



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

Friday, December 11, 2020 10 am – 12:30 pm

Conference Call #: 1-888-947-3988; Conference Code: 371890

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following items correspond to the NCRP Quarterly Meeting agenda for December 11, 2020 per agenda order and item number. The items below include background information for agenda items that require additional explanation and, in some cases, include recommendations for action. The meeting agenda and other meeting materials can be found on the NCRP website at

<https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/north-coast-resource-partnership-quarterly-meetings/>

VI NCRP POLICY UPDATES

The NCRP PRP is the governance and decision-making body for the North Coast Resource Partnership, and sets policy and makes decisions on a regular basis to provide direction to the NCRP TPRC and NCRP “staff team” (agency staff and consultants). The policies and processes of the NCRP are regularly reviewed and updated by the PRP based on new information and the needs and opportunities facing the NCRP and the North Coast Region. In addition to documenting the history, protocols and decision-making criteria of the NCRP, the NCRP Leadership Handbook documents all policy decisions made by the PRP since its founding. The following policy updates are being brought forward for PRP discussion and consideration. Decisions regarding these policy updates will be integrated into a revised version of the NCRP Leadership Handbook and considered by the PRP during the next Quarterly Meeting, currently scheduled for January 15, 2021.

i. NCRP Governance Policy Updates

The Executive Committee met in late November to discuss future strategies for the Partnership and recommends updating the NCRP Governance structure to enhance balance between Tribal and county leadership, as well as to enable leadership mentoring and succession planning.

Currently the NCRP Policy Review Panel nominates and elects a Chair and Vice-Chair on an as needed basis and each position is brought before the Policy Review Panel for reconsideration and appointment every two years. The Executive Committee is comprised of the Policy Review Panel Chair, Vice-Chair, a third member nominated and approved by the PRP and a fourth member nominated by the Tribal representatives and approved by the PRP.

NCRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Committee recommends changing the PRP and Executive Committee structure to one of the following options:

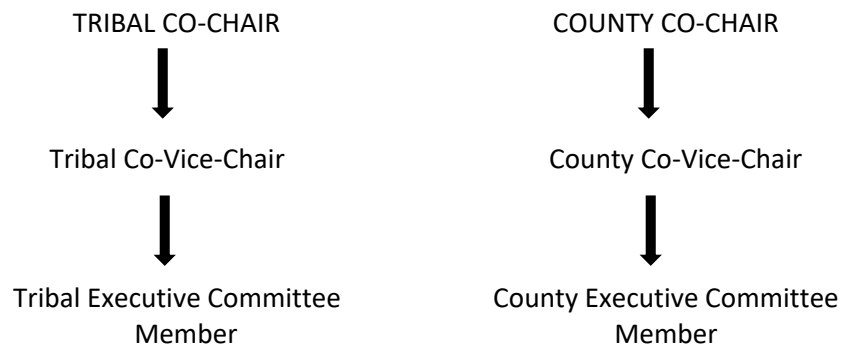
Option 1:

The NCRP Policy Review Panel nominates and elects a six-person Executive Committee, consisting of two Co-Chairs (one Tribal and one county), four Co-Vice-Chairs (two Tribal and two county). Each position is brought before the Policy Review Panel for reconsideration and appointment every two years, or on an as needed basis if a member of the Executive Committee resigns or the PRP decides to replace them.



Option 2:

The NCRP Policy Review Panel nominates and elects a six-person Executive Committee, consisting of two Co-Chairs (one Tribal and one county), two Co-Vice-Chairs (one Tribal and one county), and two other members (one Tribal and one county). Each position is brought before the Policy Review Panel for reconsideration and appointment every two years, or on an as needed basis if a member of the Executive Committee resigns or the PRP decides to replace them.



ii. NCRP Funding and Legislative Opportunities Policy

There are times when funding or legislative opportunities have a rapid turnaround, and in these cases the Executive Committee is authorized to direct and provide guidance to staff in order for the NCRP to pursue these opportunities. Actions that may be taken between quarterly meetings by the NCRP staff with guidance and review from the NCRP Executive Committee include the following. Please note that potential changes are indicated by red underlined text and crossed out text.

