 – domestic wells improvements
- SB19 – tribes need the stream gages to track conditions, to prioritize where new gauges are deployed
- SB517 – interim relief to private wells during emergencies (fire or drought)
- AB1668 – working with BIA and IHS to determine the drought needs
- CPUC, Public Lands Commission – allows Tribes the first right of refusal for projects where land acquisitions may occur.
- N1519 – first apology from California to tribes resulting is the committee developing the Truth and Healing commission – looking at reparation and healing through education

Tom explained that he was attending the meeting in part, to celebrate Leaf and the inclusive nature of the partnership. He acknowledged that making sure that all the North Coast counties were included wasn't easy, and later incorporating the North Coast Tribes was a major milestone. He recommended that the NCRP "play to your strengths".

Tom asked, "how do we be deal with fires in a proactive way to have fires without loss of life and catastrophic damage?". The rest of the state are looking to the NCRP and others for advice and details on healthy perspectives to approaching fire. The state is looking for knowledge from experts in the field and bridge builders like the NCRP. Senator McGuire is committed to working with the Karuk Tribe and CAL FIRE for forest management and fuels reduction. The wildfire Prevention Bond Act has a lot of support from the Governor and is a high priority statewide. Tom mentioned that the NCRP has done well identifying the priority needs in the region and synchronizing these with the statewide priorities. The NCRP is well set up for getting all the boxes checked when looking for funding. A strength that we have is that fire is a part of life here on the North Coast, it is not like that throughout the rest of the state. The NCRP needs to emphasize its strengths and get the message out. He noted an article in the California Morning Report, news for members of the Capitol Community, about the Karuk Tribe and use of fire for prescribed burns. He thought it was a great article and that the group should get the word out about why people should be investing in the North Coast.

Tom noted that he is not a forest expert but does have fisheries knowledge and they are connected. "Fish are the forest; forest are the fish; and they are our community". We know that fire can cool water temperature and increase flows. He advices involving local experts in our work when thinking of fire suppression and ensuring that TEK is part of the process.

Discussion:

- Chair Morris reminded the group that we do need an approach to tell our story to a wider audience.
- Supervisor Madrone recommended that we replace the term "Gold Standard" with a term like 'salmon standard' for describing highly regarded processes, due to the impact of the gold trade on California Tribes
- Supervisor Gore talked about SB 45 that is currently on a path for support of 4 - 5 billion and they are still in the deciding phase of where the funds should go. We are an adaptive partnership and can utilize all types of funding, not only funding ear marked for the region or IRWM funding. The "The How needs to fit the What".
- Debbie Franco thought that pulling the forest aspect into the water and connecting them will be helpful to defining our mission. We need to figure out a way to manage lands across jurisdictions and that is why multi county and Tribal partnerships are effective for regional approaches.
- John Driscoll shared her thoughts that biomass does not pencil out well anywhere in the state. That cross laminate is currently the preferred use for biomass.
- Supervisor McCowen thanked the NCRP staff for inviting a great panel and thanked Debbi Franco for acknowledging the Tribes and that his County just approved Indigenous People's Day and he hoped that other Counties would do the same.
- TPRC member Mark Lancaster stated that he would like to see CEQA/NEPA have exemptions for fuel breaks. Also, that the risk of liability is also high with landowners and can be challenging. He would like to see a restorative fire program to be reinstated.
- Supervisor Bohn introduced Yana Valachovic the Forester Advisor and Director, UC Cooperative Extension who has coordinated a nationally renowned program. She noted that just because biomass is not an easy solution does not mean it's not worth it. She discussed their success and that reducing or waiving fees is helpful to get landowners interested in fuels reduction.
- Public discussion: There was mention that there have not been standards set for healthy late seral forests and that Jackson State Demonstration Forest is a great model.

VII REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM: UPDATE FROM STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS PANEL

NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris introduced the panel topic by describing the North Coast as a key water source for California; acting as lungs and kidneys of the state. In Trinity County the Trinity County Collaborative was established and has been in existence for 7 years. She reminded us, that we need to think about the vulnerable communities (youth and elderly) who sit in the smoke during these events.

