



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

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

**Friday, January 21, 2022; 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

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

Co-Chair Gore welcomed all to the meeting and gave special acknowledgement to new members and recognized that Co-Chair Hillman was not able to attend.

- Supervisor Rex Bohn has replaced Supervisor Wilson on the Leadership Council (Supervisor Wilson will transition to serving as alternate).
- New supervisor, Supervisor Mulheren of Mendocino County has joined as an alternate for the Leadership Council.
- Pat Kaspari, General Manager, McKinleyville Community Services District, Humboldt County has joined the TPRC.

Co-chair Gore celebrated NCRP partner, Senator Mike McGuire's appointment as the new Senate Majority Leader this week. He also previewed attendees on upcoming meetings: next NCRP quarterly meeting, April 15<sup>th</sup> (likely virtual); May 5-6 Wildfire Resilience Task Force meeting in Sonoma County—not a formal NCRP meeting, however all are invited to use this opportunity to connect (potentially virtual).

At the direction of the co-chair, Karen Gaffney led introductions of the Leadership Council (LC) 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.

**Motion:** Motion to approve agenda.

**Motion to approve:** Supervisor Gore

**Second:** Nathan Rich

**Vote:** None opposed.

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

Konrad Fisher, Water Climate Trust: Last came to the NCRP in 2009 to request seats at the table for Tribes. He now comes with a new proposal to enhance policies and means of allocating public funds to better protect instream flows

and prevent salmon extinction. He expressed concern that the influx of new funds will result in less water for fish not more. He requests that more consideration be built into the grant evaluation process including the principle of: 1) do no harm, 2) cost-effectiveness, 3) permanence of transaction. He asks that policies and projects that conserve water but result in less water for fish be avoided.

Recommendation from staff: Karen meet with Konrad to document his proposal and bring it to the Leadership Council for consideration of potential next steps. Nathan Rich and Sherri Norris requested to be included in the conversation.

## **V NCRP MOMU & HANDBOOK UPDATE**

Karen provided background on the history of the MOMU, which began as part of the IRWM program. It has expanded and evolved significantly since however there remains a strong need to overhaul it to better reflect the current state of the NCRP. Proposed updates brought before the Leadership Council in April will include some no-brainers as well as some topics requiring deeper engagement.

Co-Chair Gore would like the Leadership Council to consider whether there are other structural changes that could be made to ensure the Leadership Council and TPRC have the opportunity to weigh in beyond quarterly meetings. One recent example was providing more structure to staff positions by giving titles to the four staff leads. At an upcoming meeting, he suggests a quarterly review of work under the purview of each of the staff leads so that the LC-TPRC can better support moving their respective work forward.

This idea is explored further under Item XIII NCRP Progress Dashboard.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

NCRP staff will update the MoMU to accurately reflect the current state of the NCRP, and to align with the Policies and Procedures Handbook as approved by the Leadership Council. The MOMU will continue to be a positive statement of NCRP principles, goals and objectives, and a non-binding voluntary agreement. Additional changes to the MoMU and the Handbook for future consideration of the Leadership Council include principles, policies and procedures related to Tribal sovereignty and consultation, Tribal leadership on land stewardship, staff roles and decision-making authority to increase efficiency, and other new refinements recommended by the NCRP staff team. Updates to the MoMU and the Handbook will be considered by the Leadership Council at its April 2022 meeting.

## **VI APRIL & MAY NCRP MEETINGS**

### **April 15: Yreka or Zoom**

There was discussion of hosting a potential 2-day event in Yreka in Siskiyou County. However, there is a new recommendation to move to Zoom given the COVID surge. Supervisor Ogren agrees that this is the prudent approach; Supervisor Criss is likewise in agreement. The next in-person meeting, whenever it may be, will be held in Yreka.

**Motion:** Supervisor Ogren motioned to hold the April meeting via Zoom.

**Second:** Supervisor McGourty

**Vote:** None Opposed.

### **May 5-6: Task Force Meeting**

Informational: There will be wide representation from state agencies and potentially the governor in attendance. It will be an extraordinary opportunity to connect if it is able to go forward despite COVID.

## VII GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING & RESEARCH: BIOMASS GRANT

In July, there was agreement to pursue this funding for biomass planning and subregional pilots. It is being administered, as all NCRP regional agreements are, by Humboldt County who is very near finalizing the grant agreement. Staff are seeking input on potential steering committee members or technical advisors; also, on whether the LC would like to appoint an LC or TPRC member to the steering committee for this grant.

