



## **NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)**

### **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (LC) & TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE (TPRC) MEETING SUMMARY**

**Friday, October 15, 2021; 10:00 am – 12:30 pm**

#### **I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Co-Chair Hillman welcomed all to the meeting. At the direction of the co-chair, Karen Gaffney led introductions of the Leadership Council while all others were invited to introduce themselves in the chat (see meeting participant list at the end of this summary).

#### **II ZOOM MEETING LOGISTICS**

Cybelle Immitt reviewed Zoom logistics. The Leadership Council was asked to keep their cameras on for the duration while others were invited to turn their camera on while speaking during public comment.

#### **III REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

None opposed to agenda as presented.

#### **IV PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the agenda**

Pat Higgins, Eel River Recovery Project shared his enthusiasm for the opportunity afforded by the NCRP to complete an RFFC demonstration project. The Tenmile Creek watershed community now have Forest Health Management Plans that will qualify them for implementation funding. Many questions raised and opportunities to explore as a result.

#### **V UPDATE FROM OUR STATE & FEDERAL PARTNERS**

*Due to scheduling needs, speakers did not present in the order stated on agenda.*

Co-Chair Hillman introduced the agenda item and welcomed the guest speakers.

- Update on NCRP Initiatives, Karen Gaffney, NCRP Director of Strategic Planning and Communications
  - July 14-16 Meetings
    - The Prioritization Workshop and NCRP quarterly meeting held back to back in July was a great opportunity to convene in person. The Bear River Rancheria and Edwin Smith graciously hosted. Well over 130 people attended the workshop. Attendees shared their input on forest and community resilience investments, which will be incorporated in the Regional Priority Plan and also heard presentation from a wide variety of partners.
    - The following day, the Leadership Council bade a warm goodbye to Chair Emeritus Judy and presented her with the Sonoma Gold Resolution Award. Participants also heard from agency partners and toured the Rancheria's upcoming Cultural Center project and solar microgrid project locations.

- Regional lidar
  - At the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Leadership Council directed staff to pursue funding for regional lidar. On behalf of the NCRP, Humboldt County applied for ~\$7M from USGS. Many agencies were involved in developing or advocating for this application. Several agencies provided significant match or letter of support. Awards will be announced in the next few months.
  - Shared an image of lidar from Sonoma showing fuel loading to illustrate how this tool could be used to plan for prescribed burning or evacuation routes. Will increase capacity to prioritize projects on the ground.
- Regional Biomass Plan
  - Staff were also directed to develop a Regional Biomass Plan with the Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR). Highlights of this effort are included in the meeting materials.
  - All partners are working under the assumption that any biomass plan should be for forest and community resiliency, not purely economic benefit.
- Tim Robards, Forestry & Fire Protection Administrator, Forest Health, Wood Products and Bioenergy, CAL FIRE
  - Will be overseeing three programs as a result of recent bills that were passed:
    - Forest Health (\$150M) – solicitation forthcoming
    - Tribal Forest Health Program (\$20M) – beginning the process of developing structure; funded by the General Fund rather than CCI so the requirements are not as demanding (for example no GHG accounting).
    - Business and Workforce Development Program (\$24M) – developing specification; coordinating with I-bank (low interest loan fund)
  - Question: What is the timeline for new programs coming on-line and for stakeholder engagement?
    - Tribal program – working with Loretta Miranda (Governor's Office) to draft guidelines, following her lead in terms of stakeholder engagement; looking to develop a rolling application process to maximize opportunity to apply
    - Goal for both programs is the new year, hopefully even sooner.
    - Neither new program is on the website yet.
- California State Senator Mike McGuire
  - Working on many pressing topics: Wildfire, Cannabis, Ecotourism, Broadband, Education, Homelessness, Housing
  - CA Economy: record surplus of \$75B last fiscal year; upcoming fiscal year will be a smaller surplus but still substantial (\$10-15B). Most jobs continue to come from CA – 44% of all new jobs in the last year. CA economy grew 20% despite COVID recession (Texas 12% for comparison). #1 in manufacturing and venture capital.
  - Historic Climate Action Package passed – \$15B investment in wildfire preparedness, sea level rise, agricultural adaptation, infrastructure, and more.
    - The climate alarm couldn't be louder; impacts are clear and dangerous.
    - Drought funds are on the move – groundwater, off-stream storage, groundwater cleanup, recycled water, turf replacement
    - Wildfire funds – fuel breaks, forest thinning, vegetation management, direct investment in tribal communities
      - Special thank you to the Karuk Tribe who has helped shape framework of investment in tribal communities.