NCRP Vice-Chair Leaf Hillman, introductory comments included a call for action. "How do you describe and measure the crisis that we are in? It used to be that we measured these events in how many buildings or acres were lost, but now we are measuring these events in terms of body counts. This new way of measuring the impacts of catastrophic fire represents a moment that requires action." He explained that the Karuk Tribe is a fire dependent culture. He stated that with our partners and funding we are going to figure this out and change the debate about the crisis; solutions will not be coming from the state or federal government, but from local knowledge about how to work on the ground.

Judy introduced the panelists who provided brief opening remarks and then there was Q & A period with the Policy Review Panel.

PANELISTS:

Jenny Di Stefano, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Division of Land Resource Protection, California Department of Conservation

Jenny Di Stefano noted that she was honored to be on the panel and happy to be in the North Coast - a special place with a magical feeling. She noted that the NCRP is considered the "salmon standard" for collaboration throughout the state. She discussed the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Block Grant; the funding is coming from the California Resources Agency (administered by the Department of Conservation), and is 20 million that was appropriated with the 2018 budget act. The goal of the program is to help communities prioritize forest management projects and some of the expected outcomes include: regional prioritization plans, prioritized projects and technical assistance. This is meant as a capacity building program and the purpose is to provide block grants to support regional planning, landscape health projects, fire resilience and facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The NCRP is the model for the state and why it was chosen to receive this funding. The NCRP has spent the last 20 years building capacity, which fits in with the grant objectives. There are five regional grantees and the NCRP is farther along in developing partnerships. This is an opportunity to develop regional plans and develop projects that are ready for CalFire funding. The state is not the right entity to choose the priority projects; the local entities are the ones that know what the priorities and issues are in their region, which will in turn create projects that best meet the needs of the region and forest health. She noted that the Department of Conservation only has experience with timber harvest planning related to landslides through the California Geologic Society and does not have a lot of experience with forest management issues. Locals need to be involved and need to work as partners for a successful outcome.

Jill Demers, Executive Director, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

Jill Demers described that RCDs are non-regulatory California Special District agencies with a Board of Directors that work with public and private landowners to conserve natural resources and get projects implemented. RCDs are excellent at leveraging public funds, grant writers and experienced with navigating complex permitting for projects and experienced with Best Management Practices on the ground. She noted that their RCD has not worked on many forest health projects in Humboldt. However, all have resources to leverage and they now have a MOU with the RCDS to jointly collaborate to get work accomplished together. The Humboldt RCD has past experience with a Watershed Coordinator position who was able to bring in millions to projects in Humboldt. The North Coast RCD collaborative, which covers the Eel River, Mattole watersheds, south to Marin, and over to Lake and Napa Counties will work together to manage the

latest Watershed Coordinator position. The Watershed Coordinator is funded for two years and will create a watershed plan to identify projects, and secure project funding for forest stakeholders while leveraging as many funds as possible. Seven RCDs are involved with this grant funded project. She mentioned that Tim Bailey was recently hired the Watershed Coordinator and will be able to work with the NCRP They will be working to get work on the ground as quick as possible. Tim Bailey will be taking on the role of Watershed Coordinator soon and will reach out to the NCRP to coordinate our respective work plans.

Jason Wells, Forester, Sonoma Resource Conservation District

Jason Wells is a Forester with the Sonoma Resource Conservation District and Gold Ridge RCD and he provides technical assistance to landowners and the wider community on issues that concern the conservation and management of forested ecosystems in Sonoma County. He stressed that local collaboration is successful in getting good projects on the ground. He mentioned that their RCDs jurisdictional area is within 500,000 acres of land and they work directly with landowners to develop plan documents. The Gold Ridge RCD is working with the California State Parks on a fuel's management plan for Salt Point, Fort Ross, Willow Creek, Austin Creek, and Armstrong Redwood State Parks to identify forest stand types and fuel loads on each of the parks, create management units with defined objectives, and prescribe treatments to mitigate hazardous fuels that are quickly compounding from forest pathogens. By creating plans and partners there is option to use cost share with other agencies, which is matched by private individuals. A ground up approach and how landowners can steward their own land. The single largest deficiency in this region for addressing fuels on small non-industrial land ownerships is planning and outreach funding. Sonoma RCD's RCPP funding agreement ends, they may run out of funding. The UC Cooperative Extension was awarded a CAL FIRE contract run workshops in Ukiah in January with a focus to teach landowners the basic knowledge that they would need to begin developing their own forest management plan; he stated he will send the NCRP a flyer when it is ready. Another potential funding source that has been problematic for applicants has been the CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant, which requires applicants use growth modeling software to show a net carbon benefit from forest treatments within their proposal. He also noted that there is a lack in infrastructure and professional foresters and qualified professionals. of all licensed foresters in the state have held their license for more than 25 years. There is a need to get more qualified people and serious emphasis on youth outreach, education, and job opportunity enhancement should be considered. He also discussed that biomass should also be considered for decentralize power since there is a need to fill the gap with wind and solar. He also noted that the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association is a model for Sonoma county.