Potential members being considered: Yana Valachovic, UCANR; Sherri facilitating Tribal Rep nominations; potential for RCDs or others with knowledge in this area

If there is anyone who is interested or thinks of a candidate, please follow up with Karen. Karen will be sending out a draft list of committee members to the NCRP body and more candidates can be added in response then too.

Vice-Co-Chair Madrone suggests industry representation: George Schmidbauer, developing a biomass facility in Korbel; also Christy Prescott, USFS. Interested in exploring on-site biomass conversion and energy generation in the field (need battery trailer). Both suggested individuals could help explore these ideas.

Supervisor Criss advocated for fair geographic representation.

Question: Can other experts from the community (not LC-TPRC) be nominated?

- Yes, looking for technical advisors in addition to representation from NCRP body.

Supervisor Bohn volunteered given his knowledge of the topic.

McGourty suggested individuals from RCRC (which includes Supervisor Bohn). Karen has met with them on this topic, and they are very much on board. Supervisor Bohn confirmed he would like to be on the committee. RCRC has acquired two pieces of property, has two facilities with plans for two more, and environmental compliance in progress.

Draft approach to this grant to be presented at the April meeting.

**Motion:** Supervisor Hemmingsen motioned to appoint Supervisor Bohn to the steering committee

**Second:** Supervisor McGourty

**Vote:** None opposed.

## VIII DROUGHT AND PROPOSITION 1 IRWM FUNDING

### Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) opened several grants this fall including the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program, which included a \$5M special set aside for Tribes, underrepresented communities, and the opportunity for bundling projects under \$2M. Last meeting, staff were directed to develop a regional proposal under a very tight deadline, knowing there would not be enough time to bring before for the full Leadership Council. TPRC did an incredible job applying their wide-ranging experience to select 13 projects out of 25 proposals, which were approved by the NCRP Executive Committee in early December. The regional proposal was submitted to DWR on January 14. Staff and consultants also provided technical assistance to a variety of proponents who submitted individual applications to DWR.

Cybelle thanked Katherine for her leadership and Denise Monday who worked with her to develop the proposal as well as Sherri, Javier, and Steve who provided technical assistance to tribes. Karen thanked the TPRC co-chairs and the TPRC for their review of guidelines, proposals, and volunteering of time to support the success of this process.

## **Prop 1 IRWM Round 2**

A total of \$26M allocated to the region for Prop 1, with \$9.28M remaining for Round 2. No due dates announced yet for regional proposal submission. Staff hoping the LC will consider review of guidelines included in appendices and for Prop 1 Round 2 in particular and provide direction to finalize guidelines and materials.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

### **NCRP DROUGHT RELIEF REGIONAL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION 2: UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES AND TRIBAL SET-ASIDE**

To approve the timeline and NCRP Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines, 2022 (Attachment A) to develop a NCRP Drought Relief Submission 2: Underrepresented Communities and Tribal Set-Aside Regional Proposal. Authorized the Executive Committee to make the final decision regarding the TPRC recommended suite of projects for submittal.

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

**Motion to approve:** Supervisor Ogren

**Second:** Supervisor Gore

**Public Comment:** None.

**Vote:** None opposed.

### **PROPOSITION 1 IRWM ROUND 2 FUNDING**

To approve the Draft 2022 NCRP Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines (see Attachment B), with provisions for developing project application materials and finalizing the Guidelines with oversight of the Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Committee to allow for the commencement of the NCRP 2022 Project Solicitation and development of a regional NCRP Proposition 1 IRWM Round 2 Grant Application.

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

**Motion to approve:** Supervisor McGourty

**Second:** Supervisor Ogren

**Public Comment:** None.

**Vote:** None opposed.

## **IX STAFF DETERMINATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY SUPPORT ALLOCATION**

Recognizing the critical need for technical assistance the recommendation is to provide develop a programmatic approach to providing it through an ongoing solicitation to be reviewed by staff on a rolling basis using criteria developed by NCRP ad hoc committees. In April, a more defined process will be proposed. The current recommendation is that staff take on more leadership of this realm with input from LC and TRPC chairs.

Supervisor Gore: This is consistent with the intent of past actions, such as formalizing staff titles. This would allow NCRP Directors to exercise leadership and authority to move critical work forward.