- Over \$100M invested in conservancies for wildfire fuel projects – conservancies are very nimble agencies and are quickly tackling a backlog of projects
  - Will be bringing forward legislation to support CAL FIRE fulltime firefighters – staffing is not currently enough
- Broadband – chaired working group for state senate. \$6B must be spent in next 48 months. 60/40 federal/state funding. “Worst first” strategy: middle mile buildout will include embedding fiberoptic lines into Caltrans right of way. CEQA waived. Moving with speed!
- Great Redwood Trail – rail trail from SF Bay to Humboldt Bay to promote CA’s outdoor economy
- Tackling illegal cannabis – criminal element threatening endangered species populations, environmental degradation, water diversion. Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity are the focus areas for a pilot program focused on addressing unpermitted operations. Hoping to expand.
- Senator McGuire thanked the NCRP for its fantastic work.
- Co-Chair Hillman extended heartfelt thanks on behalf of the North Coast-counties, tribes, and all citizens. Senator McGuire returned the thanks to the NCRP and to Co-Chair Hillman and the Karuk Tribe specifically for working with him on fire management. Investment in wildfire, climate, reducing reliance on fossil fuels can be expected to continue.
- *Comment, Supervisor Bohn:* \$1.5M for addressing illegal cannabis cultivation in three counties is likely a drop in the bucket. Further investment could make more of an environmental difference and provide price protection for struggling legal grows. Would it be possible to provide matching funds?
  - Humboldt (\$600M) Mendocino (\$300M) and Trinity (\$300M) – funds will be applied to a coordinated effort on worst of the worst illegal cultivation
  - Looking to show results in the next 12 months and then expand the program to other counties with great need, like Siskiyou.
  - There is some potential for matching federal funding.
- *Comment, Supervisor Groves:* Trinity County was hammered by fire this past year. USFS resources are lacking, CAL FIRE level of response not up to par – what can we do to get the USFS to be more aggressive with firefighting?
  - Senator McGuire acknowledged that the level of federal service is mismatched with the amount and behavior of fire we are now experiencing.
  - CAL FIRE is also looking to work with USFS to improve their ability to respond. USFS is underfunded for fire mitigation. Suppression approach very different than CAL FIRE.
  - Will follow up with Supervisor Groves.
- *Comment, Supervisor Gore:* Emphasized that he’s very willing to work with Senator on expanding cannabis program in his role as CSAC President. Senator will follow up.
- *Comment, Supervisor Hemmingsen:* Cannabis eradication in Humboldt, Mendocino, and Trinity will push the illegal market into surrounding counties. All grows in Del Norte are illegal and the county does not have any enforcement funding. Senator acknowledged the issue and looks forward to talking more.
- *Comment, Supervisor Brown:* Staff fear for their safety. There are tons of trash and armed individuals – sheriffs are outnumbered.
  - National Guard used to have more of presence – does legalization make it difficult for them to stay involved?
  - Senator would not be surprised to see more National Guard and state enforcement personnel with these upcoming eradication efforts. Feds largely have turned attention to harder drugs. Looking to secure additional federal funding match to expand program.

Senator agreed it's time to step up enforcement and improvements are forthcoming. Brown will see Senator at the Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> tree ceremony (tree is from Trinity County National Forest).

