



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)

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

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

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. Chair Morris gave a special welcome to each of the state and federal partners for attending and for their support. [This is Chair Morris' last meeting. Over 80 participants were in attendance.]

Vice Chair Leaf Hillman opened with a tribal prayer and welcome.

NCRP PRP Chair Morris asked for a roll call of 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
- Alternate: Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County
- Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County
- Alternate: Supervisor Lisa L. Nixon, Siskiyou County
- Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County
- Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Sonoma County
- Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Alternate: Dale Roberts, TPRC member, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Nathan Rich, Kashia Band of Pomo, Southern District
- Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County

NCRP PRP Chair Morris asked for a roll call of 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

- Joe Scriven, Project Manager/Fisheries Biologist, Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County
- John Friedenbach, General Manager, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Humboldt County
- Alternate: Megan Van Pelt, Resighini Rancheria, Northern District
- Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County
- Mark Lancaster, Director, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

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

- Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance
- Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County
- Denise Monday, Humboldt County
- Julia Cavalli, Humboldt County
- Susan Haydon, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Karen Gaffney, West Coast Watershed
- Katherine Gledhill, West Coast Watershed

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

- Jake McKenzie, Former NCRP Chair
- Nancy Ogren, Supervisor-Elect, Siskiyou County
- Peter Martin, City of Santa Rosa Water
- Julia Sullivan, Humboldt County RCD
- David Morrell, Sonoma Ecology Center
- Jenny DiStefano, Department of Conservation
- Devin Chatoian, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Tracy Katelman, ForeverGreenForestry
- Rebecca Crow, GHD Inc.
- Cynthia Ford, Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation
- Kata Reza, Reza Environmental
- Ruthy Snyder, Consultant
- Geoff Peters, Northern Sonoma County CERT
- Allison Jolley, The Watershed Research & Training Center

II REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

- **Motion to approve agenda:** Supervisor Wilson
- **Second:** Supervisor Hemmingsen
- **Public comment:** None.
- **Vote:** None opposed.

Chair Morris acknowledged Humboldt County for their many years of supporting the NCRP through grant administration. Hank Seemann, Deputy Director of Environmental Services, Humboldt County Public Works confirmed, at the Executive Committee meeting, that his team will continue this work.

Chair Morris pointed out that there will be a round robin portion during which all PRP members will have a chance to speak.

III CELEBRATING 10+ YEARS OF NCRP LEADERSHIP BY SUPERVISOR JUDY MORRIS

Vice Chair, Leaf Hillman lamented not being able to meet face to face to honor Chair Morris' leadership. He also thanked

former Chair Jake McKenzie for joining the meeting.

Vice Chair Hillman acknowledged Chair Morris' prominent role in facilitating the successful collaboration of the NCRP and in continuing the tradition of NCRP's former chairs—Jimmy Smith and Jake McKenzie. Under Chair Morris, the NCRP has developed a model of inclusivity, and shared voice driving shared goals. The example of Chair Morris' leadership has laid the groundwork for continued success and it will be difficult to fill her shoes.

Chair Morris thanked Vice Chair Hillman for his support over the years and acknowledged that when she first took on the role, she had big shoes to fill as well. She expressed confidence that NCRP will be able to elevate to the next level in the future, whether it be with new topics or funding opportunities. She gave special thanks to Leaf, Jake, Karen, Katherine, and the Executive Committee. Keep up the great work!

Jake McKenzie: She rose to the task when he was called to other responsibilities. He is extremely proud of what the NCRP has been able to accomplish. Karen and Katherine deserve a big thank you. Also thank you to Randy Pool—a driving force. Thank you to all. Thank you to Judy.

Supervisor Gjerde: Thank you for your kindness as Board Member and Chair, and leadership for your part of California.

Member: Your combined leadership [with Leaf] was a true exemplification of inclusiveness and we have to figure out how to replicate that moving forward. Thank you to Leaf, as well.

Mike Wilson: I want to give the heartfelt thanks that you deserve. You have been a wonderful friend and have demonstrated the inclusiveness required for this big of an endeavor.

Hemmingsen: I echo what's been said. I appreciate you stepping up and stepping in and have enjoyed working with you. Good luck in your endeavors.

Member: You have led through a passion that is often lost in these kinds of committees.

Supervisor Criss: Thank you, thank you, thank you. Ditto to all that has been said.

Supervisor Hopkins: I have so admired your leadership for NCRP and on state issues. The thought of going on without you fills me with grief but I know you will go on to do great things.

