



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)

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

Friday, April 16, 2021; 10 am – 12:30 pm

[Zoom recording](#)

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

NCRP PRP Co-Chair James Gore welcomed all and thanked everyone for joining the NCRP's first Zoom meeting.

NCRP PRP Co-Chair James Gore confirmed the meeting quorum and asked that staff make note of those in attendance using the Zoom participants list (all noted attendees listed on the final page of this meeting summary).

Co-Chair Leaf Hillman welcomed all.

II ZOOM MEETING HOUSEKEEPING

This is NCRP's first Zoom meeting and the first meeting under the new Executive Committee structure with Hillman and Gore co-facilitating – thank you for bearing with us as we adjust.

Please mute when not speaking. PRP members are asked please keep their cameras on. Other speakers may turn on their cameras when speaking. Chat function will not be used much, aside from introductions. For those on both phone and computer, please coordinate the mute function when speaking.

III REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda: Supervisor Madrone

Second: Supervisor Howard

Public comment: None.

Vote: None opposed.

IV PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the agenda

None.

V JIMMY SMITH LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Jimmy Smith Leadership Award was presented to NCRP Chair Emeritus Judy Morris by Co-Chair Leaf

Hillman, her longtime vice chair. Chair Morris graciously accepted and commented on what an honor it has been to carry on the traditions begun by Jimmy Smith.

Leaf: When Jake stepped down to pursue his other passion—transportation—he left the organization in the very capable hands of Judy Morris. Big shoes to fill. As Judy’s vice-chair Leaf got a close view of Judy’s style of leadership—he watched in awe at her seemingly effortless navigation of relationships and leadership during an unprecedented era of growth and renewed vitality. Leaf always dreaded the day she would step down. He is happy and honored to present this award to Judy. Thank you for service!

Judy: It’s been an amazing organization and this award helps carry on the tradition that Jimmy Smith started. All of the people that have been involved over the years—the counties, tribes, projects—it’s been a great collaboration. Jimmy Smith wanted to make sure that everyone from Sonoma to Modoc had an equal voice in this partnership. It’s an honor to have this award presented by Leaf. I’m honored and humbled. She accepts this award on behalf of the whole NCRP. Thank you so much!

NCRP Chair Emeritus Jake Mackenzie, Chair Morris’ predecessor, followed with a few stories about Jimmy Smith and the early days of the NCRP. He was honored to be the first recipient of this award and for Leaf to be his successor in this, and now Judy. He believes in the beginning, the NCRP set the example of inclusiveness and it continues today as evidenced by the new structure of the NCRP Executive Committee.

Jake Mackenzie: In 2004, nearly 20 years ago, at the lodge in Fortuna all was not well in the world among the 7 counties. This was when Jake first met Jimmy Smith. Randy Pool, Sonoma County Water Agency was successful in pulling together a bond coalition to discuss how funds should be spent. Needed a strong hand at the helm and someone who understands the political geography.

He was honored to be the first recipient of this award and for Leaf to be his successor in this. He believes in the beginning the NCRP set the example of inclusiveness and it continues today as evidenced by the new structure of the NCRP Executive Committee.

Judy knows her stuff and was known throughout the North. Delighted to know the NCRP will have Gaffney’s undivided attention, Gledhill is around to keep order, and that Humboldt County is still on board. Judy well done, well deserved. Your work has been an inspiration to all.

A congratulatory video from Senator Mike McGuire was played to honor Judy Morris.

Many more fond memories and words of congratulations were shared by Mark Lancaster, Supervisor Madrone, Sherri Norris, former Supervisor Mike Lovelace, Supervisor Bohn, and Supervisor Gore.

Mark Lancaster: The five counties started in 1997 in part with the leadership of Jimmy Smith in Humboldt. His footprint is so large. He had a way of calming the room and bringing in different perspectives. This award is one of the best out there to receive, knowing who Jimmy was and what he stood for. Judy’s leadership was an easy transition--she embodies the same grace and calm that Jimmy had. She will be greatly missed.

Steve Madrone: You represent fairness, inclusiveness, and incredibly welcoming nature. I applaud you

for holding up the Salmon Standard. Thank you, Judy, for everything you do.

Sherri Norris: Echoed Madrone's message and added that what she appreciates is that she shows everyone respect and care no matter a person's role. She looks forward to seeing Judy in the future.

Mark Lovelace: Former Hum Co supervisor and PRP member for 8 years. Had the pleasure of serving on the board with Jimmy for 4 years and appreciated his ability to hear and respect diverse perspectives. He really valued consensus and always strived for a 5-0 vote--an amazing leadership skill. For an org dealing with a huge range of water issues and groups involved with diff perspectives, this skill was incredibly important. The chain of leadership of this org has always been the key to making it all work.