- Karen thanked the Senator. He thanked all and said he would like to return. Reiterated that he would follow up with Supervisors Bohn, Gore, Hemmingsen, and Brown.
- Gabe Schultz, Staff Chief, Regional Resource Manager, CAL FIRE
  - SB155 and SB170 have both been signed – both discuss funding, GHG funding thru 2029
  - SB170 – new reporting requirements for CAL FIRE
  - New CAL FIRE solicitations upcoming – 3-month window to capture as any applications as possible
  - CFIP – looking to push out funded projects every few months
  - Encouraged all to continue monitoring CAL FIRE website for grant updates. New, streamlined grant management system will be launched with the grants recently awarded.
  - Has been working with NCRP, Tehama RCD and Napa RCD to determine how the Northern Region will fit into Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force.
  - California Wildfire Mitigation Program in partnership with Cal OES – looking to scale up in 2022.
- Matt St. John, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - Climate Change and Adaptation Resilience Strategy for NC Region – phased approach; developing vision for water resource adaptation, includes regulatory and non-regulatory tools for Control Board to accomplish vision. IDs strategic partnerships and key actions. Will be developing policy statement for public review in 2022.
  - Groundwater Action Strategy – implements regional tools for protection of quality at basin-scale
  - Wildfire Mitigation Efforts – Veg Treatment General Order adopted by State Control Board, modeled after CAL FIRE; Fed land management – working with USFS to include TEK in their approach, post-fire provisions include sediment control in post-fire salvage on federal lands; Wildfire Prevention Permit for Utilities – ensures that veg management by utilities is considerate of water quality.
  - Drought – Technical assistance model working with DWR; emergency drought regulations adopted in Russian and Shasta River watersheds this past summer. Teaming up with Division of Water Rights on flow rights in Shasta River and funding/implementation in Scott River watershed. Regional waterboard using planning authority to develop tool to guide management of NC river flows with goal of reducing impacts of flow impairment.
  - SWRCB will be considering draft resolution condemning racism and commitment to equity, inclusion, anti-racism; regional board will follow up with its own resolution doubling down.
- Nuin-Tara Key, Deputy Director for Climate Resilience, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
  - Shared key priorities coming out of \$3.7B climate resilience package including significant investments in community resilience and capacity building.
    - Regional Climate Collaboratives Grant Program to enable communities to participate in long term planning and economic recovery.
    - Planning Grant Program to support community long-range planning and developing project pipeline for implementation. Public Guidelines review process expected early next year. New program focused on scaling regional scale action on adaptation and resilience (\$250M over 3 years). Priorities under considerations and include regional coordination, meeting communities where they're at, i.e., support communities that are ready to go and uplift those not yet ready.
    - 5<sup>th</sup> CA Climate Change Assessment – next iteration will support decision making on the ground. Fourth Assessment and Tribal and Indigenous Communities Report helped identify the need for Tribal Climate Science Research Fund – first of its kind.

- Draft State Adaptation Strategy will be released for public review in the next week or so. Please consider providing comments.
- Ashley Gilreath, CA Department of Water Resources, Program Manager
  - Small Community Program – open and awarding; drought relief for non-urban water suppliers; first come first serve; lot of applications coming in; suggests applying ASAP, if interested.
  - Urban and Multi-Benefit – closed public comment on Friday, looking to getting final guidelines and solicitation out end of October. Not first come first serve. Short application. Expect interest to exceed funding.
  - Reach out with any questions about programs or eligibility.
  - Unknown whether more drought funding will be available next year.
  - Prop 1 Round 2 – looking to release solicitation a few weeks after Drought solicitation released. Will be a very simple application process.
  - Groundwater PSP is out now. Most funding is for COD basins per legislature. Includes new guidelines.
- Karyn Gear, North Coast Regional Program Manager, California Coastal Conservancy
  - Another \$10M from trailer bills (\$5M for bay area counties). RFP for next round of funding to be approved by board soon.
  - Two staff recently hired to support new programs.
  - Will be refreshing Strategic Plan to help guide use of newly appropriated funds (\$350M upon appropriation next year and \$150M the following year).
  - Leading planning for Great Redwood Trail. Looking forward to engaging with public on this.
- Keali'i Bright, Director, Division of Land Resource Protection, CA Department of Conservation
  - The North Coast is lucky to have the NCRP because it provides one clearinghouse for funding, making it very easy for the state to help serve the needs of the region.
  - RFFC – state giving power and funding to regions to identify priority forest and fire needs. Intended to be a project pipeline program. Legislature a strong supporter of the program and NCRP demonstrating multiplicative effect of funding.
  - Recent budget that was passed will enable next steps of prioritization and project development for real community impact.
  - Have brought on additional subgrantees including Napa and Tehama counties. NCRP staff are serving as valuable mentors for and building a coalition with these new groups.
  - Working with CAL FIRE to identify long-term funding investments and develop a pilot that would help get away from purely competitive funding model.
- Karen thanked all of the panelists and will work with the Leadership Council to identify opportunities to engage these panelists again.

## **VI NCRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORT OUT**

A strategic planning meeting was held in September. Staff and Executive Committee discussed the role of the Executive Committee, perspectives on the future of NCRP, and the upcoming conference in Sonoma on forest and wildfire resilience. There was consensus that NCRP retain its core values and integrity that have become hallmarks of the partnership. Co-Chair Hillman noted that he would like to include the larger membership in a future round of strategic planning. Several members expressed interest.

