



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)

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

Friday, June 19, 2020; 10 am – noon

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

NCRP PRP Chair, Judy Morris, Trinity County Board of Supervisors welcomed all and thanked everyone for joining the conference call meeting [Over 60 participants were in attendance].

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
- Alternate: Jaytuk Steinruck, Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation, 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
- Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County
- Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Alternate: Dale Roberts, TPRC member, Sonoma County Water Agency
- 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

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

- Julia Cavalli, Environmental Analyst, Humboldt County
- Susan Haydon, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Karen Gaffney, WCW Staff
- Katherine Gledhill, WCW Staff

NCRP PRP Chair Morris asked for members of the public to introduce themselves:

- Anecita Augustinez, Department of Water Resources
- Pat Vellines, Department of Water Resources
- Eric Martinez, Department of Water Resources
- Jason Ko, USFS
- Early Crosby, Karuk Dept. of Natural Resources
- Raymond Baltar, Sonoma Ecology Center
- Deanne DiPietro, Conservation Biology Institute
- Tim Bailey, Humboldt County RCD
- Four Waters, Four Waters Media Inc.
- Alexis Robertson, Scott River Watershed Council
- Devin Chatoian, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Pat Higgins, Eel River Recovery Project
- Adriane Garayalde, Russian River Confluence
- Tracy Katelman, ForeverGreen Forestry
- Virginia Mahacek, WRA Inc.
- Kenny Spain, Humboldt County, Economic Development and Headwaters Fund
- Devin Chatoian, Sonoma Water
- Hayley Ross, Mendocino Redwood Company
- Raymond Baltar, Sonoma Ecology Center
- Kate Reza, Reza Environmental

II REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

- **Motion:** Supervisor McCowen
- **Second:** Supervisor Criss
- **Vote:** Unanimous

III FOND FAREWELLS

Chair Morris announced that Brandi Brown, Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo, representing the Southern District has served on the Executive Committee for several years and is now stepping down.

John Friedenbach, General Manager, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, TPRC member since 2017, is stepping down June 20th following the Round 2 RFFC demonstration project selection process. Many thanks for his participation and insight. He brought a wealth of knowledge of water supply to the NCRP and has been a stalwart for watershed protection.

IV PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the agenda

None.

V TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER NOMINATION & ELECTION

Tribal Engagement Coordinator, Sherri Norris introduced the three new tribal representatives recently selected

through the 2020 Tribal Nomination & Voting Process on June 18.

- Patricia Rabano, Round Valley Indian Tribe, Policy Review Panel, Central Region
- Jatyuk Steinruck, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Policy Review Panel, Northern Region alternate
- Michelle Downey, Round Valley Indian Tribe, Technical Peer Review Committee, Central Region alternate

Brandi Brown's replacement on the Executive Committee will be Nathan Rich, following approval of the Kashia Band of Pomo Tribal Council.

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

VI UPDATE FROM OUR STATE PARTNERS

Anecita Agustinez, Department of Water Resources

- DWR recently hosted the Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar 3-Part Series on the past and future of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and the challenges and successes experienced by tribes. The meeting materials and recordings are posted here: <http://facilitation-team.org>. There was great participation from tribal and non-tribal partners, as well as the state. Thank you to Leaf Hillman for his support and participation in a panel discussion, along with Karen Gaffney. Thanks as well to Sherri Norris and Javier Silva, who were excellent co-facilitators. The goals of the 3-day meeting were to find ways to duplicate success with past IRWM grant round and to maintain Tribal involvement/engagement in anticipation of Round 2 in 2022 (\$13 million available). All meeting materials will be made available; it is hoped that they will reach new tribal partners to help them understand where IRWM has been and where it is going. Participants also discussed Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) issues and concerns were aired directly to executive leadership through this forum. A proceedings document and reference guide will also be produced as well as a workbook on grant processes, which DWR would like to share with TPRC/PRP for review.
- One of the biggest success stories of the NCRP is having a Tribal engagement Coordinator as part of its structure. The question is whether Tribal coordinators could be implemented statewide.
- DWR has also been meeting with several tribes in the Delta conveyance area, although COVID has delayed some of this consultation. An update will be provided on this and all of the above soon.