Nick Goulette, Executive Director, The Watershed Research and Training Center

Nick Goulette provide a brief background about the Watershed Center located in Trinity County and described that the original concept for the non-profit was developed in the midst of the timber wars – to establish local forest management and to retrain loggers and the local work force to become land stewards and sustain the economy. They currently employ 30 -40 people for planning and implementing prescribed fire and forest/watershed management. The WRTC works with regional and statewide networks to learn from others who are involved in wood utilization and biomass. At the National level, they are interested in the diversity of people and practices to learn from others and are the capacity building agent. They were approached by the CNRA/DOC because of the partnership and collaboration that they have developed, and how they generated networks to learn from others. He noted that the regional block grants left a lot of empty spaces on the map. The California Fire Safe Council has been managing a grants clearinghouse and worked to facilitate the growth of local fire safe councils but over the years have lacked the funding for capacity development. With the support of a RFFC block grant, they will be hiring three regional coordinators to provided networking capacities around the state and the WRTC will be working with them.

WRTC's roll will to help provide capacity and technical assistance to other areas of the state, (especially in the places that are not captured by the regional block grants) and to provide coordination between the block grant participants. It

also plans to create generative communities where lessons learned are passed on. They will be establishing collaborative entities where not currently working on. Forest and Fire Capacity Program will provide technical assistance to FireSafe Councils throughout the state. They will help establish online resources and facilitate in person workshops and trainings.

WRTC's needs assessment collected 250 responses and will use this information to direct technical assistance and capacity building tools and resources and share lessons learned and BMPs. The state is interested in establishing ongoing block grant funding to successful regions in conjunction with competitive grant programs and needs to have programs that provide for technical assistance and capacity building programs so that all boats rise with the tide.

VIII NCRP REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY FUNDING

NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris introduced Karen Gaffney to provide an overview of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Funding block grant and outline where we are in the process.

Karen Gaffney, West Coast Watershed described how the NCRP leadership and staff team have been hard at work getting the word out about the NCRP and its successes. She acknowledged Judy and Leaf for their ongoing work advocating for the NCRP with local legislators and statewide agencies in Sacramento. She also acknowledged Dale Roberts, Susan Haydon and Supervisors Hopkins and Gore for their support and advocacy. She went on to state that we came into this grant with strong collaborative infrastructure and have been working on forestry health over the last few years. She described that throughout the state there is a real sense of urgency coupled with the promise of a lot of funding in the future and as a result there is also a good deal of chaos. Staff recommends that we go slow to go fast.

i. WORK PLAN OVERVIEW

Karen described that the internal staff team have been meeting with our CNRA partners and been putting together a thoughtful approach and work plan. The County of Humboldt was approved by the NCRP and the Humboldt Board of Supervisors to be Regional manager for the grant. The Humboldt County contract administrator, Cybelle Immitt also brings expertise on the subject and currently works closely with the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council. The NCRP staff team includes Susan Hayden from Sonoma Water, CIEA, and Mark Tuckman who is mapping fuel loads and gathering other relevant geospatial data. Other partners will be brought on when needed and the NCRP PRP will be kept up to date. Karen provided a brief overview of the objectives and work plan for the program and the ad hoc and staff recommendation.