Nathan Rich: Underscored the importance of supporting communities and entities in need but not yet ready to take advantage of the funding opportunities now in abundance. Transparency and communication with these underserved communities is key.

Supervisor Madrone: Seconded the previous comments.

Supervisor Ogren: Staff add tremendous value in ensuring end results are worthy of the funding provided. There is a great need for technical assistance to put granted funds to the best use and the staff recommendation here will be helpful in making that happen.

Supervisor Gjerde: How ready does a project need to be in order to be funded? Some grant programs are operating on fairly short timelines.

- Karen: The recommendation is geared toward set up of a project pipeline, more of a long-view approach that will get projects set up to apply for implementation funds in the next 6 months or year, depending.

Sherri: She will be working talking with tribal reps about filling ad hoc positions to ensure transparency and that the best guidance is provided for this work.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The NCRP will establish an on-going solicitation for concept proposals from eligible entities throughout the North Coast region that align with the NCRP Goals and Objectives. The concept proposals will briefly describe the project, probable outcomes, and the nature of the technical assistance and capacity support requested.

Proposals for technical assistance and capacity support will be evaluated based on a selection process and selection criteria developed by the NCRP RFFC, Proposition 1 and/or Tribal Involvement ad hoc committees appointed by the NCRP Leadership Council. Technical assistance proposals and capacity support will be evaluated and selected by staff using the criteria developed by the Ad Hoc committees based on available funding.

NCRP staff will contract with a team of technical regional experts to provide one-on-one technical assistance and capacity building for the selected technical assistance projects. The typical value of technical assistance provided is in the range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 per entity.

**Motion:** Supervisor Ogren motioned to approve the staff recommendation.

**Second:** Supervisor Gore

**Public Comment:** None.

**Vote:** None opposed.

## **X NCRP REGIONAL FOREST AND FIRE CAPACITY UPDATE**

Karen reviewed the history of the Regional Priority Plan (RPP) to date and thanked the ad hoc committee, which will be meeting in February. Project Tracker is an online interface currently in development that will serve as a project pipeline for those projects assisted with technical assistance and ready to implement. The demonstration projects, which account for half of the first round of RFFC funding, are being used to understand innovation; they are wrapping up now and are being turned into story maps. The draft RPP will be rolled out in May, followed by public review; the final plan is expected in June 2022 with presentation to (and adoption by) the LC at the July meeting. Immediate implementation to follow.

The NCRP is leveraging a two-way flow of information with, and building relationships with agency partners and others on, the Wildfire Resilience Task Force so it's an apt opportunity to unveil the RPP at their May meeting.

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

Karen provided background on the history of the NCRP boundary, determined 18 years ago during the inception of the IRWM Program, designed around hydrologic units. The NCRP has been approached by the Department of Conservation

(DOC) to consider taking on full county coverage for those counties only partially included in the current NCRP boundary. This would help address gaps in funding coverage by the RFFC Program for certain areas of northern California. Staff made it known to DOC that there is some expectation that funding would be increased proportional to the increased area.

There is some overlap of jurisdictions across multiple IRWMP regions – potential for double dipping. Sherri added that this has been a challenge in the past for tribes straddling multiple regions.

Supervisor Gore suggested all those partially included be made whole, not just Sonoma County.

Javier: The purpose of the boundaries made sense for the Tribes from a watershed perspective. Not being bounded by political boundaries was important to Tribes. As this proposal is considered, all should keep in mind that the resources of concern do not align with political boundaries.

In the past, the LC has approved funding outside of the NCRP boundary. This is one option that could be done on a case-by-case basis.

Hemmingsen: Requested clarification on how it was that we have or could provide funding to areas outside of the region, especially those that have access to other funding sources.

Katherine clarified that there were no projects that were funded outside the boundary per se. In allocating funding for an energy grant circa 2012, the Policy Review Panel (now LC) made an exception to the boundary that would allow for funding outside the boundary, recognizing that energy typically affects the whole county and is not watershed-based.

Cybelle further clarified that DOC is requesting NCRP consider expanding to cover the remaining portion of Sonoma County, which is currently without access to RFFC funding. If NCRP does not take it on, this area would likely be folded into the Coastal Conservancy area.

It was resolved that staff and tribal reps (at Sherri's request) would work to develop a menu of scenarios for consideration at the next meeting.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

NCRP staff will gather input from the Leadership Council and others during the January 2022 meeting, discuss opportunities, challenges and preferences with agency partners, and bring a staff recommendation for Leadership Council consideration during the April 2022 NCRP Quarterly Meeting.