VII NCRP REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM REPORT

Karen Gaffney provided an update on the overall RFF program and selection of technical consultants and forest advisors. A written update with more detailed information is provided in the meeting materials.

- The PRP approved a suite of Round 1 demonstration projects at the last quarterly meeting in April and will approve Round 2 today, following a presentation by the TPRC Co-chairs.
- Humboldt County staff has been working with the Round 1 subgrantees to develop detailed scopes and conducting kickoff meetings to discuss integration with the RFFC project and NCRP's goals.
- The Round 1 projects are expected to be under contract by end of June.
- NCRP staff has also been working with the Round 1 subgrantees to develop ideas on how to incorporate their projects into the Regional Priority Plan (RPP). Initial ideas include: videos, posters, or multi-page spreads
- As for the RPP itself, the draft plan outline continues to be developed following guidance of the PRP and Forestry Ad Hoc. Several consultants have been brought on board to assist with its development, including several registered professional foresters and academic policy experts.
- Staff are planning to issue an RFP for technical assistance and are currently developing an approach.

- Now that the technical consultants, forest advisors, and demonstration project proponents have all been identified, staff plan to convene a regional mapping meeting to coordinate geospatial data sharing and collection efforts.
- Staff are also working with consultants and advisors to develop a methodology for developing a list of prioritized projects to be incorporated into the RPP. Some of these projects may also be eligible for technical assistance under the RFFC project.
- Sherri Norris announced the names of the tribal consultants and tribal forest advisors currently on board; she noted that the search process for additional tribal forest advisors is ongoing:
 - Kathy McCovey, RFFC Tribal Technical Consultant
 - Javier Silva and Steve Navarez, CIEA Consultants / Technical Assistance Team
 - Aja Conrad, Forest Advisor

VIII NCRP TRIBAL & COUNTY FOREST ADVISORS ANNOUNCEMENT

NCRP PRP Chair Morris explained that 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. The Forest Advisors that have been selected so far are as follows:

- Del Norte: UCCE Yana Valachovic, Forest Advisor
- Humboldt County: Will Harling, Director of the Mid Klamath Watershed Council
- Trinity: Mark Lancaster, RPF and Director of the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program
- Siskiyou: Solicited but have not nailed one down yet.
- Tribal: Aja Conrad, Karuk Tribe (solicitation for additional Tribal Forest Advisors remains open)
- Sonoma and Mendocino: No representatives were available to comment

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

NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris thanked TPRC Co-chairs Sandra Perez and Dale Roberts for their leadership and guidance of the TPRC through the selection process.

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 2 Demonstration Priority Projects.

He explained 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. All demonstration projects need to be completed by July 2021 to ensure integration of lessons learned and project results into the RPP. Round 1 (the first of two rounds of funding) was allocated by the PRP on April 3; six projects were funded at a cost of \$916,421 including 6% for administration and project management. NCRP staff are now working closely with the subgrantees to develop their budgets and scopes of work in a way that is responsive to TPRC comments as well as the objectives of the RFFC project and NCRP as a whole.

For Round 2, the NCRP received 15 project proposals for a total request of approximately \$2.7 million, on May 22. The TPRC reviewed the concept proposal for the next couple of weeks and on Monday, June 15, the TPRC met via conference call to discuss the project proposals and select a draft suite of Priority Projects. A total of 9 TPRC members participated in the almost 6-hour conference call. The conversation was professional and informed and resulted in the following TPRC recommendation that funds seven of the top eight ranked projects at a cost of \$883,579 (including 6% admin).

