



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)

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

Friday, July 16, 2021; 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

I TRIBAL WELCOME

Alongside NCRP Co Vice-Chair and Tribal Council Vice-Chair Edwin Smith, Bear River Chairwoman Josefina Cortez shared a few words and welcomed all to the Bear River Rancheria. Bear River Cultural Coordinator Barry Brenard gave a blessing and sang a prayer to open the meeting.

II NCRP WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Staff went through a roll call and confirmed the meeting quorum. Attendees are listed on the final page of this meeting summary.

NCRP PRP Co-Chair James Gore welcomed all and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He reviewed the agenda and noted that some (non-voting) participants will be leaving early for a redwood tour during the business meeting.

NCRP PRP Co-Chair Leaf Hillman welcomed everyone and thanked those that participated in the productive discussions during the Prioritization Workshop held the previous day and noted that there would be similar future conversations. It was inspiring and underscored how much work there is to do. Community resilience is at the core of any solution—a strong message that came out of yesterday's meeting.

III REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda: Supervisor Criss

Second: Supervisor Madrone

Public comment: None.

Vote: None opposed.

IV PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the agenda

None.

V SONOMA WATER GOLD RESOLUTION EMERITUS NCRP PRP CHAIR, JUDY MORRIS

The Sonoma Water Gold Resolution Award was presented to NCRP Chair Emeritus Judy Morris by Co-Chair James Gore who shared many kind words about Judy's humility in leadership. In return, Judy acknowledged the essential role Sonoma County and Humboldt County have played in the NCRP and stated that she wishes to share the award with the many people that make it all possible. She also gave special thanks to Leaf for his support over the years.

VI NCRP STAFF UPDATE

NCRP Staff Julia Cavalli presented on the progress of the RFFC demonstration projects and the vision for their integration into the Regional Priority Plan (RPP). The demonstration projects are intended to demonstrate innovative concepts,

methods, and technologies that support forest and community health and long-term resilience to wildfire that can be replicated and scaled up. The purpose of integrating them into the RPP is two-fold: to inform the strategic actions/priorities of the RPP, and to share lessons learned with others in the region and elsewhere. This will, in part, be accomplished by summarizing their qualitative/quantitative benefit metrics into a digestible format that can be meaningfully communicated via project poster, story map, web etc. and the RPP itself.

Several photos and a video were shared featuring the biochar and prescribed fire projects as a visual representation of some accomplishments to date.

VII UPDATE FROM OUR STATE & FEDERAL PARTNERS

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

- Video Message from Assemblymember Wood
- Patrick Wright, Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Director
 - The Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (formerly Forest Management Task Force) relaunched in May. It was originally state-oriented but has now been expanded to include local and tribal government, USFS, and other agencies and organizations—in some ways, like the NCRP. Identified 99 specific actions in a comprehensive Action Plan.
 - At budget level, several balls are in the air. Half a billion dollars has been allocated through Early Action so far. Legislature and Administration are still developing the second half of that package (currently on break). It could be increased to a billion and a half dollars. This brings a lot of challenges; especially given the capacity issues many are experiencing. This is going to translate to a lot more money to those at the local level—those who know what the key issues are.
 - Also on the federal level, the state and USFS have entered a Shared Stewardship Agreement to reduce wildfire risks on 100 million acres. USFS is moving toward a partnership model, recognizing that they do not have the capacity to do it alone. Partners will, in many cases for the first time, be able to do work on federal land and importantly, be able to retain the receipts.
 - RFFC will create a common, yet flexible framework. Having a statewide framework allows for partnership with local governments and benefit rollup for ROI reporting.
 - Not interested in simply rewarding those that are farther ahead but to uplift those in need of help. Lots of pressure to increase pace and scale but there is an opposing pressure to slow down and be collaborative.
 - Ultimate success will be to ensure there is sustainable funding for the implementation of the Regional Priority Plans that result from the RFFC Program. We recognize the difficulty of hiring staff, etc. when grant funding is not guaranteed. Envisioning longer term block grants.
 - *Comment, Supervisor Gore:* Acknowledged the complexity of the funding situation – bringing funding to local level is great, but there still needs to be a process for identifying specific projects and organizations who will ultimately use the funds.
- Angie Lottes, CAL FIRE, Asst. Dep Director for Climate & Energy
 - Fire season is ahead of schedule statewide by about 6 weeks (almost 5,000 incidents so far), making the transformation of wild and working lands even more important.
 - Working with Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, and USFS especially
 - Developing a pilot for a 10-yr block grant; working out the administrative details of this model, looking at IRWMP model of partnership
 - Wood Products and Bioenergy – fully staffed and working on workforce training; currently have \$6M in grants available, working on securing an additional \$18M through proposed Gov budget