## **XII AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

Staff are checking in on interest in joining ad hoc committees or other suggested changes. A list of current members of each committee is included at the end of this meeting's agenda.

Current ad hoc committees include Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (no changes), Prop 1 Implementation, and Tribal Prop 1 Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement.

Prop 1 Implementation – Supervisor Bohn volunteered to replace Supervisor Wilson (staff will confirm with Supervisor Wilson who was not in attendance).

Tribal Prop 1 DACTI – Can tribal reps be added in between meetings? Staff confirmed, yes. The only concern is hitting quorum.

At the request of a member of the public, a public comment period was granted by the Co-Chair.

Comment: Is the Montague proposal under consideration today?

- Staff: This proposal was reviewed by the TPRC, received high marks, and was approved by the LC in December.
- Konrad Fisher: Is concerned about this project taking water from fish and asks that the project be reviewed to prevent this being the case. Staff will follow up to detail the selection process.
- Criss: For the record, Montague does release water from the Shasta dam to meet temperature requirements for fish.

### **XIII NCRP PROGRESS DASHBOARD – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DIRECTION**

The idea is to provide more in-depth information for those with expertise and interest in particular subjects. Staff propose to provide a draft approach at the April meeting.

Supervisor Gore: This will help the Leadership Council be more active and engaged in a way that Zoom has made challenging. This tool would help provide more of the rich detail previously enjoyed through presentations and side bars at in-person quarterly meetings.

Criss: Along the same vein of his previous comment about regionalism, suggests a by-region/watershed/county view of how funding is currently allocated.

### **XIV ADJOURN**

Extra time allowed for a verbal update from NCRP Director of Legislation and Policy Development Susan Haydon:

- Senator Mike McGuire appointed this week as Senate Majority Leader (number two spot behind President pro Tempore Toni Atkins). Excited to be working with Senator McGuire.
- Governor released budget including a \$20 billion surplus of discretionary funds: \$1.2B for fire resilience and \$500M for water resilience, additional funds for drought.
- COVID-19 continues to have a significant impact on the legislative process. There is a current cap of 10 bills for the senate to consider in the next session, meaning the focus will be entirely on the budget process.
- This is an election year—the first year following the redistricting process. A lot of reshuffling will ensue.
- Legislature has moved out of the capitol to a newly constructed office building nearby. Logistics adding to the chaos.
- February 18<sup>th</sup> is the bill introduction deadline. Will have more of an idea of proposed policies then.
- Please feel free to reach out to Susan with any questions. More updates to come at the next meeting.

In closing, Co-Chair Gore followed up on Susan’s update by noting \$2.1B has been allocated for nature-based solutions – coastal protection, 30x30 land protection, community resilience, catalytic projects, regional collaboration, climate corps, and extreme heat in urban areas. He underscored the importance of keeping a finger on the pulse as these allocations and programs move forward. In particular, he would like to see the NCRP consider how it can support workforce development to put these dollars on the ground – developing a climate corps is one key idea that’s been floated. He proposed further discussion of workforce development/climate corps on April agenda and encouraged others to contact staff with any additional suggested topics.

As a final comment, Madrone noted the huge blowdown following a snowstorm in Humboldt precipitated by drought and subsequent tree mortality. Much of the damage is on private land and there is a need to assist these landowners and tribes in accessing funding, from the state Office of Emergency Services in particular. He would like this group to consider how the NCRP can build capacity to access these and other funds.

Co-chair Gore adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

## **MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

### **Leadership Council**

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: Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County

Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County

Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Keith Groves, Trinity County

Alternate: Patricia Rabano, Tribal Historic Preservation Manager, Round Valley Indian Tribe, Central Region

Alternate: Supervisor Maureen Mulheren, Mendocino County

Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma Water

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

### **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

Pat Kaspari, General Manager, McKinleyville Community Services District, Humboldt County

Joe Scriven, Project Manager/Fisheries Biologist, Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County

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

Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County

### **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**

Allison Hacker, NCRP consultant

Debbie Franco, Gov.'s Office of Planning & Research

Eric Martinez, Department of Water Resources

Gary Knoblock, NCRP consultant

Javier Silva, Tribal NCRP consultant

Kate Reza, NCRP consultant

Konrad Fisher, Water Climate Trust

Steve Nevarez, Tribal NCRP consultant