Rex Bohn: Jimmy asked him to step in as he was transitioning out. Has a photo of Jimmy on his desk since he took office, asking WWJD. Really appreciate all your work.

Judy Morris: Thank Humboldt Co for their work over the years administrating. Thank you to Karen and Katherine for their work over the years as well. Jimmy and Jake always made Judy feel welcome, even as a new supervisor. I hope that continues over the years. One last Jimmy story: he stepped down from the BOS to battle cancer. Even during that time, he made the effort to support Judy's campaign for a third term, weeks before his passing. It was incredibly moving. I have great faith in the NCRP and the Exec Committee. Thank you and keep up the great work and for this wonderful award.

James Gore: At this point we go from an acknowledgement of the past toward the exciting next phases of the future. We have a launchpad from which to move forward on forest health, wildfire resilience.

VI UPDATE FROM OUR STATE & FEDERAL PARTNERS

Supervisor Gore introduction the agenda item and welcomed the guest panelists.

- Update on NCRP Initiatives & Future Considerations, Karen Gaffney, NCRP Staff Team
 - Karen discussed the NCRP's geography; governance structure; and emphases on best available science, return on public investment, and achievement of multiple benefits.
 - NCRP has always been primarily focused on water issues and is now expanding focus to forest health, climate adaptation, built infrastructure, workforce development, etc.
 - RFFC is supporting regional, science-based priorities refined in partnership with state, fed, and local partners. NCRP is using RFFC to increase the pace and scale of forest health and wildfire resiliency by funding 13 demo projects (see meeting materials); providing technical assistance and building capacity; developing a comprehensive plan and approach.
 - In closing, Exec Committee asked we start a strategic planning process with PRP to develop a shared strategy for the partnership.
- Paul Ramey, Legislative Staff, Office of Assemblymember Wood
 - AB 9 will codify the RFFC Program and expand the focus to include community protection (in addition to forest health etc.). The big picture from the capitol is the shift toward regional implementation and planning. We need groups like the NCRP who know the issues and geography to implement. The approval rating of this group at the capitol is 100% and it's great to be able to have this group to point to as a successful demonstration of a regional approach. Looking forward to continuing this partnership and highlighting the work that you do.

- Patrick Wright, Governor's Forest Management Task Force Director
 - The governor relaunched the FMTF several weeks ago as the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to acknowledge the scope has expanded to include more of an emphasis on wildfire. First public meeting will be on May 20th.
 - Other significant changes: leadership of Task Force will be expanded to not just state, but also fed and local leaders. It will be shifting emphasis from making recommendations to agencies to overseeing the recently released wildfire and forest resilience action plan. The action plan is full of deliverables that will move us forward -- from Rx, reforestation, to data management. Will be using quarterly meetings to track performance and delivering on the plan, and report regularly to the public.
 - Large scale priorities: working collaboratively with USFS, CAL FIRE on massive reforestation plan and Rx plan to break through on ability to scale up. Million-acre plan integrating with 30x30. Developing a Forest data hub. Working to develop a clearinghouse for private landowners who need assistance and scale up. Stressing the importance of supporting regional collaboratives and frameworks to implement; NCRP is a key example and one of few that emphasizes multi-benefit projects across multiple focus areas.
- Loretta Miranda, Chief Deputy Tribal Advisor and Special Counsel, Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor
 - Tribal Nation Grant Fund meeting April 23rd, 11 am. Seeking nomination for panels (9 open seats): tngf.ca.gov.
 - Truth & Healing Council created by Exec Order to bear witness to and record, historical record clarification in the spirit of truth and healing. Council will disband following final report in 2025. April 23rd annual business meeting. See tribal affairs website, open to public. Council is hosting regional listening sessions beginning next week (monthly thereafter).
 - Engaging with tribal nations on a weekly basis. Discussing pandemic challenges and news from the gov's administration. CNRA has hired an assistant secretary for tribal affairs who will be hosting listening sessions re 30x30 initiative.
- Juliette Frinzi-Hart, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
 - Many opportunities for listening sessions/workshops based on 30x30. Will share links.
 - Update to priorities set for state agencies on climate adaptation, updated every 3 years.
 - Developing resilience metrics with ICARP council. Working with Susan Haydon to integrate regional metrics. How are we reducing risk and increasing resilience?
 - Awarded 4 planning grants with leftover funds, one of which is with Sonoma County to develop a policy ordinance regarding resource management.
 - Working with the Strategic Growth Council which is ramping up engagement efforts with tribes to ensure funds are accessible to tribes.
 - Looking to develop a compass that shows how to align different planning processes. This was demoed for coastal planning through USGS.
- Keali'i Bright, Director, Land Resource Protection Division, CA Department of Conservation
 - Recent budget allocated ~\$500 million dollars committed to forest health and wildfire. Working across multiple state and fed agencies with local partners to turn those funds into projects in a short time frame. Has never seen the kind of coordination that we currently enjoying. RFFC