- CARB scoping plan – climate-smart strategy, ensuring forest and woodlands are well managed and adaptable/adapting
- Grant apps for the Fire Prevention Program are consistently increasing
- Urban and Forest Legacy – Research and CFIP are getting their own funding this year to ensure that support is available
- Reopened research center in Davis; this year it is specifically funded to grow more trees for reforestation
- Prescribed fire – VMP ongoing; recently added staffed fuels crews available for department work and to support burgeoning PBAs that are popping up all over
- Ashley Gilreath, Financial Assistance Branch, Department of Water Resources
 - Prop 1 Round 2 IRWMP Implementation update: Manager for Round 2 solicitation; while there are many unknowns at this point, some Drought funding will be distributed and it will affect the schedule for Round 2, pushing it back at least several months. The emphasis is on quick distribution of Drought funds. In the meantime, they will further streamline Round 2 – a larger chunk of money and additional resources will be available.
 - Drought update: Gov's budget has now been signed. Amounts have not changed from what was proposed; on grant funds side: \$200M for small water systems, \$100M for urban drought, \$200M for multi-benefit, \$50M groundwater (total \$360+\$200M); waiting on a trailer bill to budget that dictates how funds will be spent, eligible applicants, etc. (draft available online).
 - *Comment, Supervisor Criss:* many rural irrigation districts can't support themselves if they can't sell water and they end up losing staff and the institutional knowledge they hold.
 - Ashley: trailer bill defines what can be funded, including all capital projects. Water Use & Efficiency branch is looking at ways to provide technical assistance and contracting to supplement staff capacity to small water systems.
 - Maria, DWR: coordination liaison for tribal involvement
 - Aug 3rd – workshop for underrepresented communities and tribes; on NCRP calendar; grant info and wildfire assessment info; partner grant programs
 - July 21st – IRWMP Roundtable of Regions Funding Fair; panelists, breakout sessions
- Yana Valachovic, Forest Advisor and County Director, University of California Cooperative Extension
 - Serving as a Forest Advisor to the NCRP
 - Yesterday was very inspiring; a few concepts that stood out and came up several times: resilience, community, capacity, knowledge, block grants, shared vision...and more
 - UCCE has been around since 1913 and is represented in every county of CA
 - Organizing a team meeting in August with NCRP and UCCE advisors to explore shared opportunities
 - Shared two new resources: [wildfire activity map](#) – updated twice a day; and [smoke map](#)
 - UC Cooperative Extension is engaged in fire in many ways: leading development of PBAs, which is taking off; active in policy development i.e., SB332; workforce development; landowner and master gardener education; home hardening policy and recommendations; working with county government on preparedness, including fire safe regulations
- Karyn Gear, North Coast Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy
 - Recently funded several projects on public lands through a very quick turnaround RFP. In two weeks, \$48M was requested across 8 projects (\$11M available). Funded Dry Creek Rancheria; Hoopa masticator purchase; MCRCD chipper and trainings; Mt. Tam fuelbreak.

- Mostly through with Prop 1 funding round. The Conservancy may do an additional round to assign funds from projects that fell through; still have funds through Prop 68 coastal redwood forests; and other funding.
 - We're all waiting for August for the final budget to shakeout; looking forward to participating in the Wildfire and Climate Resiliency packets
 - Jessie Cahill, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - In response to the increase in wildfire activities, the North Coast Water Board's Forest Activities Program has been conducting the following activities:
 - Participation in development of a Statewide Vegetation Treatment General Order (adopted 7/6/21) which provides coverage for fuel management and forest resilience projects that are approved through CalFire's Vegetation Treatment Program, the CalVTP.
 - Participation in development of a Statewide Utility Wildfire Mitigation General Order which would establish water quality regulatory compliance for certain types of activities associated with public utility maintenance and wildfire risk abatement activities. The Order is planned for State Water Board consideration in 2022.
 - Active participation in the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force and Action Plan
 - Conducting Post-Fire Timber Salvage Inspections implementing a
 - Implementing a Monitoring Workplan to investigate post-fire timber salvage operations that are administered through Cal Fire's Forest Practice Rules. The inspections will help to determine whether existing permitting (a Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements) sufficiently protects water quality or warrants revision.
 - Revising Federal Lands Permit to facilitate fuels management and other forest resilience activities. Will be presented for adoption by Regional Water Board in early 2023.
 - Working with the Board of Forestry, CAL FIRE, and other timber review team agencies, to conduct annual monitoring and reporting to the legislature on the use, performance, and enforcement related to projects authorized through the Forest Practice Rules and known as exemptions and emergency notices. Monitoring and reporting are required by recent Senate Bill 901- Dodd.
 - Developed permitting guidance and a list of available public funding grants (posted to web) to assist those who have been impacted by wildfire/reduce risk of future fire.
 - Legislative Update – Susan Haydon (NCRP Staff)
 - Susan shared some important legislative highlights. Information on bills to watch is included in the meeting materials.
 - CA Comeback Plan, at \$100B, is the biggest economic recovery package in history.
 - Monday, Newsom signed SB129 the junior budget bill that adds to the previously approved budget and includes water and drought relief funding
 - \$5.1B over the next 4 years for drought relief, water supply and aquatic habitat as well as broadband; \$50M for healthy soils program; \$3.7B for Climate Resilience package
 - Large chunks of this funding will continue to be negotiated for specific allocations.
 - NCRP Staff and Exec committee will continue to advocate assertively.
 - AB9 moving steadily and strongly. This Tuesday, the committee recommended passing as amended via consent – resulting program to be run by CNRA.