Final Score	Organization, Project Name	Area Served	Match	TPRC Recommend Budget
69.75	Dry Creek Rancheria, Vegetation Management and Demonstration Project Using Native Vegetation and TEK	Tribal Land, Southern Region	\$195,000	\$196,000
69.30	Center for Social & Environmental Stewardship, Fire School Pilot Program at Lake Sonoma & Dry Creek	Sonoma County	\$115,018	\$109,714
69.09	Sonoma Ecology Center, Use of Portable Field Kilns to Process Biomass and Make Biochar	Mendocino & Siskiyou County	\$15,000	\$122,883
68.09	Scott River Watershed Council, Siskiyou County Fuel Reduction, Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Soil Health Amendment Demonstration Using Innovative Carbon Sequestering Biochar Technology	Siskiyou County	\$92,415	\$158,042
67.88	Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC, Forest Fuel Hazard Reduction and Utilization/Oak Woodland Restoration	Humboldt County	\$122,400	\$87,040
67.83	Eel River Recovery Project, Tenmile Creek Watershed Forest Health Pilot Project	Mendocino County	\$0	\$120,000
67.06	Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Redwood Region Greenhouse Gas Calculator Toolkit	Regionwide	\$0	\$41,900

Discussion:

- Dale Roberts offered the following reasoning for several decisions made:
 - The TPRC decided not fund the Klamath Meadow Restoration Planning Demonstration Project despite its high ranking because the Scott River Watershed Council (project proponent) would already be receiving funding for an even more highly ranked project; two additional projects could be funded in its stead, thereby providing wider regional representation consistent with the PRP direction provided during the first solicitation process; and, these two additional projects were within one point of the Klamath Meadow project.
 - The TPRC did not recommend funding of more than \$200,000 for any one project, which is consistent with the highest amount allocated in Round 1. Lowering the maximum amount given to any one project increased the number of funded projects.
 - Once the subgrantees accept the funding, NCRP staff will begin working with them on their scopes of work to ensure the best integration with the RFFC project and NCRP’s goals.
- Supervisor Madrone: Humboldt Redwood Company proposal – seems like the activities proposed would fall under the Habitat Conservation Plan. What was the thinking behind funding this project? The funding might be better spent on a project for Siskiyou County, which hasn’t had many projects funded over the years. The TPRC Co-chairs replied by making the following points:
 - a. That the project proposal stated that it was cost prohibitive to treat slash in a way that would encourage forest health and oak regeneration. This project proposed to illustrate how a more innovative approach could be applied in a cost-effective way.
 - b. They lowered their ask substantially from Round 1 and are offering over 100% match.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Higgins, ERRP: Very pleased to have been selected and to have the opportunity to work on forest health for Mendocino County. The EERP project will enable access to CCI funding, improve fire safety, oak regeneration, increase

flow of Tenmile Creek, and create a carbon sink within this watershed. Also, thank you to DWR for funding another water project in the area.

Raymond Baltar, SEC: Thank you to NCRP. Very much looking forward to showcasing what the biochar kilns can do. Lessons learned will benefit the whole NCRP region. Kilns will be shared with other groups as well.

NCRP 2020 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TPRC RECOMMENDATION:

The TPRC recommends funding the projects listed in the table above at the funding levels listed.

- **Motion:** Supervisor Howard
- **Second:** Supervisor McCowen
- **Recused:** Dale Roberts
- **Roll Call Vote In Favor:**
 - Judy Morris
 - Leaf Hillman
 - Gerry Hemmingsen
 - Chris Howard
 - Steve Madrone
 - Mike Wilson
 - John McCowen
 - Brandon Criss
 - Grant Davis
 - Jeremy Brown
- **Opposed:**
 - None
- **Not Present:**
 - Carre Brown
 - Dan Gjerde
 - Geri Byrne
 - Ray Haupt
 - James Gore
 - Nathan Rich

X REVIEW & APPROVE NCRP LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK, 2020

The Leadership Handbook is the “living document” portion of the NCRP Plan; it documents changes, decisions, new members, and projects. The proposed update includes a change in the governance section that was approved during the April meeting in reference to the Tribal selection and representation process. It also includes updates on new projects, MoMU signatories, and new PRP direction. The staff recommendation is to approve the updated Handbook. Upon approval, the 2020 version will be posted to the NCRP website. The draft NCRP Leadership Handbook, 2020 is provided as Attachment B. Updates are indicated by red underline and crossed out text.