## **VII JUNIPER TREES AND WATER YIELD**

Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Criss outlined many of the issues surrounding water in the Klamath River—migratory bird impacts, competing interests for water, and how the unnaturally high density of juniper trees is resulting in decreased water yields (in Goosenest Ranger District historically 20 per acre, now 124). Increase in density due in large part to fire exclusion.

Ore Cal and other groups are working to increase water in the system. Juniper trees need to be restored to natural numbers. There are no silver bullets but great reductions in juniper will go a long way to increase water supply and lessen the burden of sacrifice for all stakeholders.

Prescribed burning is just one tool in the toolbox. Mechanical cutting and firewood gathering will be important as well. Not a very merchantable timber but the benefits to hydrology and fire resiliency as a result of restoration are innumerable.

Supervisor Criss thanked the contributors to a recent white paper and promised to bring this issue back to the table in April for further discussion of next steps.

## **BREAK FOR BUSINESS MEETING**

### **VIII DROUGHT AND PROPOSITION 1 IRWM FUNDING**

Cybelle Immitt, NCRP Director of Administration and Contracting

Ashley Gilreath touched on much of the details related to Drought funding through the Department of Water Resources (see above). NCRP plans to provide technical assistance for application to the Small Community and Urban/Multi-Benefit programs and will bundle projects into a regional application, where needed (can bundle up to \$500M worth of projects). Benefits of participating in regional application include ongoing administrative support from Humboldt County, technical assistance, advance payments up to 50% (as opposed to 25% as single applicant); the regional application allows for smaller projects (less than \$2M minimum). Sherri is working with DWR's Anecita Agustinez to discuss strategies for tribal projects. Will be applying November-January.

Proposition 1 IRWMP – Round 1 in progress. Next round \$12M, and 3<sup>rd</sup> round \$9M. Final PSP expected early 2022. NCRP solicitation and regional application expected fall 2022. Will include projects being developed under ongoing DACTI program.

The Staff recommendation is different than usual given the fast pace of these funding opportunities.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Given the expedited schedule of the drought funding, direct NCRP staff to work with the TPRC Co-Chairs and the Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Committee to develop and implement a streamlined approach to evaluating the projects to be included in one or more NCRP regional applications in alignment with the final guidelines. Authorize the Executive Committee to make the final decision about the priority projects to be included in these regional applications should the submittal of the regional application(s) need to be made prior to the next NCRP Quarterly meeting in January 2022.

Direct staff to work with the TPRC Co-Chairs and the Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Committee to review the Draft Proposition 1 - Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant PSP and develop draft NCRP solicitation materials anticipated for release in early 2022.

**Motion:** Motion to approve staff recommendation.

**Motion to approve:** Supervisor Wilson

**Second:** Supervisor Ogren

**Vote:** None opposed.

## **IX LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DECISIONS**

Last meeting, the Leadership Council directed staff to develop a consolidated decision for items that have been discussed previously, which includes all of the following:

### **A. North Coast Durable Collaborative MOU**

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the MOU between the NCRP and the Durable Collaborative via signatures of the NCRP Co-Chairs.

### **B. Updates To NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook, 2021**

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook, 2021 for posting to the NCRP website.

### **C. Contract With Governor's Office of Planning and Research – Biomass Plan**

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) Authorize the NCRP Co-Chairs to sign a letter of support on behalf of the NCRP Leadership Council supporting the NCRP in working with OPR and other regional partners to develop this plan; and
- 2) authorize the County of Humboldt to enter into a grant agreement with OPR to implement the scope of work outlined above.

### **D. Project Submittal into NCRP Plan: Dry Creek Rancheria Safe and Reliable Water**

#### **TPRC RECOMMENDATION:**

The TPRC recommends that the NCRP Leadership Council approve the Dry Creek Rancheria Safe and Reliable Water Project for inclusion into the NCRP Plan.

Chair Hillman asked that the decision on the MOU be pushed back to the next quarterly meeting (January) given recent discussions of the tribal representatives. He invited anyone to share their concerns.

*Director of Tribal Engagement, Sherri Norris relayed for TPRC member Chris Ott: The tribal representatives would like to see it made clearer in the MOU that they would retain the ability to interact directly with RCDs, independent of the NCRP.*

Karen clarified that the intention is to have the RCDs provide technical assistance under the guidance of NCRP, but this would not have any bearing on their own independent project development. Also, any interaction with Tribes related to NCRP will follow NCRP standards related to Tribes and would flow through Sherri. The MOU is not time sensitive and can be modified to make this clearer with language developed by tribal reps.