- 1) Writing letters related to legislation or funding opportunities that are in support of NCRP Goals and Objectives and aligned with NCRP policies and previous PRP direction
- 2) Evaluating funding or legislative opportunities that are aligned with NCRP goals, objectives and policies, including attending meetings, engaging in discussions, and drafting preliminary concepts for legislator, agency or funder review
- 3) Prior to substantively proceeding on any funding or legislative opportunity, NCRP staff ~~would~~will receive approval from the Co-Chairs at a minimum, and ~~would~~will request approval from the full Executive Committee. Where relevant, TPRC co-chairs will be consulted and engaged. A decision to formally submit a grant application may be authorized by the Executive Committee. In the absence of input from the full Executive Committee, the Co-chairs may authorize this action.
- 4) NCRP meeting materials will include a summary of any actions taken by the Executive Committee and/or staff related to funding or legislative opportunities
- ~~5) A decision to formally support legislation would be voted on by the full PRP~~
- ~~6) A decision to formally submit a grant application would be voted on by the full PRP~~
- ~~7) A decision to accept grant funding would be voted on by the full PRP and approved by Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, acting as fiscal and contract sponsor for the NCRP.~~
- ~~8) Any funding request would honor the PRP approved approach to local autonomy – allowing Tribes or counties to opt out of any element of the funding request in which they do not wish to participate.~~
- ~~7) Funding requests or legislative input will predominantly focus on NCRP project implementation, but may also include stakeholder outreach and coordination, technical support for project proponents, data, analysis and planning, or enhanced funding for economically disadvantaged communities~~
- ~~9) For grants or funding under \$10,000 that are in alignment with previous PRP direction, NCRP staff may independently pursue these opportunities. These funds may be used only for logistical support for stakeholder outreach (e.g., workshops, meetings, handouts) and not for planning or project implementation.~~
- ~~10) The PRP may choose to form an Ad Hoc committee focused on funding and/or legislative opportunities – either for specific funding and/or legislative opportunities, or in service of developing more general funding and legislative strategies. An ad hoc committee will be created as needed, serve for a specified period of time, and be disbanded when no longer required. The ad hoc committee is intended to advise NCRP staff and make recommendations to the PRP, and may be comprised of PRP and TPRC members appointed by the PRP.~~
- ~~11) Refinements to this approach may be added at each NCRP quarterly meeting, and refined PRP direction may apply generally or to a specific legislative or funding opportunity.~~

IX CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

The NCRP PRP has approved staff and consultant participation in several networks and organizations deemed to be relevant to the success of the NCRP. These include the IRWM RoundTable of Regions, the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation. The NCRP has been asked to become a member of the [California Landscape Stewardship Network](#), a diverse range of [partnerships](#) from across the state that have come together in an informal manner to encourage cross-boundary, landscape scale stewardship. This ‘network of networks’ is building awareness of the value of working at the landscape scale to share resources and solve challenges. Current initiatives include “Cutting Green Tape” (focused on regulatory streamlining), data sharing, and developing policy and funding solutions for stewardship and conservation. There are no dues required for membership, nor any commitment to a particular policy platform.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

To join the California Landscape Stewardship Network and direct staff to participate on topics that align with NCRP Goals and Objectives via the Network’s Working Groups.

UPDATES

i. NCRP Tribal Engagement

Time permitting, Sherri Norris, NCRP Tribal Engagement Coordinator will provide an update of the December 8, 2020 NCRP Tribal representative meeting. A written update will be provided in the meeting summary.

ii. Regional Administrator & Project Implementation Update: Humboldt County

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS									
Grant Round	Total Projects	Grant Amount	Amount Invoiced	% Complete	Projects Complete at End of Year (estimated for 2020 and 2021)				
					2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Prop 84 Drought (2015)</i>	11	\$8.7 million	\$8.3 million	95%	3	7	7	11	11
<i>Prop 84 Final (2016)</i>	25	\$11.0 million	\$7.25 million*	66%	1	3	4	17	25
<i>Prop 1 Round 1</i>	20	12.7 million	\$0	0%	--	--	--	--	--
Totals	56	\$32.74million			4	10	11	28	36

**Included \$1.1 million advanced payment*

Notes:

Overview: The Humboldt County Regional Administrator Team (Admin Team) continues to collaborate with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and local project sponsors (LPS) to ensure quality grant deliverables and timely reimbursement payments. Members of the Admin Team are available to discuss suggestions or concerns regarding their work on behalf of the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP); see contact list below. Admin Team members and LPS continue to be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and, more recently, wildfires. While many of the LPS have been able to successfully administer their grants, there are a few that have been delayed or are on hold during this challenging time.

