

NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)

POLICY REVIEW PANEL (PRP) & TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE (TPRC) CONFERENCE CALL MEETING SUMMARY

Friday, April 3, 2020; 10 am - noon

I OPENING TRIBAL WELCOME

NCRP PRP Vice-Chair, Leaf Hillman, Karuk Tribe provided the opening Tribal welcome.

II WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

NCRP PRP Chair, Judy Morris, Trinity County Board of Supervisors welcomed all and thanked everyone for joining the conference call meeting during these difficult times. She stated that the health crisis is impacting the North Coast communities in so many different ways. Despite these impacts and new risks to our communities we continue to have the underlying risk of wildfire and the need to continue our work on improving watershed health and resiliency. Additionally, it is important to keep economic engines running to the extent that we can.

Chair Morris stated that Susan Haydon had informed her that Sonoma Water's legislative team felt that there may be some upcoming quick turnaround funding opportunities, given the volatile situation with the California budget and the State's desire to get additional funding on the ground and in communities. It was suggested that the NCRP may wish to write a letter to relevant elected and agency leads letting them know about the NCRP's readiness, capacity to manage funds for region and significant progress on various projects, plans and technical assistance/capacity building, and that it has the ability to take on more work to get more projects on the ground and economic stimulus out into communities. She informed the group that per the past authorization of the PRP, the Executive Committee and staff will work to develop a letter if it seems warranted and in keeping with past PRP direction.

Chair Morris welcomed Keali'i Bright, Director, Land Resource Protection Division, California Department of Conservation and Erin Dunn, staff for Assemblymember Woods. [Note over 50 participants were on the conference call].

NCRP PRP Chair Morris asked for a roll call for PRP members who formed the meeting quorum:

- Chair: Supervisor Judy Morris, Trinity County
- Vice-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Director of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe, Northern District
- Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County
- Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County
- Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County
- Supervisor Mike Wilson, Humboldt County

- Supervisor John McCowen, Mendocino County
- Alternate: Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County
- Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County
- Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Alternate: Dale Roberts, TPRC member, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Brandi Brown, Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo, Southern District
- Alternate: Nathan Rich, Water Quality Specialist, Kashia Band of Pomo, Southern District
- Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County

NCRP PRP Chair Morris asked for a roll call for TPRC 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
- Emily Luscombe, Cahto Indian Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria, Central District
- Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Environmental Services, Public Works Department, Humboldt County
- John Friedenbach, General Manager, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Humboldt County
- Alternate: Megan Van Pelt, Resighini Rancheria, Northern District
- Rick Dean, Deputy Director of Environmental Health, Siskiyou County
- Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County
- Chris Ott, Dry Creek Rancheria, Southern District
- Mark Lancaster, Director, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

NCRP PRP Chair Morris asked for a roll call for NCRP Staff:

- Sherri Norris, NCRP Tribal Engagement Coordinator, California Indian Environmental Alliance
- Javier Silva, Consultant, California Indian Environmental Alliance
- Cybelle Immitt, Natural Resources Planning Manager, Humboldt County
- Denise Monday, Sr. Environmental Analyst, Humboldt County
- Julia Cavalli, Environmental Analyst, Humboldt County
- Lauren Rowan, Environmental Analyst, Humboldt County
- Susan Haydon, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Karen Gaffney, WCW Staff
- Katherine Gledhill, WCW Staff

III REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

- Motion: Supervisor Wilson
- Second: Supervisor Brown
- Vote: Unanimous

IV PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the agenda

Supervisor Madrone is participating in the Coalition of the Willing in the Klamath, which is doing similar work to NCRP. He hopes NCRP will consider presenting to their organization at a future meeting.

V UPDATE FROM CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Keali'i Bright, Director, Land Resource Protection Division, California Department of Conservation described how the need for forest health and resiliency doesn't stop in the face of catastrophe or economic downturn. It is more important now than ever to help ensure economic resiliency and avoid further catastrophe. CNRA/DOC is under direction of the governor and secretary to keep grant programs moving forward. As of right now, the State intends to keep funds appropriated to grant programs where they are.

CNRA/DOC have shifted to 100% teleworking, which has resulted in higher productivity of Keali'i's staff. Grant agreement, invoices, and payments are turning around faster than before--in part because his staff recognize their grantees may have increased need for available funds due to the crisis.

CNRA is working with the Forest Management Task Force (FMTF) to provide guidance to those doing work on the ground. J. Montgomery (FMTF coordinator) recently sent out guidance on this. Many of the State's local partners have little capacity for resilience to crises like this, especially disadvantaged communities. They are continuing to look for ways to be more flexible in order to prevent impacts to local partners/grantees. They are keeping an eye on the ultimate goals of each grant program, recognizing that local partners are essential to achieving those goals.

The Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) is a statewide grantee of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) program. They recently completed a statewide capacity needs assessment survey of conservation partners and have followed up with a second survey to those same partners about additional needs they are experiencing during this health crisis. WRTC will be working to elevate these needs to the Secretary.

NCRP has the perfect infrastructure for stimulus funding. WRTC may be able to help transfer NCRP's highly successful model to other areas of the state and prepare groups to receive additional funding.

VI NCRP REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM REPORT

NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris described that the Forestry Ad Hoc Committee met on September 30, 2019 and January 19 and March 18, 2020. The committee discussed a wide range of topics and these listed in the meeting materials. She thanked them for their dedicated work moving this important program forward.

Karen provided a Regional Priority Plan Update: It was decided at the outset to make development of the RPP a very transparent process by providing access to various evolutions and soliciting feedback at every step. The Forestry Ad Hoc Committee has reviewed several iterations of the RPP; current iteration is included with the meeting materials. Staff interviewed members of the Ad Hoc, State partners, WRTC, and other partners for their input into the RPP. In-depth conversation of opportunities, weaknesses, needs, etc. had by Ad Hoc in Ukiah on January 19 are all included in the current outline. Staff look forward to receiving more input moving forward; contact Karen to provide feedback.

VII NCRP FOREST ADVISORS WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

NCRP PRP Chair Morris described that the NCRP received a total of 7 letters of interest for the Tribal and County Forest Advisors and these have been provided to the PRP members. PRP members may take these letters of interest under consideration when selecting the advisors that will represent their jurisdiction. PRP members also may choose advisors that have not submitted a letter of interest. The Tribal and County Forestry Advisors will play an important role reviewing and advising on the Regional Priority Plan and the development of a technical and capacity assistance program. There is no need for a formal decision from the county Boards or Tribal Councils. PRP members from each county or Tribe may make their own selection of Advisors to represent their county/Tribe.

Sherri Norris, NCRP Tribal Coordinator informed the group that the Tribal representatives will provide more Tribespecific detail to the solicitation materials and keep the solicitation open until May 6.

VIII NCRP REGIONAL FOREST & FIRE CAPACITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT SOLICITATION, ROUND 2

NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris opened this agenda item by describing that during the last couple of Forestry Ad Hoc meetings, the committee has developed the process for soliciting and evaluating proposals for demonstration projects that will really move the needle on multi-benefit approaches to forest management on the North Coast. She introduced Karen, who outlined the ad hoc recommendations for consideration and approval. These may have bearing on the selection of the first round of funding. Karen summarized page 3 of the meeting materials that described the NCRP Forestry Ad Hoc Recommendations:

i. Round 2 Demonstration Project Solicitation Timing & Selection

- **APRIL 13:** The NCRP announces the 2020 Round 2 Demonstration Project Concept Proposal Solicitation via the <u>NCRP website</u> and eblast.
- MAY 22: Due date for the NCRP 2020 Round 2 Demonstration Project Concept Proposals.
- MAY 24 JUNE 14: TPRC Demonstration Project Concept Proposal review period.
- **JUNE 15:** TPRC Project Review and Scoring meeting to select a portfolio of priority projects as a TPRC recommendation to be presented to the NCRP Policy Review Panel for final approval.
- JUNE 19 or TBD: NCRP Policy Review Panel consider TPRC recommended suite of Priority NCRP 2020 Round 2 Demonstration Projects and approve a final list of projects.
- **JUNE/JULY:** Priority NCRP 2020 Round 2 Demonstration Project sponsors work with NCRP staff to develop detailed scopes and budgets and finalize sub-grant agreements.
- JULY 30, 2021: NCRP 2020 Demonstration Projects are completed.

ii. Resubmittal of Proposals

Demonstration Project proposals not selected in Round 1 will not be automatically rolled into Round 2. Project proponents whose projects were not selected in Round 1 are encouraged to resubmit their proposals to the Round 2 solicitation and may incorporate improvements based on the feedback from the TPRC Round 1 project proposal review prior to resubmission.

iii. Funding Round Award Limits

A total of \$1.8 million of the CNRA block grant funding will go to fund demonstration processes and on-theground projects in two rounds of funding. The TPRC may recommend a suite of projects with a total combined budget up to \$1 million during the first round of funding with the remainder of funding to be allocated to the second round of funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

- Motion: Supervisor Wilson
- Second: Supervisor McCowen
- Vote: Unanimous

IX NCRP REGIONAL FOREST & FIRE CAPACITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, ROUND 1

NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris thanked TPRC Co-chairs Sandra Perez and Dale Roberts for their outstanding leadership in assuring a professional, objective, fair and transparent process especially during these difficult times and little more than 2 weeks to review and select the draft list for the PRP review. This process relies on the significant technical resources of the TPRC which includes engineers, indigenous and cultural experts, natural resource specialists, planners. Many of the TPRC are volunteers and spend significant amounts of unpaid time to do this critical work. They are committed to objective evaluation which benefits the region as a whole and carries out the direction set by the Policy Review Panel.