In April 2019 the PRP authorized Humboldt County to enter into a California Natural Resources Agency Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant agreement in the amount of \$4,037,500 on behalf of the NCRP with California Natural Resource Agency and/or California Department of Conservation. The grant is intended to achieve several key objectives for the North Coast region and California:

- a) Collaborate with CNRA, and other identified partners such as the Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC), CAL FIRE, the US Forest Service (USFS), the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC), Resource Conservation Districts, and regional Fire Safe Councils.
- b) Develop a regional prioritized plan for fuel load reduction, forest health, public health and safety, and economic vitality.
- c) Develop streamlined permitting for fuel load reduction and forest health projects
- d) Develop and implement demonstration projects that can be scaled up to address regional priorities and enhance knowledge of actionable strategies for fuel load reduction
- e) Perform education and outreach to inform communities about opportunities to provide input into the plan, share data and resources, and ensure opportunities to propose demonstration projects

The regional forest plan is expected to outline priority activities at the regional and local scale and is expected to position the NCRP to access funding via SB 901, other current (eg, Proposition 1, Prop 68) and potential future funding

sources (eg, SB 45 and other private and public funding sources). A general budget breakdown follows; to be refined with oversight by the Forest Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee.

- Grant Administration and Project Management – Humboldt County \$200,000
- Development of Regional Plan for prioritizing projects and streamlining permitting and providing technical assistance, education and outreach: approximately \$1.9 M
- Demonstration Projects: approximately \$1.9 M

In April 2019, the PRP formed a Forest Resiliency Block Grant Ad Hoc Committee comprised of NCRP PRP and TPRC members to advise on the implementation of the CNRA block grant. The ad hoc committee met on September 30 to discuss the following topics:

- Review prioritization process for projects, actions, strategies to be included in the Regional Priority Plan (RPP)
- Review and approve criteria and selection process for County and Tribal Forest Advisors Review process and criteria
- Review the Draft Regional Priority Plan Outline

Forest Resiliency Block Grant Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:

The Forest Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee requests that the NCRP PRP approve the proposed recommendations as described in the meeting materials for the items below.

ii. IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION PROCESS FOR PROJECTS, ACTIONS, STRATEGIES

iii. DRAFT FOREST ADVISORS CRITERIA & SELECTION PROCESS

iv. NCRP WATERSHEDS, COMMUNITIES & FIRE RESILIENCY PLAN OUTLINE REVIEW

Discussion:

- Supervisor Gore loves that there is money aside for the planning and sees that building into other funding opportunities.
- Chair Morris suggested that the Funding and RFFC ad hoc committees meet together during the January meeting date even if the larger group does not need to meet.
- TPRC Member Chris Ott suggests that the objective to ensure forest health is defined and forest management actions, strategies, initiatives are a holistic in nature.
- Panelist Jason Wells recommended that the planning group not get bogged down by percentages of habitats when defining a healthy forest, but use broad targets and recommendations that encourage landowners to do the right thing.
- TPRC Member Wayne Hayden suggested figuring out how fine of a scale we want to work at to be effective.
- Supervisor Gore commented that we will we want to specify equitable distribution.
- Karen Gaffney suggested that demonstration projects should be scalable, demonstration or a new piece of equipment or approach, but quantitatively measurable.
- Dee Swanhuysen, stated that most landowners do not realize they are part of a forest, it took her years to realize that. In Sonoma County 17,000 parcels are defined as forest. Healthy forest definitions need to include small forests.
- Supervisor Howard, asked if we could use the demonstration funding as match for local fire safe councils to leverage projects and funding.
- TPRC Member Toz Soto stated education is essential to make the program effective; smoke and fire raise a lot of fear.

- TRPC Member Wayne Hayden noted that there is a large geographic area with diversity, so define what a healthy forest is in different areas. He also sees this grant also focusing on forest health and not only reducing fire. We may need to consider how many forest advisors we need with diverse expertise to cover the broad topic and geography.
- Supervisor Madrone, sees opportunity to develop innovative workforce development and youth programs, create jobs, eliminate hack and squirt approaches and reduce invasive species being spread along roadsides. He is in support of taking two million and making 10 million. There is much need for the funding, for example, Humboldt has one brush mower for the entire County.
- Karen Gaffney, stated that staff will put together leveraging opportunities and talking points for the NCRP so when you are out in the community you have some details and information for partnerships and to start leveraging the plan.
- Co-Chair Hillman stated that he has confidence in the ad hoc committee and if we have additional thoughts send them to Karen Gaffney and staff.

Motion: Supervisor Madrone

To approve the Forest Resiliency Block Grant Ad Hoc Committee recommendation with the addition that the comments received are incorporated into the planning process.