Prop. 84 Drought Round: This grant agreement ended on June 30, 2020; however, two projects have been impacted by the Covid-19 Public Emergency and DWR has granted more time to submit final invoices, Project Completion Reports and deliverables to close out the grant. When the LPS representatives can safely complete their projects, the Admin Team will submit the Grant Completion Report and successfully close out the grant. The Admin Team continues to obtain, review and submit post-performance monitoring reports from the LPS, which will be ongoing per the agreed upon duration and schedule.

Prop. 84 Final Round: Despite challenges explained in more detail below, most projects supported by this round of funding are making steady progress. There was some confusion related to tracking advance payment funds that had to be returned because LPS were not able to spend them by DWR's deadline. The Admin Team worked with DWR to clarify the associated invoicing and tracking process moving

forward and no additional payment delays are expected for the four involved projects. In addition, many projects have been delayed due to the COVID-19 Public Emergency which has led to multiple requests to amend the grant agreement. Subsequently, Amendment 7 was recently executed; extending the term of the master agreement to December 31, 2021. Associated subgrantee agreements are in the process of being amended. Finally, significant payment delays were experienced due to a state level re-appropriation of funds across fiscal years; the associated payments were recently received by the County and LPS reimbursement checks have been or will soon be issued.

Prop. 1 Round 1: The Admin Team worked with the DWR Grant Manager to draft the grant agreement for the twenty implementation projects, which is anticipated to be executed before the end of 2020. The Admin Team continues to work with the LPS to obtain all necessary documents to execute the Sub-grant agreement between the LPS and the County of Humboldt, as soon as the grant agreement is finalized. The Admin Team anticipates reviewing the grant guidelines and requirements with each LPS as soon as the grant administration templates are received from DWR.

PLANNING PROJECTS			
Title and Funding Source	Grant Term	Status	Grant Amount
<i>North Coast Resource Partnership Outreach & Involvement: Tribal Engagement & Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities (DACTI)</i> Dept. of Water Resources, Proposition 1	April 2017 to April 2021	In progress	\$2.65 million
<i>Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program</i> CA Natural Resources Agency, administered by the CA Dept. of Conservation	May 2019 to March 2022	In progress	\$4.25 million

Notes:

Tribal Engagement & Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities: The final draft of the regional Needs Assessment was completed over the summer and is being used to guide the delivery of targeted technical assistance to Disadvantaged Communities and Tribes developing projects for Prop. 1 Round 2 funding. A one-year extension was granted to help keep the technical assistance provided under this project in alignment with the Prop. 1 Round 2 implementation project solicitation, which will likely be delayed until late 2021 or early 2022. West Coast Watershed (WCW) and the California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) will continue to work closely with the Admin Team to strategize delivery of all project components through the new term end date of April 30, 2022.

Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Block Grant: This block grant is intended to support regional planning for priority forest health and fire resiliency opportunities, pre-project planning and permitting, project demonstration, and outreach and education across the region. WCW and CIEA continue to work closely with the Admin Team to implement this project. The Admin Team continues to provide grant agreement administration and project management support. The term of the state appropriation associated with the RFFC program was extended and the Admin Team requested a project extension to allow more time for development of the Regional Priority Plan. In turn, the 13 demonstration projects were each given a 3-month extension, which many were happy to accept. The Admin Team also

requested an advance payment from the Department of Conservation to cover costs immediately and to offer this option to the demonstration project subgrantees, many of whom are small organizations with limited capacity to carry large costs for several months. All demonstration project subgrantees have executed agreements with the County of Humboldt and project work is well underway.

CONTACTS		
Name	Contact Information	NCRP Admin Role
Hank Seemann, Deputy-Director	hseemann@co.humboldt.ca.us	Program Management
Cybelle Immitt, Natural Resources Planning Manager	cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us	Regional Administration Team Management and Program Oversight
Denise Monday, Senior Environmental Analyst	dmonday@co.humboldt.ca.us	Lead Admin for: Prop. 84 Round 2, Prop. 84 Drought, Prop. 1 Round 1
Lauren Rowan, Environmental Analyst	lrowan@co.humboldt.ca.us	Lead Admin for Prop. 84 Final Round
Julia Cavalli, Environmental Analyst	jcavalli1@co.humboldt.ca.us	Admin for DACTI and RFFC planning grants Lead Admin for RFFC Demo Projects

iii. Notable Legislation

1. 2020 Session Wrap Up

The Legislature concluded its work of the 2020 legislative session on August 31 and Governor Newsom finished signing and vetoing bills on September 30, ending the two-year 2019-2020 session. The COVID-19 pandemic was the main story of the 2020 session, notably, COVID-19 significantly interrupted the Legislature’s calendar and reduced the amount of time available to consider and vote on legislation. Numerous bills died due to the inability for meaningful negotiations to be had or simply because there was not enough time. This held true for most of the bills of interest to NCRP, as detailed below:

- SB 45 (Allen) ‘Resilience Bond’ and AB 3256 (Garcia) – Failed - the respective Senate and Assembly climate resilience bond proposals never gained enough traction amidst all of the chaos and both died without a bill hearing in the opposing house.
- AB 1659 (Bloom) – Failed - a last minute proposal to extend and securitize a certain utility charge to raise approximately \$2.5 billion for wildfire prevention projects. The Legislature and Governor failed to raise or appropriate any real wildfire prevention funding in the session.
- AB 3074 (Friedman) – Enacted – the only wildfire related legislation to be passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor from 2020. The bill would require homeowners to create an ember-resistant zone within five feet of a home and more intensely reduce fuels between five and 30 feet of a home.
- AB 3164 (Friedman), SB 182 (Jackson), SB 1348 (Stern) – Failed – the remainder of wildfire related legislation that remained active through the last day of session. Both AB 3164 and SB 182 passed the Legislature but were vetoed by the Governor. SB 1348 was never taken up on the Assembly Floor before the clock ran out.
 - AB 3164 proposed a wildland-urban interface wildfire risk model for communities;

- SB 182 proposed to require Cities and Counties to better plan for wildfire through retrofitting existing communities and requiring new developments be protected from wildfire risk; and
- SB 1348 proposed to require CAL FIRE to develop a statewide defensible space assessments program and a training program to train individuals to support and augment CAL FIRE's defensible space and home hardening assessment and public education efforts.

2. 2021 Forecast

The COVID-19 pandemic prevails and will have a marked impact on the 2021 legislative session. It is anticipated that the Capitol building will continue to be closed to the public and the Legislature will operate under strict social distancing provisions. Committee hearings will be reduced and likely the amount of bills considered will also be reduced. Furthermore, the state's budget remains in a deficit position due to reduced revenues caused by the economic downturn coupled with increased spending to respond to the virus. Uncertainty remains for 2021 and enacting new legislation will once again be more difficult. That said, legislators are eager to get to work on the myriad of issues facing the state. Potential legislation in 2021 of interest to North Coast:

- A climate resilience bond is expected to be reintroduced with fire prevention as the main focus. Early indications are that the bond would be somewhere between \$4-5 billion as the state's budget woes should constrain the overall size.
- Wildfire funding through the budget. The state's cap-and-trade auction revenue rebounded from an abysmal May auction and is poised to resume funding CAL FIRE's healthy forest program. In addition, the catastrophic fires of the Summer/Fall put greater onus on General Fund allocations for wildfire prevention programs.
- Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program legislation. The RFFC is gaining popularity and a bill to codify the program may emerge in the Assembly.
- Prescribed fire legislation. Prescribed fire continues to be recognized as an effective tool to mitigate extreme wildfires. Proposed policies to enable more prescribed fire on the landscape are anticipated.
- Increased defensible space. Resurrecting many of the elements from SB 1348 to increase the amount of defensible space implemented, assessments and inspections executed, and training for community entities to perform outreach and education should come forth.
- Legislation to codify the Governor's Executive Order on biodiversity. The Governor signed Executive Order N-82-20, which calls for State agencies to use natural and working lands, including forests, farms, rangelands, and urban green spaces, to store carbon and remove it from the atmosphere. The order also sets a goal to conserve 30 percent of the State's land and coastal water by 2030 to fight species loss and ecosystem destruction. Bills to codify the provision of EO N-82-20 are expected.
- Creating efficiencies for restoration permitting. The CA Natural Resources Agency is leading an initiative known as Cutting Green Tape that seeks to reduce or eliminate permitting

inefficiencies for voluntary environmental restoration projects. A just released white paper listing 16 recommendations could lead to legislation.

3. Political Landscape

The political landscape in Sacramento will once again shift in 2021, with most of the change driven by potential appointments to the Biden-Harris Administration. First off is Governor Newsom appointing a replacement for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Vice President Elect Harris. This appointment may cause a number of dominos to fall afterward.