Chair Morris noted the high quality of proposals submitted and that the project proponents – their innovative ideas and local knowledge - are a key factor in the NCRP's success. We wish we could fund them all and these are challenging decisions. We are one of the only regions in the state that relies on locally elected officials – Tribal and County – to make these decisions on behalf of our constituents in the region. This is an important factor in our ongoing success, and represents democracy at its finest.

TPRC Co-Chair Dale Roberts, Sonoma Water described the recent project review process and presented the Technical Peer Review Committee recommended suite of NCRP 2020 Round 1 Demonstration Priority Projects. He described that a total of \$1.8 million of the CNRA block grant funding will go to fund demonstration processes and on-the-ground projects designed to test concepts, methods, and innovative techniques to identify effective management practices for fuel load reduction and forest health. The funding will be allocated via two rounds of solicitations. All demonstration projects need to be completed by July 2021 to ensure integration of lessons learned and project results into the RPP.

Dale Roberts described that on March 13, the NCRP received 18 project proposals for a total request of approximately \$3 million. The TPRC reviewed the concept proposal for the next couple of weeks and on Monday, March 30, the TPRC met via conference call to discuss the project proposals and select a draft suite of Priority Projects. 11 TPRC members participated in the 6-hour conference call. The conversation was professional and informed and resulted in the following TPRC recommendation that funds the top six ranked projects. Only one is recommended for full funding. A total of \$916,421 is recommended funding for Round 1 Including 6% administration and project management.

Final Score	Organization, Project Name	Area Served	Match	TPRC Recommend Budget
77.38	Mid Klamath Watershed Council, NCRP Strategic Fire Planning & WKRP State & Transition modelling	Region-wide	\$65,000	\$200,000
74.25	Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council, California Resource & Habitat Zone Development	Region-wide	\$85,200	\$89,650
74.13	Mattole Restoration Council, Prosper Ridge Prairie Restoration Project	Humboldt County	\$204,500	\$123,800
71.98	Watershed Research and Training Center, North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team	Region-wide	\$142,200	\$144,816
71.62	Karuk Tribe, Burning Across Boundaries: An Inter-Tribal Collaborative Planning Project for Increased Wildfire Resiliency in the North Coast Region	Tribal Land	\$19,110	\$199,755
71.01	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Siskiyou County Collaborative Prescribed Burn Association and Demonstration Projects	Siskiyou	\$51,000	\$98,400

PUBLIC COMMENT

Connor Kennedy, Humboldt Redwood Company

Interested in TPRC recommendations so that they may incorporate them into a Round 2 proposal. Will TPRC comments be discussed substantively during this meeting? No, unless a specific question is asked by the TPRC. Staff is in the process of refining notes and TPRC comments. They will be posted to the website next week.

Supervisor McCowen: Were groups awarded extra points for region wide application of projects? No. Sandra read off the selection criteria. The California Land Stewardship Institute project seems like a really good project. Grazing used to be used more in the Mendocino area and it kept the fuels down effectively.

Brandi Brown: The California Land Stewardship Institute project proposal didn't mention beneficial grazers. Seemed like just cattle which aren't effective at reducing brush.

NCRP 2020 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TPRC RECOMMENDATION:

The TPRC recommends funding the top six ranked projects at 80% except for the Mattole Restoration Council funded at 50% and Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council at 100%.

The TPRC also recommends reserving the approximately \$83,000 leftover from Round 1 to Round 2. The decision not to allocate the remaining \$83,000 was multi-faceted:

- TPRC felt they could not adequately fund the next highest ranked project with the remaining funds and would prefer to give it full consideration in the next round, should the project proponent choose to resubmit.
- Several projects could be improved with TPRC's comments and TPRC would like to consider those in Round 2, should the project proponents choose to resubmit.
- Adding funding to Round 2 will also provide more opportunity for funding for Tribes or DACs that might have needed more time or assistance to prepare proposals.
- Lastly, it will provide more funding for a wider regional spread of projects.