- program is playing an organizing role. Regional focus is a landing place for specific policy mandates and different pots of funding. Acknowledge that the state can't do it all and engaging the regions provides a good fiscal partner and blessing of the region on what the state is trying to do. Has been impressed by the responsiveness of staff to new opportunities with well thought out strategies, creativity, and ambition - this instills confidence in the state, especially when there will be a lot of pressure to use these funds to their highest potential.
- \$50M appropriation in the early action budget for RFFC (first appropriation was \$20M). Vote of confidence by the legislature. Will be used for priority planning. Strong emphasis on project readiness funding and ensuring the project pipeline is in place for equitable distribution. Will be engaging heavily to get new grant agreements in place. Excited for the program to connect wildfire resilience strategies from landscape scale to local community level. Even more funding is on the horizon in the regular budget. Always appreciates the energy the NCRP brings to the program.
 - Jason Ko, Shared Stewardship Coordinator, US Forest Service
 - Witnessing immense cultural shift at all levels to work collaboratively. Excited to move on the actions in the FMTF action plan where USFS has leadership. Looking forward to growing partnership with RFFC Program. New leadership positions: Two new deputy regional foresters, Liz Berger and Jodie Holzworth. Also, two brand new positions: post-fire restoration, Great American Outdoors Act. These positions will be helping coordinate with partners and staff.
 - On Shared Stewardship side, new advisors: joint positions of CAL FIRE and USFS staffed under NFWF, with WRTC filling the role in the north through Tim Bailey.
 - Joint Chiefs solicitation now open – restoration projects through NRCS EQIP and USFS appropriative funding. Several proposals in progress in the north. Applications due April 23rd.
 - Emergency Forest and Restoration Program via Farm Services Agency – for the north, Siskiyou County is currently eligible. For landowners who need emergency restoration. Apps due April 30th.

VII NCRP REGIONAL FOREST & FIRE CAPACITY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Cybelle Immitt, RFFC Lead Administrator shared that administration of the RFFC grant agreements and management of the project is going well. We are currently receiving quarterly reports and invoices from Demo project proponents and contractors and appreciate their efforts to keep us up to date on project progress, planning progress and the delivery of technical assistance for future project development.

A brief written summary of each demonstration project is provided in the meeting materials, Attachment A, starting on page 16. Julia Cavalli, lead admin for the demonstration projects shared some project-specific highlights that demonstrate some of the emerging benefits of the program:

- The demonstration projects are now more than halfway through their year-long process and are making good progress. Members of the staff team have been working to develop a template section of the Regional Priority Plan to help integrate the outcomes and lessons learned from each of the projects. This is a key step since these sections will be the main tool for communicating next steps in scaling and expanding on the initial work. It will also include some direction on how to communicate their benefits using the performance metrics presented later today. Unexpected benefits that have emerged include:

Prescribed burn capacity building and training

- The Siskiyou PBA, formed as part of the Shasta Valley RCD's demonstration project, successfully burned their first 6 acres earlier this month. The success of this burn was the result of a collaboration between no less than 9 agencies, including 4 of our demonstration projects sponsors as well as local fire departments and CAL FIRE, and of course many community members.
 - We are pleased to see the evolving partnerships between demo project sponsors and the great influence they're having on each other's projects related to prescribed fire.
- A member of the Karuk Tribe's demonstration project stepped in as burn boss when an insurance issue caused SVRCD's plans to fall through. The Tribe was also able to use the PBA's burn as a training grounds for their own crew. This is one of many great examples of a partnership that did not exist before the RFFC project.
- In fact, many of our demo project sponsors are developing MOUs with support from the RFFC Program to formally continue these partnerships in order to facilitate future collaborative burning. It is becoming clearer all the time that the benefits of this Program, especially with regard to Rx, will far outlive the grant term.