In the Legislature, there are seven new Senators but most of the committee chairs should stay the same. The committees of Senate Judiciary and Senate Budget are where new chairs will be appointed that may lead to other chairs changing hands. There is no expectation for either Senate Pro Tem Atkins or Assembly Speaker Rendon to be replaced.

iv. NCRP Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program

The NCRP team of staff and consultants continues to move forward on the development of the RFFC Regional Priority Plan and associated projects, with funding from the California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Conservation. Work continues on:

- identification of projects, development of project prioritization criteria, mapping and modeling of fuel load, forest health and community health priorities
- research and data gathering on innovative approaches to fuel load reduction and forest health
- drafting sections of the plan focused on priority strategic actions including capacity development, regulatory streamlining, market opportunities, funding priorities
- Tribal engagement led by CIEA to inform the plan and process and to support Tribal applications for demonstration projects and technical assistance
- outreach to key partners and stakeholders to gather input to inform the plan and process
- ongoing communication and discussion with local entities, other RFFC grant recipients, and state and federal partners including DOC, CNRA, USFS
- sub-grantee agreement management of demonstration projects
- RFP and contract awards for technical assistance
- Messaging materials for NCRP and RFFC
- Tracking legislation and funding opportunities relevant to the NCRP RFFC program
- Meeting prep and attendance with the RFFC Ad Hoc

The NCRP RFFC Ad Hoc Committee met on November 6 to discuss the following:

Draft regional prioritization framework

The draft regional prioritization framework integrates local knowledge and local priorities with the best available science and data, including regional remote sensing, spatial analysis and modeling to evaluate

fuel loading, vulnerable/high value assets, forest health and community health and safety. The NCRP RFFC ad hoc reviewed the draft framework developed by staff and consultants, provided feedback to the staff team and expressed support for its continued development.

Technical assistance awards

- Since its inception in 2005, the Partnership has been providing technical assistance to entities in the region to identify and develop projects so that they can be competitive for project funding.
- Through the RFFC program, we expect to provide direct technical assistance to project sponsors in need over multiple rounds. The technical assistance will be provided by the Partnership team of technical consultants and will be valued at \$5,000 - \$15,000 depending on the level of need.
- The solicitation and evaluation processes were reviewed in previous Ad Hoc meetings and approved by the PRP in April of 2020.
- A solicitation announcement was released on September 3 and proposals were due October 15.
- 8 concept proposals were submitted and a summary of each proposal was reviewed by staff and the Ad Hoc:
 - [Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Ruth Lake Headwaters Restoration](#)
 - [McKinleyville Community Services District, McKinleyville Community Forest](#)
 - [Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Siskiyou Prescribed Burn Association Planning Project](#)
 - [Salmonid Restoration Federation, Water Storage for Fire Suppression in the S Fork Eel](#)
 - [Scott River Watershed Council, Klamath Wet Meadow Planning Project](#)
 - [UC Cooperative Extension, Sonoma County, Educational Video Series to Inform Landowners on Tools for Vegetation Management](#)
 - [Coast Ridge Community Forest, Upscaled Forest Health Project](#)
- Areas served and types of projects were wide-ranging though no projects were submitted from Mendocino, Modoc or Tribal areas.
- Sponsor type: 5 nonprofits, 2 local (water) agencies, 1 RCD
- Project type in need of technical assistance:
 - 1 large fire recovery planning project from Trinity and Humboldt
 - 1 Humboldt planning project for a community forest
 - 1 fire suppression water tank design project in Humboldt
 - 2 projects from Siskiyou County to provide help with technical elements of their demonstration projects
 - 3 Sonoma projects: 2 focused on community fire prevention planning and 1 for video production to support a project planning tool that UCCE is developing
- The RFFC team reviewed and ranked the proposals and submitted their recommendations to the RFFC Ad Hoc, who approved them. Following is a summary of the approved recommendation:
 - Provide full technical services to the top 5 projects
 - Reach out to the other project sponsors to better understand their need and provide some level of assistance including helping them prepare for the next solicitation

- The team convened a special meeting in November to review the solicitation and review process to be presented to the Ad Hoc committee in the future.