The TPRC recommends that a statement be added to the Round 2 solicitation notice explicitly stating preference will be given to counties or areas not funded in Round 1 to help ensure regional participation and representation.

- Motion: Supervisor McCowen
- Second: Supervisor Wilson
- Recused: Leaf Hillman & Dale Roberts
- Vote: Unanimous

X NCRP REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY: CONCEPT PROPOSALS FOR PROJECT IDENTIFICATION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Karen Gaffney, NCRP Staff described how the NCRP has a long history of identifying projects, project need and providing technical assistance to project proponents to level the playing field and enhance project competitiveness when it comes to the submittal of project proposals for state and federal funding. NCRP has used the project identification process to understand the needs of the region and to pull together innovative strategies and project ideas that help inform the planning process and all the work of the NCRP. The process generates information that can be shared with state partners and funders. This process will differ from the demonstration project RFP process. There are many incentives to

submit a proposal, one of the main ones being the potential for technical assistance. Very valuable to those who may not have a lot of capacity. Karen introduced the staff recommendation:

NCRP Staff Recommendation:

All submitted proposals that meet NCRP eligibility criteria will be listed in the NCRP project list. NCRP staff will work with the NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) and NCRP Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement (DACTI) ad hoc committees appointed by the NCRP leadership to develop the Request for Concept Proposals and staff will distribute the Request for Proposals throughout the region. Proposals for technical assistance will be evaluated based on a selection process developed by the two RFFC and DACTI committees. Additional support for proposal evaluation may be provided by NCRP technical consultants and agency partners as requested. Technical assistance proposals will be evaluated by staff using the criteria developed by the ad hoc committees and will recommend a suite of projects based on available funding. NCRP DACTI and RFFC ad hoc committees will consider the draft suite of projects and make the final selection.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

- Motion: Supervisor Wilson
- Second: Supervisor McCowen
- Vote: Unanimous

XI DIRECTION TO STAFF RE: APPLICATION TO CAL FIRE GRANT PROGRAM

Chair Morris introduced the agenda item by stating that CAL FIRE has created a new grant opportunity to provide technical and financial assistance to nonindustrial forestland owners. This is an opportunity for the NCRP to extend the technical assistance work of the NCRP. Karen Gaffney provided some background information and introduced the staff recommendation.

NCRP Staff Recommendation:

Given the long history of the NCRP providing technical assistance to project proponents, the fact that the NCRP has current funding and technical consultant capacity in place to provide technical assistance for forest health and fuel load reduction projects, and that significant need for technical assistance has been identified in the North Coast region, direct NCRP staff to evaluate this grant program, reach out to prospective partners such as North Coast Tribes, the North Coast RCD network, the UCCE Forest Advisor Network and the Watershed Research and Training Center to determine their interest in collaborating. If deemed a viable opportunity, staff would seek review of a draft grant proposal by the Forestry Ad Hoc Committee and the approval of the Chair and Vice-chair to move forward with a grant application. If awarded, the grant would only be accepted after approval of the full Policy Review Panel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dee Swanhuyser asked how to find information about the funding opportunity described at the beginning of the meeting. Response: Susan's new information is breaking news and we don't have much information at this time. It was suggested to email Katherine and she can update folks as new information is learned.

- Motion: Supervisor Criss
- Second: Supervisor Brown
- Vote: Unanimous

XII NCRP LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK UPDATE: TRIBAL REPRESENTATION PROCESS

Chair Morris introduced Sherri Norris, NCRP Tribal Engagement Coordinator who provided an overview of the Tribal Representative recommendation regarding how the Tribal Selection & Representation Process is referenced in the NCRP Handbook.

Sherri Norris described how the Handbook and MoMU reference a Tribal Rep process from 2011 that has since been refined. The NCRP Tribal representatives recommend that the process be included as a standalone process posted to the website and referenced in the NCRP Leadership Handbook.

NCRP Tribal PRP & TPRC Recommendation

To better represent the "Tribal Representation Process" and to make the existing process available to the public in an open and transparent way, the NCRP Tribal PRP and TPRC members recommend developing a webpage on the NCRP website with relevant information about Tribal participation in the Tribal Representation Process. They also recommend changing the following language in the NCRP Handbook as shown below.

Policy Review Panel

The NCRP Policy Review Panel (PRP) consists of two Board of Supervisors' appointees and alternates from each of the seven counties and three Tribal representatives and alternates selected by the North Coast Tribes according to <u>the "Tribal Selection & Representation Process" as posted in the NCRP website with related Tribal nomination and voting documents. the "Tribal Representation Process" as defined in the NCRP MoMU.</u>

Technical Peer Review Committee

The Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) is comprised of technical & scientific staff appointed by Policy Review Panel members <u>or Board of Supervisors</u> from each county and Tribal representatives (and alternates) selected by the North Coast Tribes according to <u>the "Tribal Selection & Representation Process" as posted in the</u> <u>NCRP website with related Tribal nomination and voting documents."</u>the "Tribal Representation Process" as defined in the NCRP MoMU.