VIII TOUR OF FUTURE BEAR RIVER CULTURAL CENTER SITE & RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

IX Lunch

X BEGIN BUSINESS MEETING

Supervisor Gore called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

XI POTENTIAL NAME CHANGE – POLICY REVIEW PANEL

See meeting materials for details.

Karen Gaffney: Staff recommend a name change to reflect the reality that the PRP does far more than just policy and will continue to as the NCRP expands into new focus areas. A minor consideration is the potential impact to the MOMU, which can likely be remedied through a DBA statement.

Hillman: Invited feedback on the Exec Committee preference for “Leadership Council”.

Discussion: No strong preference was expressed. Several members were supportive of the recommendation.

Motion: Motion to change the name of the “Policy Review Panel” to “Leadership Council” per Executive Committee and staff recommendation.

Motion to approve: Supervisor Wilson

Second: Supervisor Ogren

Public comment: None.

Vote: None opposed.

XII OTHER DECISIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Supervisor Gore introduced an action item for consideration regarding acquisition of lidar funding for the region. He is currently involved in an effort to acquire lidar data for Sonoma County and would prefer to seek lidar funding and coverage for the whole region, granted the support of the Leadership Council. Supervisor Gore requested that the NCRP sign a letter or some type of resolution expressing a need for LiDAR to support science-based approaches.

- Question: Isn't there existing LiDAR for Sonoma and Napa?
 - Yes, but it is from 2013 and must be updated to be useful.

Motion: Motion to direct staff to draft and collect NCRP co-chair signatures on a letter from the NCRP.

Motion to Approve: Supervisor Howard

Second: Supervisor Criss

Vote: None opposed.

Supervisor Gore introduced a second action item that came out of the Executive Committee meeting. The Executive team is currently six individuals, evenly split between county and tribal representation (two co-chairs; two vice co-chairs; and two additional members). The restructuring of the Executive Committee was intended to facilitate leadership succession, regional representation, and inclusivity. In line with that intention, Supervisor Howard offered to step off of the Executive Committee so that there would be more diverse representation and suggested that Siskiyou Supervisor Ogren replace him.

Motion: Motion to replace Supervisor Howard with Supervisor Ogren on the Executive Committee.

Motion to Approve: Supervisor Howard

Second: Wilson

Vote: None opposed.

XIII NCRP STAFF DIRECTION & DECISIONS

See meeting materials for details and staff recommendations.

- NCRP Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program Budget Allocations – see meeting materials for details.
- CAL FIRE Pilot Grant Agreement
 - This agreement will create a link between the RPP and implementation funding. It would also introduce CAL FIRE to working with a regional collaborative which is different than their usual competitive grant program.
 - Criss: expressed his support for this agreement that will help bring sustainable funding to the north coast that will also be a conduit for future funding.
- Humboldt Area Foundation Grant & Wild Rivers Community Foundation Grant: Fire Response Capacity Assessment & Enhancement
 - Wild Rivers is a philanthropic organization whose values overlap with those of the NCRP. This grant would be complementary and supportive of the work in progress as part of the RFFC program. Would serve as a demonstration for a subarea (Hum, Del Norte, Trinity, part of Siskiyou) rather than the whole region.
 - Criss: Would love this to be regionwide; sees the value in a model project. Need funding for: 1) the great expense of firefighting equipment 2) shortage of firefighters in Trinity County – volunteerism just isn't there and paid positions are something that should be pursued.
 - First step would be an assessment of need – whether equip, staff, tech; there would be funding to do an assessment and to fulfill some of the needs identified. What we learn will be used to pursue larger funding pools to serve the great deal of need that's out there.
- California Governor's Office of Planning and Research Sustainable Feedstock Project
 - Very much TBD what this will look like. The NCRP would be able to develop a SOW reflective of the region's unique needs. NCRP already has a great group of consultants with a lot of expertise in this realm. Likely won't be final before October so staff will be able to bring a SOW to Leadership Council then for input.
- Enhanced Collaboration with the North Coast District Durable Collaborative, (with comments from Jill Demers, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District)
 - NCRP has a long history of working with individual RCDs over the years.
 - An idea was floated between NCRP staff and the Durable Collaborative to formalize an arrangement to support shared advocacy and messaging and allow the NCRP to rely on RCDs for technical assistance, which will be more necessary with the firehose of funding on the horizon.
 - Jill: The aim of the Collaborative is to establish a regional working group to amplify shared voice and support shared work. Each RCD brings a different capacity. Beginning to write collaborative grant applications, watershed level. Formalizing relationship with NCRP will help bring the needs of RCD communities to NCRP and help those communities understand the funding opportunities available. MOUs with the other RCDs enables staff sharing, reducing need for outsourcing to consultants.