Supervisor Madrone: Thank you. May the waters of the Trinity River flow through you and our entire community.

Nate Rich: On a personal note, I'm new to taking up a leadership role here [on Executive Committee]. You've been an inspiration and a blueprint for balancing spirit and skill. I look forward to getting together in person to honor you properly.

Supervisor Brown: Congratulations on a job well done. You've been a role model.

Supervisor McCowen: You've done an excellent job of carrying on the tradition of NCRP and have moved the organization forward and have carried on the traditions established by Jimmy Smith. I can't say enough about the great job you've done. You will be missed. We have big shoes to fill. [McCowen initially nominated Judy to be Vice Chair.]

Supervisor Morris: Again, thank you Karen and Katherine, Sonoma Water, and Humboldt staff for making NCRP what it is. It has been such an honor to lead all of you and I will truly miss you all. Also, thank you to Sherri for your input and serving with the Executive Committee; thank you for your work on behalf of the tribes and for the organization.

IV FOND FAREWELLS

Chair Morris thanked the following outgoing members for their efforts on behalf of NCRP:

- Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County
- Supervisor John McCowen, Mendocino County
- Supervisor Lisa L. Nixon, Siskiyou County

Chair Morris read a consolidated resolution of appreciation on behalf of the three Supervisors that highlighted their exceptional contributions and wished them all the best.

Supervisor Gjerde: Supervisors Brown and McCowen came into the office at the same time as Judy during the height of the great recession and they all encountered similar challenges, and all enjoyed the resources and resourcefulness of NCRP. They all persevered for their first several years in office dealing with financial catastrophe and are now leaving Mendocino County in a much-improved financial situation.

- **Motion to approve resolution:** Supervisor Howard
- **Second:** Supervisor Gore
- **Public comments:** None
- **Vote:** None opposed.

V PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the agenda

None.

VI NCRP POLICY UPDATES

Chair Morris gave an overview of topics discussed and recommendations formed at the Executive Committee meeting:

- NCRP Governance Policy:** The recommendation is to expand the Executive Committee to six members: three county, three tribal. This recommendation was developed with an eye toward building leadership over time, ease of succession, and continued refinement of tribal leadership and decision-making.
 - See meeting materials for options beginning on page 2.
 - Vice Chair Hillman provided background: When Chair Morris announced she would be leaving, he and most members were in violent agreement about wanting to retain the tribal/county leadership and collaboration that has evolved organically over the years. This policy change will facilitate institutionalization of this structure. Staff are working to develop an update/addition to the Leadership Handbook.
 - Gore: Highlighted that all voting authority will still go through main body. This change will create more opportunities for others to take leadership of certain aspects.
 - Morris: Reiterated that this is not meant to take voting power away from the larger group.
 - Rich: We're all here to support our communities and help people. This recommendation is put forward to help us do that and build stronger levels of trust and influence.
 - McCowen: Several of us were present when tribes requested a seat at the table and NCRP honored that request—the single greatest accomplishment of the NCRP during my time here. McCowen first suggested expanding the Committee to four members to include tribal leadership and supports this recommendation. It represents a step forward in building equity and leadership capacity on both tribal and county side.
 - Overview of options:**

- i. Option 1: Two co-chairs; four co-vice chairs; chair and vice chair positions will be split equally between counties and tribes; each position will be brought before the PRP for review and confirmation every 2 years or as needed
- ii. Option 2: The same as Option 1, except instead of 4 co-vice chairs there would be 2 co-vice chairs and two members at large (one tribal, one county)
- iii. Preferences from Exec. Committee? There was a slight preference for Option 2 so there would be more clarity around who should take over should the chairs be unable to lead/facilitate.
 1. **Motion to approve Option 2:** Supervisor McCowen
 2. **Second:** Supervisor Jeremy Brown
 3. **Public comment:** None.
 4. **Vote:** None opposed.
 5. A vote will be held to fill these positions at the next meeting.

ii. NCRP Funding and Legislative Opportunities

- a. Approval of this recommendation would give staff the ability to respond quickly to funding opportunities as they come up. The Executive Committee had no further comment.
- b. Karen gave an overview: These are minor changes (see page 3) intended to facilitate rapid response to funding or legislative opportunities. Any letters would be reviewed/approved by Exec. Committee or co-chairs at a minimum. It also would give staff the ability to accept funding up to \$10,000 so long as it is in alignment with previous PRP direction and for logistical support for stakeholder outreach (e.g., workshops, meetings, handouts) and not for planning or project implementation.
- c. Staff would draft an update for the Handbook and bring it before the PRP at the January meeting for consideration.
 1. **Motion:** Supervisor McCowen
 2. **Second:** Supervisor Gore
 3. **Public comment:** None.
 4. **Vote:** None opposed.