Biochar demonstration projects

- The Sonoma Ecology Center added workforce development to their list of project benefits by engaging the CCCs conduct forest thinning and kiln burning. The CCCs involvement is providing valuable training and exposure for the young people involved and cost savings that are being used to purchase additional field kilns for the Potter Valley Tribe.
- All are encouraged to view a [short video](#) of the SEC's demonstration of the field kilns in the Usal Redwood Forest. Their recent [biochar webinar](#) hosted by project partner RFFI, was very well received. The effectiveness of the webinar as an alternative to the planned in-person training was one more unexpected benefit that came out of this project.

The importance of partnership is emerging as a key contributor to the success of these projects. There are many talented and knowledgeable experts across our region and the RFFC program is helping to connect the dots between them. We are excited to see these relationships evolve and all the projects and benefits that will result from their collaboration.

Sherri Norris, Tribal Engagement Coordinator shared a brief update on the work of tribal consultants related to the development of the RFFC Regional Priority Plan. The Tribal forest advisory work group to be held on May 7th. The tribal reps from northern, southern, and central regions will be hubs for content development. She cited the recently released [Good Fire Report](#) by the Karuk Tribe as especially valuable resource for this work.

VIII NCRP REGIONAL FOREST & FIRE CAPACITY: GOVERNOR'S EARLY ACTION BUDGET

On April 8, 2021 Governor Gavin Newsom announced \$536 million in early action funding to help improve California's resilience to wildfires. Further details are provided in the meeting materials (page 4) and in Attachment B. Staff anticipate funding rolling out to state agencies and departments later this month.

NCRP Staff Recommendation:

NCRP staff expects to receive requests from State agency partners for funding amounts needed to support NCRP

forest health planning and project priorities. Staff will develop a preliminary list of funding priorities, consult with the NCRP RFFC Ad Hoc and the NCRP Executive Committee on priorities, poll the full PRP for their ideas, and share the preliminary ideas with State agency partners for their review and approval. If funding is allocated to the NCRP, the protocol in the NCRP Handbook for accepting grant awards will be followed (e.g., approval by the full PRP, approval by Humboldt County as fiscal sponsor).

Public Comment: None.

Motion to approve as recommended by staff: Supervisor Criss

Seconded: Nathan Rich

Vote: None opposed.

IX REVIEW AD HOC COMMITTEES: INTENT & VACANCIES & REVIEW TPRC VACANCIES

Ad hoc committees (PRP, TPRC, and sometimes staff) provide guidance and advice to develop recommendations for full PRP. Disbanded once no longer needed.

Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community & Tribal Involvement Ad Hoc Committee

Policy Review Panel can either fill vacant roles on Prop 1 DACTI Ad Hoc Committee or disband. Staff recommend disbanding.

- Hillman requested comments from Tribal Engagement Coordinator, who responded that her recommendation is consistent with other staff.

Public Comment: None.

Motion to approve as recommended by staff: Supervisor Groves

Seconded: Supervisor Ogren

Vote: None opposed.

Technical Peer Review Committee Vacancies

Staff recommends that these positions be filled immediately, via follow-up conversations between staff and the appointing entity within the next quarter.

Public Comment: None.

Motion to approve as recommended by staff: Supervisor Wilson

Seconded: Supervisor Groves

Vote: None opposed.

X REVIEW NCRP HANDBOOK, 2021

Outlines how the NCRP operates. Great reference for participants and anyone interested in its structure. Provides an overview of its evolution. See Attachment C. Several changes are recommended as follows:

i. Title

NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK title change to:
NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

ii. NCRP Structure and Roles

The Handbook section is updated to reflect changes to the NCRP governance structure approved by the PRP in December 2020. It also includes a description of the NCRP staff and consultant roles and titles.

iii. Mission and Guiding Principles

A new section includes the NCRP mission and guiding principles, and removes NCRP themes (these are reflected in the mission, principles and goals/objectives)

iv. Miscellaneous Revisions

Updates to grammar and sentence structure, revisions for clarity such as removal of one column from project description, referral to website for those items that may change more than annually (e.g., PRP and TPRC membership)

Gore: Discussed with Executive Committee and staff. Part of same discussion with restructuring the Executive Committee. All in the vein of ensuring the organization is running clean and mean. Regarding staff titles: they need these titles to reflect to others how much the NCRP values them as leads in their various roles, especially as they engage with state and federal partners.

Hillman: Wants to ensure staff feel as supported as they make the PRP feel. Want to make sure they're comfortable with the new structure and have a say in developing it. There's only so much we, on the PRP, are able to do and we rely on staff to do a lot of the heavy lifting. It's magical how smooth the meetings run and how much work gets done but it's not magic, it's staff! I support this opportunity for staff to take more ownership in title.