- State Water Resources Control Board, Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program Grant, Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement, California Indian Environmental Alliance
 - Included for informational purposes (no decision needed). This is an opportunity to apply. Tribal Needs Assessment indicated funding for O&M is one of the greatest needs. Submitted LOI for O&M funding. Unclear whether ground and surface water projects would be eligible, staff looking into.
- Northern Regional Workgroup Design Plan
 - Patrick wants to ensure integration between state and regional collaboratives (vertical integration). Have discussed what this would look like and that would include Napa and Tehama. NCRP would be a synchro between the North Coast region and the Task Force and vice versa.
 - Seeking authorization to work with ad hoc to formalize this collaborative structure.

Motion to approve the full slate of NCRP staff recommendations as outlined in the meeting materials: Supervisor Wilson

Second: Supervisor Howard

Aye: Rich, Gjerde, Williams

Absent: Rabano, Hemmingsen, Berkowitz, Byrne, Hopkins, Brown

Vote: Passed unanimously.

Public comment: none.

Staff will set up an RFFC Ad Hoc Committee meeting to discuss updates.

Council expressed thanks for staff finding these opportunities and developing great recommendations.

XIV NCRP 2021-2022 MEETING DATES & LOCATION

There is a suggestion on the table to alternate between Zoom and in-person meetings. The next meeting is scheduled to be in Yreka in October and may include a field tour if in-person. Members agreed to meet in-person, barring any large wildfires. All confirmed interest in a field tour on the day before the meeting. There was some interest in moving the meeting to late September—staff will follow up.

XV ADJOURN

Co-Chairs Gore and Hillman adjourned the meeting at 1:49 pm. Co-Chair Hillman expressed thanks to Edwin and Bear River for hosting the NCRP.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Leadership Council

- 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 (phone)
- Co-Vice-Chair: Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County
- Edwin Smith, Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Central Region
- Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County
- Supervisor Mike Wilson, Humboldt County
- Alternate: Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County
- Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County
- Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County
- Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou 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
- Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County
- Mark Lancaster, Director, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

State & Federal Panel Members

- Patrick Wright, Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Director
- Tim Robards, CAL FIRE Forestry & Fire Protection Administrator, Forest Health, Wood Products and Bioenergy
- Angie Lottes, CAL FIRE, Asst. Deputy Director for Climate & Energy
- Ashley Gilreath, Financial Assistance Branch, Department of Water Resources
- Yana Valachovic, Forest Advisor and County Director, University of California Cooperative Extension
- Karyn Gear, North Coast Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy
- Jessie Cahill, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

NCRP Staff

- Cybelle Immitt, NCRP Director of Administration and Contracting (Humboldt County)
- Denise Monday, Humboldt County
- Julia Cavalli, Humboldt County
- Karen Gaffney, NCRP Director of Strategic Planning and Communications (West Coast Watershed)
- Katherine Gledhill, West Coast Watershed
- Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement (California Indian Environmental Alliance)
- Susan Haydon, NCRP Director of Legislation and Policy Development (Sonoma Water)

Additional Attendees

- Scott Cratty, Mendocino Fire Safe Council

- Judy Morris, NCRP Chair Emeritus
- George Jennings, Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Christina Lara, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Tracy Katelman, ForEverGreen Forestry
- Barry Brenard, Bear River Cultural Coordinator
- Tim Bailey, The Watershed Center
- Christiana Darlington, CLERE Inc.
- Darcie Antle, City of Mendocino
- Jill Demers, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- Kathy McCovey, NCRP Tribal Consultant
- Gary Knoblock, CIG
- Michelle Downey, Round Valley Tribe
- *Additional in-person and conference call attendees not recorded*