VII FUTURE TRENDS: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES & STRATEGIES for the NCRP

Chair Morris gave a brief recap of topics discussed by the Executive Committee: CA Shared Stewardship Agreement, Governor’s Executive Orders, RFFC funding, fire, climate change, etc. Severe wildfire ranks highly among topics to focus on, especially given the events of this past summer.

Vice Chair Hillman: There’s a significant difference in the jurisdictional landscapes (i.e. land ownership) in the region, which create different issues around wildfire suppression and preparedness and require consideration of different strategies/new ways of thinking. NCRP is well-positioned to facilitate those discussions and bring the right people together to develop solutions.

PRP members were invited to provide strategic direction through a roll-call Round Robin discussion:

- Rich: Thoughts align with Leaf. Recommend doing the hard work of hashing out structure of fire response in the various areas of the region. Supports projects that move in that direction.
- Gore: Outside of NCRP, we’ve [CSAC?] been driving towards several different things.
 - A resilience bond was put forward a year and half ago. It hasn’t made it to the ballot yet but is very active (two or three drafts so far) and likely would have been on the ballot if it weren’t for Covid-19. There is also a broadband bond for \$2B being considered. CSAC discussed the potential for combining these two bonds. If PRP members want to participate in working groups discussing these topics, please get in touch.

- Gore has had conversations with Wade Crowfoot about upcoming opportunities to collaborate on expanding vegetation management; NCRP is ahead of the curve [compared to other collaboratives in the state] but needs to get focused on acquiring and implementing project dollars – Cap and Trade is one source outside of the resilience bond; there is money out there.
- The Governor’s 30x30 Executive Order [committing to protecting 30 percent of California’s land and ocean by 2030] points to an opportunity to provide input; how is not fully cooked. Need to be very active with the state this next year and ensure we have unified lobbying.
- Gore is also staying in close contact with federal transition teams – Dept. of Ag, NRCS. Climate21.org – Biden Administration has asked Dept. of Ag and others how they would push climate change goals. We need to make sure we’re at the table early on.
- Added: Question for FMTF, now that veg management is on everyone’s mind you hear a lot of support for tribal management. Is this embedded in our forest planning effort and something we can authentically lead with? What does this look like on the ground?
 - Sherri: In RFFC RPP, we originally planned to have forest advisors but changed this to teams to be more collaborative/reflect a group approach that will develop specific content.
 - Morris: Forested counties with large amount of USFS, have a formed a collaborative with federal partners to address these issues.
- Hemmingsen: None to add.
- Howard: Agree with Supervisor Gore – focus on resiliency bond and collaborating with federal departments (will help support communities).
- Madrone: Appreciate the previous action to give staff ability to accept funds up to \$10k. NCRP has been innovative from the beginning – linking water resiliency, fire resiliency, to result in multiple benefits. There is a juvenile justice realignment and need for jobs/training/job corps – recommend expanding further on integrated approach to meet these needs.
- Carre Brown: Absent
- McCowen: NCRP will continue to evolve and innovate. Great leadership from staff that tees up the issues, making it easier for PRP to perform their role.
- Gjerde: Left the call
- Rabano: Absent
- Steinruck: Left the call
- Criss: Support all that has been said. Wants NCRP to continue with local technical assistance that leverages local knowledge. Water quality and quantity – juniper trees are taxing on water supplies and are non-merchantable. Happy Camp fire has set back other work considerably and emphasizes the need for more fire prevention.
- Wilson: Support previous comments. NCRP has greatly exceeded his expectations, the inclusiveness is amazing. Staff has great leverage in moving NCRP forward. Thank you to staff.
 - Added: Approach to climate resiliency is different between urban and large landscapes. Need to help rest of the population understand the importance of landscape resiliency; urban resources will be needed to help tackle issues that benefit the whole state. Tribes have really helped be this voice.
- Nixon: Left the call
- Hopkins: Left the call
- Jeremy Brown: No comment

- Morris: Seconded the need to continue technical assistance and acknowledged the interconnectedness of water quality/quantity and wildfire.