Second: Grant Davis

Vote: unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

IX NCRP LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK, 2019

NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris introduced the topic and Karen Gaffney described that the NCRP regularly updates the NCRP handbook to reflect the policies, procedures and standards governing the work of the NCRP. This has been a continuously improving, adaptive process for the last 14 years. Staff regularly checks in with the PRP and TPRC for their guidance on refinements to this handbook. In April 2019, the PRP developed a policy directing staff to prepare and present the NCRP Leadership Handbook (NCRP Handbook) to the PRP for review and approval consideration on an annual basis. The NCRP Handbook - the dynamic part of the NCRP Plan - describes the governance structure, goals/objectives, PRP decisions and policies made during the quarterly meetings. It also lists the PRP & TPRC membership, NCRP projects, and MoMU signatories and other elements of the NCRP that change over time. A number of refinements were suggested at the April 2019 meeting and staff have made these draft updates. Staff is asking for a discussion and decision on the staff recommendations presented in the meeting materials.

Motion: Supervisor McCowen

To approve the staff recommendations: to approve the NCRP Policies to be included in the updated Handbook as an Appendix and approve the NCRP Handbook, 2019.

Second: Supervisor Howard

Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

X NCRP PROJECT SOLICITATION AND SELECTION PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

TPRC Co-Chair: Dale Roberts, Sonoma County Water Agency, provided an informational update.

The NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee met on May 9, July 29 and October 1 2019 to debrief the NCRP 2019 Proposition 1 IRWM Project Solicitation, project review and selection process and make suggestions for improvement. The TPRC acknowledged a number of positive process elements and recommend that these elements be maintained. The TPRC will continue to meet to discuss improvements and identify approaches and specific actions to incorporate into the next funding solicitation. The TPRC is not rushing the process; they are going through all the detail together to attempt to make the application process easier for applicants and for the reviewers. It is anticipated that there will be final draft revisions made available for the PRP review during the next NCRP meeting.

Discussion:

- TPRC Member Wayne Hayden mentioned that they anticipate increasing the technical assistance to make it more successful for the applicants.
- TPRC Member Sandra stated there may be a recommendation for more support for new TPRC members.
- Betsy Stapleton of the Scott River Watershed Council stated that the technical assistance provided was substantial and they appreciated the support as it was very helpful.

New item:

Supervisor Gore was interested in starting a dialog to hear from others about the power shut off that occurred in mid-October with over 200,000 residents without power for 3 days or more. He was concerned that it was a dry run to prepare for a wind event that did not include good communication. He also wanted to discuss how do we rapidly advance grid management. When PG&E manages a public safety event and does not coordinate that with Public leads, that becomes an issue.

- Sherri Norris of CIEA thought the event was similar to the drought situation and a number of disadvantaged communities had water outages that go along with it.
- Supervisor McCowen, commented that PG&E did not give a definitive answer about whether power was going to be out or not a day beforehand. PG&E or CPUC could improve communication of what is going on. It was disappointing that they underperformed. Local agencies, businesses and private entities did a really good job coping with the outage.
- Supervisor Madrone stated the Power was not shut off, the electricity was. The Power is within us to learn and move forward. He commented that the Tribes stepped up and kept Humboldt going with the solar and water and commended Blue Lake Rancheria for their effort. Humboldt produces all the power needed for the County, but PG&E owns the switches and/or grid system keeping us dependent on electricity coming from the Redding area. He sees this as an opportunity to insist on better land use measures moving forward, such as moving all lines underground.
- Sherri Norris of CIEA commended Bear River Rancheria for keeping their gas prices the same unlike other areas and wanted to thank them.
- Chair Morris commented that Trinity County didn't get affected much from the shut off.
- James Gore suggested that we work with California State Association of Counties and others to come up with plans to co-fund and partner for regional improvements. CPUC hearings are difficult to understand, esoteric and requiring the involvement of lobbyists which can be expensive.
- Co-Chair Hillman commented that it appears PG&E internal communication is lacking. He mentioned that if the power had been shut off during the Carr Fire in Redding, Humboldt County's electricity would have been shut off from July to November.
- TPRC Member Chris Ott was raised the question as to why there is not more talk about upgrades to infrastructure, insulating lines and going underground.