General RFFC update to the NCRP RFFC Ad Hoc

- Technical consultant team is developing content for the plan – expect to have a very preliminary draft for review in January
- Demonstration project videos are underway
- Story maps for website are under development
- Continuing on mapping/modeling – plan to go out to vet the model criteria as well as the overall prioritization framework via meetings with consultants and key partner agencies. Data for download is available on the NCRP website via [ArcGIS online](#).

v. NCRP Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Outreach & Involvement Program

PROGRAM VISION: In keeping with North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Goals & Objectives and building on past initiatives, this Program aims to continue, expand and improve Tribal and disadvantaged community (DAC)^[1] engagement with the NCRP and the Integrated Regional Water Management program.

PROGRAM STATUS UPDATE

General Admin

- Administration of this project is being carried out by the Humboldt County NCRP Admin Team with close project implementation support provided by West Coast Watershed (WCW) and the California Environmental Indian Alliance (CIEA); from this point forward referred to as “NCRP staff”. During this reporting period, grant administration was ongoing, including the management of the grant agreement between the County and the Department of Water

^[1] Disadvantaged Communities Definitions:

- Disadvantaged Community (DAC): Census tract, block or place with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the statewide MHI (North Coast – 89%)
- Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC): Census tract, block, place w/annual MHI <60% of state MHI (NC – 57%)
- Economically Distressed Area: a rural county or municipality w/ population of < 20,000 with an annual MHI <85% of statewide MHI, & one of following:
 - Financial hardship
 - Unemployment rate 2% higher than the statewide average
 - Low population density
- Under-represented Community: Tribes have been historically under-represented in local and State water management and planning efforts

Resources (DWR) and associated subcontracts and the preparation of quarterly invoices and reports.

- A grant agreement amendment was executed on November 17, 2020 to extend the project term to April 30, 2022. This extension will keep the DACTI program aligned with the rollout of Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) funding, which has been delayed until potentially the end of 2021.

NCRP Leadership Support and Coordination

- Support for the NCRP leadership continued, including the Policy Review Panel (PRP) and members of the Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) and the Executive Committee.
- Meetings with NCRP staff and leadership were held to develop agenda and meeting materials for quarterly NCRP meetings. NCRP staff also conducted outreach to and coordinated meeting presenters/panelists and participants.
- CIEA staff and technical assistance team continued to coordinate Tribal NCRP monthly and quarterly meetings and manage NCRP Tribal Representative membership.
- CIEA staff initiated a fall/winter Nomination and Voting process to fill open Central and South District seats.

NCRP Outreach

- The NCRP web content was enhanced through the creation of and updating of webpages, uploading content and reports, [calendar events](#), [Other Funding Opportunities](#), and [spatial data](#). The link to the website is: <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/>.
- A Tribal contact list continued to be maintained and the Tribal Environmental Chronicles which include information on funding sources, technical assistance opportunities, and relevant trainings and workshops continued to be distributed.
- A group of NCRP representatives met with Roundtable of Regions staff to respond to an IRWM assessment questioner; sharing details about organizational structure and successful approaches and strategies.
- NCRP staff facilitated the participation of local project sponsors and NCRP representatives in the Pre-Summit Orientation and the Statewide Virtual Summit “Ensuring Equitable Engagement in Regional Water Planning”.

NCRP Plan Update

- The [NCRP PLAN, Phase IV, January 2020](#) was approved by DWR in January and has been formally adopted by nearly all county and Tribal NCRP governing body members and Proposition 1, Round 1 implementation local project sponsors per DWR requirements and NCRP practice. Ensuring that members of the NCRP PRP adopt the plan will be an ongoing process as vacancies are filled.
- NCRP staff continued to maintain the [North Coast Plans, Policies and Reports Document](#) list.

Needs Assessment

- The final [Needs Assessment Summary](#) document was completed and provided to DWR.
- The needs assessment process identified major issues that affect local systems and needs related to training, technical support, capacity-building, regulations, aging or failing infrastructure, the need for trained and certified staff, financing, planned projects, and level of familiarity with the NCRP.
- In response to identified needs, the NCRP will provide tools, resources and technical assistance to North Coast disadvantaged communities and Tribes to support and develop local and regional projects that promote integrated and multi-benefit outcomes in the North Coast region.
 - For instance, each Tribe that completed a needs assessment survey now has the opportunity to further discuss their needs and consider what type of technical assistance or capacity building support would most help address challenges.