VIII UPDATE FROM OUR STATE & FEDERAL PARTNERS

- Patrick Wright, Interim Director at Governor's Forest Management Task Force, California Tahoe Conservancy Executive Director
 - Fall has been very busy. FMTF recommendations have been flowing in. NCRP has had active involvement in Work Group developments of recommendations. FMTF will be developing an Action Plan by the end of the calendar year to deliver to the Governor. It is intended to be a short 30-40 page document with specific actions and deliverables to help connect the dots between federal, state, and local plans. Themes will be familiar: increasing pace/scale, Rx fire, fire-adapted communities, linking to climate and biodiversity strategies, wood utilization, standardization of data between f/s/local agencies. You will see a strong emphasis on regional frameworks – i.e. aligning projects with capacity of regional entities to implement. We have heard over and over that one-time grants are not sustainable. The idea to is to provide sustained funding, and a consistent but flexible framework, that acknowledges varied risk, priorities, and governance structure across the state.
 - Q: Will Action Plan be available for comment?
 - A: Gathering input from Work Groups, in which NCRP is well represented.
- Jason Ko, Shared Stewardship Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service
 - Shared Stewardship (S2) is a national priority with bipartisan support. His is a new position with aspects yet to be designed, but a big portion is to follow up on state S2 MOU.
 - Working with FMTF to provide federal inputs. Action Plan will be a key document for informing 20-year plan that is promised in MOU.
 - S2 Program will be significantly extended through onboarding of S2 Advisors and joint collaboration with CAL FIRE. The Advisors will be hired by the National Wildlife Foundation and will start in January – 4 will be placed throughout the state. They will serve as regional partnership facilitators – providing guidance on how to effectively do work with federal partners; be a general resource; start developing lists of cross-boundary projects; supporting partners in applying for project funding. Looking forward to onboarding the NC advisor and introducing the NCRP.
 - Second part of S2 Program is supporting collaboratives (like WKRP, FireSafe Mendocino, etc.) by facilitating conversations around litigation, planning, and filling in capacity gaps.
 - Next year Jason will be coordinating Plan revision process to the Northwest Forest Plan.
- Keali'i Bright, Director, Land Resource Protection Division, California Department of Conservation
 - Congratulations to Chair Morris. Supervisor Gore captured the financial/political weather patterns in Sacramento very well. It was a difficult budget last year but expected to improve next year.
 - Regional strategies have been at the center of the state's strategies. Great alignment with USFS partners and others to meet the larger goals. FMTF brings in CAL FIRE and other state partners – starting to see the formation of a tight, multi-agency coalition.
 - RFFC Update: Thank you to Karen and Cybelle and all that have been guiding implementation. NCRP has more than proven this concept and proved itself an incredible state partner. What he appreciates most is commitment to end product, efficiency of process, and mechanics. Appreciates regionwide planning process to develop priorities and shovel ready projects – looks forward to bolstering this component of the program in future. Tremendous funding opportunities coming up to implement projects on the ground. Developing a project pipeline is key to the RFFC project – reflective of communities, regions, and state. NCRP's process of engagement has been a standout

among all regions to gain buy in and stewardship of those efforts moving forward. Integration of tribes into decision-making, and treatment of tribes as partners not stakeholders, stands alone in the state. RFFC has 6 wildly different planning efforts that are learning from each other, e.g. SNC working closely with NCRP to compare. Each regional effort will result in lists of priority projects that are shovel ready, that we can then implement. WRTC has been doing a great job of developing a statewide network of practitioners and building capacity. WRTC is exporting success to different parts of the state: for one, by supporting an intertribal indigenous stewardship project, led by Karuk Tribe, that will result in a tribal-led organization to support others in the state. Next year will be incredibly busy and will be asking a lot of NCRP!

- Thank you from Morris for attending Weaverville meeting [Oct. 2018] and acknowledging our potential and making this block grant happen.