XI UPDATES

i. NCRP Tribal Engagement

Sherri Norris, NCRP Tribal Coordinator, California Indian Environmental Alliance provided an update that the NCRP Tribal group had their meeting on October 17 to review the agenda and materials. She mentioned that after the DACTI Needs Assessment is complete they need to determine the best way to meet with all tribes and follow up. She also introduced Steve Nevarez of Sherwood Valley Rancheria who is a new DACTI technical assistance contractor for CIEA and welcomed him.

ii. Regional Administrator & Project Implementation Update

Cybelle Immitt provided an update and reviewed the materials and information in the packet on behalf of Hank Seemann who was not able to attend.

iii. Notable Legislation

Susan Haydon, Sonoma County Water Agency noted that many of the important legislation was well covered by Anecita and referred to the meeting materials where more information was included.

iv. NCRP Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Outreach & Involvement

Cybelle Immitt provided an update and referred to the meeting materials where more information was included.

v. Executive Committee, PRP direction and staff action

(see meeting materials)

XV PUBLIC COMMENT

none

XVI NCRP 2020 MEETING DATES

NCRP PRP Chair Morris reviewed potential meeting conflicts in 2020 for the NCRP Quarterly meetings. Following are her recommendations for meeting changes.

January 17 – Ukiah: consider using this date for ad hoc committee meetings

April 17 – Yreka: change to April 3, Weaverville

July 17 – Eureka: change to July 10

October 16: consider changing from Weaverville to Yreka or Etna

XVII ADJOURNMENT at 3:20 pm

PARTICIPANTS:

Policy Review Panel Members

Chair: Supervisor Judy Morris, Trinity County
Vice-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Director of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe, Northern District
Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County
Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County
Alternate: Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
Supervisor John McCowen, Mendocino County
Alternate: Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County
Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County
Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County
Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency
Alternate: Nathan Rich, Water Quality Specialist, Kashia Band of Pomo, Southern District
Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County

Technical Peer Review Committee Members

Co-Chair: Sandra Perez, Program Manager, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County
Co-Chair: Dale Roberts, Engineer, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County
Toz Soto, Senior Fisheries Biologist, Karuk Tribe, Northern District
Alternate: Megan Van Pelt, Resighini Rancheria, Northern District
Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County
Chris Ott, Dry Creek Rancheria, Southern District
Alternate: Mark Lancaster, Director, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

Other participants:

John Driscoll, District Representative, Congressman Jared Huffman
Tom Weseloh, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, CA State Senator Mike McGuire
Debbie Franco, Water and Rural Affairs, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, Department of Water Resources
Jenny Di Stefano, California Department of Conservation
Nick Goulette, Executive Director, The Watershed Center
Jill Demers, Executive Director, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
Jason Wells, Forester, Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Erin Dunn, District Representative, Assemblymember Jim Wood
Denny Grossman, Senior Advisor for Environmental Science and Policy, Strategic Growth Council
Kurt McCray, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Chief
Ted O. McArthur, Six Rivers National Forest, Forest Supervisor
Yana Valachovic, UCCE, Fire Advisor
Julie Weeder, Recovery Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries
Betsy Stapleton, Board Chair, Scott River Watershed Council
Bradford Norman, Resighini Rancheria, Wetlands Program Coordinator
Steve Navarez, Sherwood Rancheria, California Indian Environmental Alliance
Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance
Javier Silva, California Indian Environmental Alliance
Lauren Rowan, Humboldt County
Denise Monday, Humboldt County

Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County
Susan Haydon, Sonoma County Water Agency
Christine Manhart, LACO
Madison Green, LACO
Frank Bitner, Jacobson James
Earl Crosby, Karuk Tribe
Rachel Capistrano, Bridgeville Community Center
Elliot Brown, Bridgeville Community Center
Lyn Javier, Bridgeville Community Center
Liz Harwood, Institute for Sustainable Forestry
Richard Glenger, Institute for Sustainable Forestry
Pat Vellines, DWR
Barbara Cross, DWR
Emily Ontiveros, DWR
Adriane Garyalde, Russian River Confluence
Sam Grifford, Bear River Rancheria
Sarah Stawasz, Bear River Rancheria
Richard Nelson (Watershed Director) Yurok Watershed Restoration and Roads Program
Jessica (Project Coordinator) Yurok Watershed Restoration and Roads Program
Craig Tucker, Suits and Signs Consulting, LLC
Mark Franco, Traditional Lifeways
Chris Ramey
Hillary Renick, Sherwood Valley Rancheria
Mark Tukman, Tukman Geospatial
Dee Swanhuysen, Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group
Karen Gaffney, West Coast Watershed
Katherine Gledhill, West Coast Watershed