Comment: An additional edit was proposed to the TPRC section of NCRP Handbook excerpted on page 10 of the meeting materials: Strike "Policy Review Panel members" from the second line and substitute "Board of Supervisors".

Discussion:

- Some pointed out that in some counties, like Sonoma, PRP members do select their TPRC members.
- The MoMU, which served as the framework for the NCRP Handbook, states that either the PRP or a signatory county's BOS can select TPRC members.
- Final edit: Add "or Board of Supervisors" to the second line after Policy Review Panel members (see above).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

- Motion: Supervisor McCowen, as further amended
- Second: Dale Roberts
- Vote: Unanimous

XIII NCRP 2020 MEETING DATES

NCRP PRP Chair Morris described that based on the decision made regarding the timing of the Forestry Demonstration Project Round 2 solicitation, we need to convene the PRP to review the TPRC project funding recommendation on June 19 or shortly thereafter. The Forestry Ad Hoc discussed that it might be feasible to set that meeting up now as a conference call meeting, as it is difficult to know what the month of June holds for us in terms of the health emergency and meeting protocols. Chair Morris proposed the following meeting date and location changes which were agreed upon during the meeting.

- July 10, Eureka CHANGE TO JUNE 19 (either in person in Eureka or remotely)
- October 16, Yreka area CHANGE TO WEAVERVILLE

Discussion:

- None expressed opposition to the date change proposal.
- There was a recommendation to use Zoom. Staff will look into it, if we need to meet remotely.
- The October meeting will be the last meeting with Chair Morris. Karen hopes it can be a business meeting and a celebration of her tenure.
- Sherri Norris announced that Brandi Brown is retiring from the PRP and June will be her last meeting as a PRP member.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherri Norris, described that a Tribal Representative commented that the MoMU mentions water and wondered whether it should be changed to "resources" (since NCRP is now engaged in forest health/fuels). Staff recommends that they will take a closer look for similar edits and will add it to the agenda for the next meeting should it be deemed important.

Sherri Norris also mentioned that she would like to do a DACTI update at the next meeting.

XIV 12:00 ADJOURN UPDATES

UPDATES

All updates can be found in written format in the meeting materials.

Executive Committee, PRP direction and staff action

NCRP Executive Committee Support Letters

In February, the NCRP Executive Committee submitted its support and the NCRP logo for inclusion in a RoundTable of Regions letter campaign to solicit support for IRWM funding. The letter "strongly supports the allocation of \$1 billion for IRWM and other programs and projects that achieve regional and inter-regional water resilience as described in the

Governor's proposed Climate Resilience Bond." This language recognizes the value of IRWM but does not preclude other collaborative regional and inter-regional projects from being included.

NCRP Executive Committee Decision to include a project into the NCRP Plan

In January, the NCRP was approached by the City of Fortuna with a project submittal request for inclusion into the NCRP Plan as a requirement of a State Water Resources Control Board, Round 2, Proposition 1 Stormwater Implementation Grant and DWR Prop. 1 Stormwater Implementation Grant funding solicitations. In accordance to the adopted NCRP policy, NCRP staff reviewed the preliminary project information materials for eligibility and have confirmed that the City of Fortuna is a signatory to the NCRP MoMU. The Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC), reviewed the materials January 29 – February 29 and determined the project's alignment with the NCRP Goals/ Objectives and recommends that it be considered for listing as a NCRP project by the NCRP Executive Committee. The NCRP Executive Committee reviewed project information and approved including the City of Fortuna stormwater project it into the NCRP Plan.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

- Chair: Supervisor Judy Morris, Trinity County
- Vice-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Director of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe, Northern District
- Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County
- Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County
- Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County
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- Julia Cavalli, Environmental Analyst, Humboldt County

- Lauren Rowan, Environmental Analyst, Humboldt County
- Susan Haydon, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Karen Gaffney, WCW NCRP Staff
- Katherine Gledhill, WCW NCRP Staff
- Keali'i Bright, Director, Land Resource Protection Division, California Department of Conservation
- Erin Dunn, staff for Assemblymember Woods.
- Angie Robertson
- Leonard Mullen
- Marion Bailey
- Connor Kennedy, Humboldt Redwood Company
- Dee Swanhuyser

[Note over 50 participants were on the conference call].