Madrone: Seconded comments on the great work of staff and motioned to approve the staff titles and other changes to the handbook as recommended.

Motion to approve NCRP participation: Supervisor Madrone

Second: Nathan Rich

Vote: None opposed.

XI NCRP 2021 MEETING DATES & LOCATION

Co-chair Hillman confirmed:

- July 16th, Eureka (or virtual)
- Oct 15th, Yreka (potentially 2-day meeting)

PRP thoughts on the potential for an in-person meeting and fieldtrip?

- Hillman: There is a lot of value in having the membership come together. We can continue remote meetings, depending on preferences.
- The group resolved to have staff poll the group in 45 days.

XII ADJOURN

Co-Chair Hillman invited final comments. Cybelle provided a brief update, requested at the previous meeting, on the progress of the Prop 1 grant rollout.

Hillman thanked staff and congratulated Judy Morris once again.

Co-Chair Hillman adjourned the meeting at 12:27 pm.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Policy Review Panel

- Co-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Karuk Tribe, Northern Region
- Co-Chair: Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County
- Co-Vice-Chair: Nathan Rich, Water Quality Specialist, Kashia Band of Pomo, Southern Region
- Co-Vice-Chair: Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County
- Edwin Smith, Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Central Region
- Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County
- Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County
- Supervisor Mike Wilson, Humboldt County
- Alternate: Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
- Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County
- Supervisor Ted Williams, Mendocino County
- Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County
- Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou County
- Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Sonoma County
- Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County
- Supervisor Keith Groves, Trinity County

Technical Peer Review Committee

- Co-Chair: Sandra Perez, Program Manager, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County
- Co-Chair: Dale Roberts, Engineer, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County
- Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Environmental Services, Public Works Department, Humboldt County
- Joe Scriven, Project Manager/Fisheries Biologist, Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County
- Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County
- Mark Lancaster, Director, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

State & Federal Panel Members

- Paul Ramey, Legislative Staff, Office of Assemblymember Wood
- Patrick Wright, Governor's Forest Management Task Force Director
- Loretta Miranda, Chief Deputy Tribal Advisor and Special Counsel, Governor's Office of the Tribal Advisor
- Juliette Frinzi-Hart, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Keali'i Bright, Director, Land Resource Protection Division, CA Department of Conservation
- Jason Ko, Shared Stewardship Coordinator, US Forest Service

NCRP Staff

- Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County
- Denise Monday, Humboldt County

- Julia Cavalli, Humboldt County
- Karen Gaffney, West Coast Watershed
- Katherine Gledhill, West Coast Watershed
- Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance

Additional Attendees

- Adriane Garayalde, County of Sonoma Department of Transportation and Public Works
- Allison Jolley, Watershed Research and Training Center, RFFC Program
- Alydda Mangelsdorf, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division
- Anne Morkill, Executive Director, Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
- April Newlander, Executive Director, Sanctuary Forest
- Ashley Gauer, Monterey Bay Economic Partnership
- Ayn Perry, Shasta Valley RCD
- Brittany Jensen, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
- Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
- Chris Dunn, Oregon State University
- Chris Ramey, HUU Pre-Fire Planning Battalion Chief, CAL FIRE
- Chuck Striplen, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Claire McAdams, CA Forest Conservation Foundation and MaxMix LLC
- Dan Wooden, Bureau of Land Management
- Devin Chatoian, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Elizabeth Salomone, Russian River County Flood Control
- Eric Martinez, Grant Manager, Department of Water Resources
- Giselle Nova, Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County
- Heidi Kunstal, Community Development, County of Del Norte
- Henry McCann, Public Policy Institute of California
- Jake Mackenzie, NCRP PRP Chair Emeritus
- Jenny Di Stefano, Department of Conservation, Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program
- Jessica Clayburn, Yurok Watershed Restoration and Roads Program
- Joe Scriven, Mendocino County RCD
- Juliette Hart, OPR, Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
- Kate Reza, Reza Environmental (NCRP consultant)
- Marcus Sorondo, California Indian Environmental Alliance
- Mark Tukman, Tukman Geospatial (NCRP consultant)
- Nick Goulette, Watershed Research and Training Center
- Pat Vellines, DWR Regional Coordinator, Red Bluff
- Scott Cratty, Executive Director, Mendocino County Fire Safe Council
- Tamara Alaniz, General Manager, Brooktrails Township
- Tim Bailey, Shared Stewardship Advisor, Watershed Research and Training Center
- Tracy Katelman, ForEverGreen Forestry, NCRP RFFC Technical Consultant
- Valerie Quinto, Sonoma Resource Conservation District
- *Additional attendees not recorded (~84 in attendance)*