Action: Approve the proposed updates to the Leadership Handbook.

- **Motion:** Supervisor Wilson
- **Second:** Supervisor McCowen
- **Roll Call Vote In Favor:**
 - Judy Morris
 - Leaf Hillman
 - Gerry Hemmingsen
 - Chris Howard
 - Steve Madrone
 - Mike Wilson
 - John McCowen
 - Brandon Criss
 - Grant Davis
 - Dale Roberts
 - Jeremy Brown
- **Opposed:**
 - None
- **Not Present:**
 - Carre Brown
 - Dan Gjerde
 - Geri Byrne
 - Ray Haupt
 - James Gore
 - Nathan Rich

XI NCRP 2020 MEETING DATES

The next meeting is planned for October 16, 2020 in Weaverville. It is hoped that this meeting may be safely held in-person but it may be changed to a conference call depending on the public health outlook. The Executive Committee will be called together before October to check-in on the general status of NCRP activity and leadership transition. Katherine will send out possible dates to the Committee. The Forestry Ad Hoc will also meeting before October; staff will propose potential meeting times.

XII ADJOURN

Chair Morris adjourned the meeting early at 11:30 am.

UPDATES

Updates on the bolded topics below can be found in written format in the meeting materials. Cybelle Immitt and Grant Davis expanded on two of these items as follows:

NCRP Tribal Engagement

Regional Administrator & Project Implementation Update

Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County

A detailed report on the status of the projects and grant rounds administered by the County of Humboldt is included in the meeting materials. Prop. 84 Round 1 has officially been closed out. A big thank you is owed to Denise Monday for seeing it through to completion and to Eric Martinez for his support as DWR grant Manager. Denise has also been instrumental in setting up the Prop. 1 Round 1 grant round. Also, thank you to Julia Cavalli for taking on the role of lead administrator for the RFFC Demonstration Projects.

Notable Legislation

Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency

COVID-19 has cast uncertainty on the state budget and on continued funding for NCRP. A resiliency bond was being planned for the November ballot but this is no longer possible. NCRP will need to redouble efforts to leverage local dollars and find other means to fund projects like those approved today. Agencies and partners are supportive and understanding. Executive committee had planned to call on legislators this spring to seek additional funding but this too, will not be possible this year.

NCRP Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Outreach & Involvement

Executive Committee, PRP direction and staff action

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

A Funding Ad Hoc Committee was formed at the Bear River meeting last October. This committee will likely be convened before the next quarterly meeting.

Many thanks were expressed for Humboldt County admin team and for Sonoma County Water for legislative support.

Thanks to Sherri Norris and CIEA for their hard work moving this region forward as a model of tribal engagement.

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
- Supervisor Mike Wilson, Humboldt County
- Supervisor John McCowen, Mendocino County
- Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County
- Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Alternate: Dale Roberts, TPRC member, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Alternate: Nathan Rich, Water Quality Specialist, Kashia Band of Pomo, Southern District
- Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Julia Cavalli, Environmental Analyst, Humboldt County
- Susan Haydon, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Karen Gaffney, WCW NCRP Staff
- Katherine Gledhill, WCW NCRP Staff
- Anecita Augustinez, Department of Water Resources
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- Devin Chatoian, Sonoma Water
- Hayley Ross, Mendocino Redwood Company
- Raymond Baltar, Sonoma Ecology Center
- Kate Reza, Reza Environmental

[Note over 60 participants were on the conference call].