**Motion:** Motion to approve staff recommendations on items B, C, and D; and to defer a decision on item A until the next quarterly meeting, presumably in January.

**Motion to approve:** Supervisor Ogren

**Second:** Supervisor Williams

**Public comment:** None.

**Vote:** None opposed.

## **X PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION: NCRP BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS**

*In the interest of time, it was decided that the boundary discussion would be delayed until the next quarterly meeting in January.*

## **XI NCRP 2022 MEETING DATES & LOCATION**

Executive Committee and staff will evaluate potential for an in-person meeting as we get closer.

Supervisor Gjerde feels strongly that there always be a Zoom option given that travel to far reaches of the region is challenging for some.

## **XII ADJOURN**

Co-Chair Hillman adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm and thanked all for their participation in today's meeting.



## **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

Co-Vice-Chair: Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County

Executive Committee Member: Edwin Smith, Vice Chairman, Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Central Region

Executive Committee Member: Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County

Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County

Supervisor Mike Wilson, Humboldt County

Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County

Supervisor Ted Williams, Mendocino County

Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County

Supervisor Keith Groves, Trinity County

Alternate: Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Alternate: Dale Roberts, TPRC Co-chair, Sonoma County Water Agency

### **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

Michelle Downey, Environmental Protection Agency Manager, Round Valley Indian Tribe, Central Region

Rick Dean, Siskiyou County Director of Community Development, Siskiyou County

Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County

Chris Ott, Dry Creek Rancheria, Southern Region

Mark Lancaster, Director, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

### **State & Federal Panel Members**

California State Senator Mike McGuire

Nuin-Tara Key, Deputy Director for Climate Resilience, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Keali'i Bright, Director, Division of Land Resource Protection, CA Department of Conservation

Tim Robards, Forestry & Fire Protection Administrator, Forest Health, Wood Products and Bioenergy, CAL FIRE

Gabe Schultz, Staff Chief, Regional Resource Manager, CAL FIRE

Ashley Gilreath, Financial Assistance Branch, Department of Water Resources

Matt St. John, Executive Officer, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Karyn Gear, North Coast Regional Program Manager, California Coastal Conservancy

### **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**

Adriane Garalyalde	Jill Demers, Humboldt County RCD
Allison Hacker	John Friedenbach, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
Allison Jolley, Watershed Research & Training Center	Josh Smith
Alydda Mangelsdorf, CalEPA	Judy Rosales
Angelina Cook	Julia Sullivan, Humboldt County RCD
Anne Morkill, Laguna Foundation	Juliette Hart, Gov.'s Office of Planning & Research
Ariel Majorana, Russian Riverkeeper	Kate Reza, Reza Environmental
Ayn Perry, Shasta Valley RCD	Lindsay Riggs
Beverly Bulaon, USFS	Luna Latimer, Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Chris Jaster, Circuit Rider Community Services	Martin Twer, Watershed Research & Training Center
Christy Prescott, USFS	Melissa Denena
Chuck Swansom, SHN	Michael Thompson
Claire McAdams	Minona Heaviland, Sonoma Ecology Center
Colette Santsche, Humboldt LAFCo	Pat Higgins, Eel River Recovery Project
Cynthia Ford	Pat Kaspari, GM McKinleyville CSD
Danielle Goodman, Chagdud Gonpa Foundation	Peter Martin, Santa Rosa Water
Debbie Franco, Gov.'s Office of Planning & Research	Rob Jacob
Debra Harris, NC Unified Air Quality Mgmt. District	Ryan Heitz, Humboldt County Dpt. of Economic Development
Devin Chatoian, Sonoma County Water Agency	Scott Cratty, Mendocino Fire Safe Council
Dianna Rios, Humboldt County Dpt. of Economic Development	Sherry Rackler, USFS
Elena Sisneros	Sophia Schwirzke, CA State Senate
Eli Scott, NCRWQCB	Tamara Alaniz, Brooktrails Township CSD
Erika Partee, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	Thea Maria Carlson, Friends of Mark West Watershed
Gary Knoblock, CIG	Tim Bailey, Watershed Research & Training Center
Georgia Reid, Wisewood Energy	Tracy Katelman, ForEverGreen Forestry
Jason White	Valerie Quinto, Sonoma RCD
Javier Silva, NCRP Tribal Technical Consultant	<i>Additional conference call attendees not recorded</i>
Jennifer Jacobs	