Project Planning, Environmental Documentation or Engineering/Design and Proposition 1 IRWM Funding Application Assistance

- The NCRP staff and sub-consultant teams continued to provide a wide range of DAC and Tribal technical and engineering tasks and circuit rider assistance to address needs and provide project development assistance in advance of the next round of Prop 1 funding.
- Updates were made to the Tribal Contractor list to support technical assistance needs. Time was also continued to plan for circuit riding tank inspections needed for several Tribes to identify if tanks, or tank repairs are needed, and identifying projects for IRWM Implementation Prop. 1 Round 2.
- The Prop 1, Round 1 Grant Manual will be finalized based on feedback from DWR and potential new guidance contained within the Prop 1, Round 1 grant agreement template. The Manual is being designed to be a useful tool, especially for local project sponsors who are receiving grant funds for the first time and are unfamiliar with the requirements.

NCRP Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Project Grant

- The County Admin Team continues to work with DWR to complete and execute the agreement for the NCRP 2019 Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM regional Implementation grant.
- As soon as the associated grant agreement is executed between DWR and the County of Humboldt (on behalf of the NCRP), the Twenty approved implementation projects will be able to move forward.
- NCRP staff, under the guidance of the TPRC, continues to improve the project solicitation materials and process documents to be used for the next round of Prop 1 funding.

Workshops and Trainings

- NCRP staff continue to develop lists of existing workshops and trainings and evaluating them against the results of needs assessments and interviews. These existing workshops and trainings offered by other organizations are being evaluated to identify which of them address identified needs throughout the north coast region and where there are gaps that may need to be filled with other programs.

- In person workshops and trainings continue to be on hold partially due to COVID-19 concerns and to ensure that they are aligned with teaching Tribes and DACs how to use the small community toolbox when it's ready and with building capacity to take full advantage of Prop 1 Round 2 funding. NCEP staff is in the process of exploring virtual engagement tools and best practices to adapt the scoped trainings and workshops to this changed work environment.

Small Community Toolbox Enhancements

- The [Small Community Toolbox](#) continues to be updated and redesigned for easy access on the NCRP website and is planned for release in late spring or early summer.
- The draft Toolbox is being used and will continue to be used as a resource for the Tribal Pilot projects.
- Toolbox review is ongoing, and refinements are being made as requested.
- Information about and guidance for tribal water and wastewater systems that was missing from the original version continues to be developed and integrated.

Model and Demonstration Projects

- Model projects are intended to demonstrate innovated approaches to addressing water resource challenges.
- CIEA's Tribal Technical Assistance Consultant Team continues to use the Small Community Toolbox in the continued development of the three Tribal model projects.
- The development of 1-page summaries of Tribal Model Projects is underway and case studies, project documents, studies, designs and plans will be produced.
- The next phase of DAC technical assistance projects will comprise the list of demonstration projects to test elements of the Small Community Toolbox.

iv. Executive Committee, PRP direction and staff action

NCRP Executive Committee Meetings

The NCRP Executive Committee held a Strategic Planning meeting on November 20 to discuss the following topics:

- 10+ years of Judy Morris' leadership: transition and her perspectives on the future of the NCRP
 - Observations from Executive Committee members on Judy's leadership and the future of NCRP
- Reconfirming commitments (Tribes, Humboldt County and Sonoma Water)
- Trends in the world
 - New administration federal: climate infrastructure investments
 - Tribal, State and Federal partnerships – California's Shared Stewardship Agreement, August 2020 and Good Neighbor Authority agreements
 - Governor's Executive Order

- RFFC, funding downturns, fires, climate change, etc.
- Opportunities, challenges and strategies for the NCRP:
 - Funding strategies
 - State
 - Federal
 - Philanthropic
 - Legislative outreach and messaging
 - Leveraging PRP members (EC)
- Leaf Hillman: proactive Tribal input on strategies and projects – workshops, meetings, integration of Tribal and county

NCRP Executive Committee Support Letters

In August, a letter of support for **AB 1659 Wildfire Prevention and Community Resilience Act of 2020** was sent to Assemblymembers Bloom, Wood, Aguiar-Curry and Senators Dahle, McGuire and Dodd.

Staff Presentations

NCRP staff provided presentations and participated on various panels and facilitated discussion groups during the [Virtual Summit: Ensuring Equitable Involvement in Regional Water Planning](#) hosted by the Department of Water Resources and Local Government Commission held on October 8, 13 and 14.

NCRP staff provided a presentation about the NCRP and an update on the RFFC work to the Forest Management Task Force on November 9, 2020

NCRP staff provided a presentation and participated on the Success Stories of Regional Forest Health Collaboration panel during the annual [California Resource Conservation District conference](#) on November 19.