- Debbie Franco, Senior Advisor, Community & Rural Affairs, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
 - Serves as co-lead for FMTF Wood Utilization Work Group. There are envisioning a new way of managing on a generational timeline and supporting thriving markets in order to perpetuate these activities. Would love to have more participation from NC. Organized around innovation and workforce development and working to develop solutions to barriers. Have developed a long list of markets we'd like to bring to the state, for example: mass timber.
 - Huge political opportunity in this historic moment [COVID] – there will be a lot of dollars dedicated to economic recovery. Emergency response and fire resiliency combo projects will be very attractive.
 - Biggest barrier so far – as new businesses come in, it's difficult to have long term feedstock contracts (makes it difficult to get a loan). Several theories emerging – county scale JPAs, form special districts...want to collect ideas from counties on development of sustainable feedstock supplies. Looking forward to further collaboration.
- Gabriel Schultz, Staff Chief, Regional Resource Manager, CAL FIRE
 - Over 4 million acres burned in 2020. Over 7,700 fires CAL FIRE plus USFS = 10,000+. At peak, over 19,000 firefighters all over the state; 300 crews, 400 dozers. This year broke many records – 6 fires this year were added to top 20 largest, most destructive, or deadliest. Over 80 arson arrests.
 - In future, director has outlined targets for FY 30,000 acres + 20,000. Vegetation Treatment Programmatic EIR (VTP) is parallel to VMP; unlike VMP, VTP can be used by any lead agency. This FY did not received the funding that has been had in past for Fire Prevention and Forest Health grants.
 - Chief Len Nielsen: Lived in Humboldt for 18 years and now serves as Environmental Protection Staff Chief and Tribal Liaison for Department. Covers VTP and CEQA compliance for the department for veg management and Rx fire. Excited to go after 500,000 acre target set by the governor using fuel crews, National Guard, and others; also increasing Rx using TEK to increase pace/scale toward 500k.
- Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, California Department of Water Resources
 - Thank you to all and congratulations to Chair Morris.
 - She has been in this position for 7 years, being the first ever to be appointed to this role— representing an acknowledgement of the importance of tribal engagement.
 - DWR has hosted two significant summits this year – May and October, with significant participation by NCRP. Access to funding, tribal engagement, and disadvantaged tribal process were discussed. Two Civic Spark fellows helped support. Anecita's office is sponsoring two more fellows who will be developing a BMP manual for grant applications.

- Hopes social and environmental justice issues highlighted by events of 2020 are brought forward into 2021.
- Truth & Healing Council – looking forward to annual report that this body will produce.
- Governor Newsom issued state policy on management of tribal ancestral lands under state ownership and control. It includes:
 - Co-management and access to sacred sites and cultural resources
 - Supporting tribal acquisition of state lands in excess of state needs
 - Will be seeking advice of our many partners on how we implement this policy.
- DWR working closely with Advisory Committee on Geographic Names – renaming areas with colonial names. Beginning stages of looking at how we name our rivers, monuments, and other places under agency control.
- Looking ahead: CA Water Plan update, Tribal Water Summit in 2023.
- DWR has completed process for payment of tribal monitors directly. Finalized contracting agreements with 3 tribes, working on 4 more. This is a major feat. Not having to pay tribes through subcontract respects sovereignty through government to government agreement.
- Thank you for your support and the opportunity to share.
- Carmel Kinsella Brown, Financial Assistance Branch Chief, California Department of Water Resources
 - DWR has been doing its best to adapt and be flexible during these challenging times.
 - Thank you to Humboldt County for their patience in executing agreement for Prop 1 funding.
 - The North Coast was granted \$2.6 million under the DAC and Tribal Involvement Program and just finished a regionwide Needs Assessment. DWR is now developing Interim Statewide Needs Assessment Findings. Contemplated waiting until the grant program wrapped up but this interim assessment is needed now to inform legislation and funding. It is clear more funding is needed for engagement and planning, not just implementation (expect report in first quarter next year).
 - Grant agreement execution for Prop 1 Round 1 is underway. NCRP is one of 42 grantees. Round 1 includes several DAC and tribal projects; will be issuing survey soon. Round 2 expected this summer.
 - Prop 1/Prop 68 Groundwater – doing a small special project to provide technical assistance to underrepresented communities (have recently expanded this definition, which has cost share waiver implications). Looking to award a contract soon.
 - CA State Library just launched grants.ca.gov, which provides info on all available state grants or loans. DWR will be working with them on developing resources/how-tos for DACs and Tribes to successfully apply.

IX CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Time did not allow for discussion of this topic.

X REVIEW AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Time did not allow for discussion of this topic.

XI NCRP 2021 MEETING DATES & LOCATION

To be determined whether this meeting will be held remotely or in Ukiah. Chair Morris will likely join.

XII ADJOURN

Thank you again all of you. You should all be proud of yourselves. The collaboration is amazing! Chair Morris adjourned the meeting at 12:36 pm.

UPDATES

(see meeting materials)

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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