



MEETING SUMMARY

NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP (NCRP)

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

Date/Time: Friday, October 20, 2023; 9 am – 3:00 pm

I WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Bear River Tribal Welcome – Bear River Tribal Chair
- North Coast Resource Partnership Welcome:
Leadership Council Co-Chairs Leaf Hillman & James Gore
- Humboldt County Welcome: Supervisors Steve Madrone & Rex Bohn
- Introductions:
 - Leadership Council, TPRC & Staff Team Members
 - Partners
 - Erin Dunn, Assembly member Jim Wood's office

II REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

Director of Strategic Planning & Communications, Karen Gaffney, introduced herself as the meeting's facilitator and gave an overview of the agenda.

Motion: Supervisor Bohn motioned to approve the agenda as presented.

Second: Supervisor Wilson

Vote: Passed unanimously

Public Comment: None

III NCRP TRIBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement

- Reappointment of Toz Soto, TPRC
- Appointment of Joe Parker as an alternate LC member

DEL NORTE COUNTY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

Del Norte County Supervisors Chris Howard and Dean Wilson

- Andrew Leighton – new TPRC member introduction

IV PRESENTATION: AGENCY PARTNER PANEL

NCRP Partners Kurt McCray and Ted McArthur

Wildfire & Forest Health: Engaging North Coast Tribes, Local Governments & Communities

Co-chair Hillman provided introductions and noted that the panel presentation reflects diversity of issues NCRP addresses. The panel then provided their perspectives and experience from their respective agencies.

Kurt McCray

CAL FIRE Unit Chief, Lassen-Modoc

- Described success of last fire season considering challenging conditions in Del Norte County. Statewide, fire was 30% of average due to rain and snow delaying fire season until August with the lightning complex.

Ted McArthur

US Forest Service, Six Rivers District Supervisor

- The partnership between CAL FIRE and Forest Service has been very strong for the past 5 years. Support received from CAL FIRE is commendable and creative and much appreciated. Partnership was critical. In the past, there has been conflict and challenging relationships. The USFS has increased inclusivity of community concerns over the past 10 years with a new approach that has focused on expanding partnership, collaboration, and mutual support. Collaborations such as: Smith River Collaboration, Western Klamath Partnership, Trinity County Collaborative have created a shared vision of how national forest is managed. The recognition of living in fire-adapted forests supports the call to manage them differently than historically done. For example, using Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) to engage with fire can increase management success. PODS are developed best when they are developed collaboratively. Specifically, for three major challenging fires in the area, PODS were successful with limited loss to structure and infrastructure resulting in less than 20% high intensity burn. Effort was concentrated in community protection (i.e. Orleans) allowing a risk assessment following the rains. A decision was made to put more fire on the ground, making the fire twice as large as it could have been – but those extra acres burned at low intensity to beneficial effect. This was not a “let it burn” policy, it was carefully planned in collaboration. This approach and outcomes will be shared out to continue the conversation. This kind of management can only be practiced when good relationships already exist.

A discussion followed:

- Supervisor Hillman noted that the opportunity has been provided for initiating conversations and informing them. Open communication and looking at lessons learned will be very important for the future.
- Supervisor Howard reflected that the partnerships that came together were quite incredible. The approach to use every tool in the toolbox, to conduct fuel management in the WUI (wildland urban interface), was extraordinary. Learning from this experience and

building tools to address the areas that did not burn is important. He questioned the lessons learned from Smith River Complex and how to apply those to managing other areas and also how NCRP can help.

- Supervisor McCarthur responded that lessons learned included that PODS and control features helped with imminent risk. How to take advantage of these features for controlled burns and fuel management to reduce the buildup? Currently this is addressed by commercial timber sales, or service contracts for low-value small-diameter material – cut, stack, pile, burn – which is a very expensive and time-consuming process. He questioned the potential for low-value wood fiber becoming input for a value-added product and expressed the need for a different model with a multi-pronged, collaborative approach to fuels management.
- Chief McCray noted that due to the underutilization of resources as a result of forest management, there is opportunity for economic growth, jobs, etc. but from Cal Fire’s perspective, it also makes fighting fires easier and safer. This was the first year there was unity on approach.

PRESENTATION: AGENCY PARTNER PANEL

California Water & Climate Change Initiatives

Arthur Hinojosa, Manager Division of Regional Assistance, CA Department of Water Resources:

- DWR has done a lot of financial assistance – 1.5 billion in 3 years – for water and drought. SB552 drought plan – DWR is offering technical assistance, both direct assistance from staff, and also consultants. The development of pilot grants is in progress and the current focus is watershed resilience. Celebratory video on DWR’s youtube page called *Celebrating 20 years of Integrated Water Management in California* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-4X7-dEAZo>)

Matt St John, Environmental Program Manager/Climate Specialist, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board:

- Presented three areas to advance climate change initiatives:
 - 1) Protection and restoration of aquatic habitats - welcomes opportunity to collaborate with NCRP staff on acquiring funding for nature-based solution projects. One important example is addressing Humboldt Bay sea level rise.
 - 2) Promoting healthy forests and preventing catastrophic fires - minimizing water quality impacts, pre-fire fuels management, post-fire emergency remediation and restoration, and salvage operations. The NCRWQB wants to work with NCRP on implementing Fire Resilient Forest and Ecosystem Restoration Strategies from the NCRP Vision Plan.
 - 3) Securing water supply for human and environmental needs – there is current development of a racial equity action plan, which is critical for climate resilience. Recycled water projects in the north coast region as well as projects to optimize Flood-MAR (flood-managed aquifer recharge) for the Russian River and Scott River watersheds are in the planning stages.

Joel Gerwein, North Coast Deputy Regional Manager, CA State Coastal Conservancy:

- Expressed concern that even with historic levels of funding currently available to address climate crisis, it has been difficult to find projects implementing Sea Level Rise projects such as tidal marsh restoration or estuary restoration in Eureka i.e. Humboldt Bay Living Shoreline project. Called for prioritizing planning projects with equity focus and focus on implementation of pilot projects in the future.

A discussion followed:

- Co-chair Gore cited that Alexander Valley Flood-MAR project received 7.5 million for Russian River project that worked with landowners to activate irrigation systems during rainy season to pull water off and put it on the ground via existing infrastructure to allow slow, sink, spreading of water. Agreement with Army Corps to retain more water in reservoirs is key to holding water and improving water supply. Support for these efforts is appreciated.
- Matt St. John noted opportunities to maximize water back on the ground include floodplain re-connectivity, direct pumping into groundwater, and small private landscape-scale projects to increase infiltration and that all efforts add up.
- Supervisor McGorty inquired about the TMDL (total maximum daily load) for the Russian River and noted that Mendocino County discharge has a huge impact on the Russian River.
- Matt St. John responded that there is only a pathogen TMDL for the Russian River, but that a TMDL for the Laguna de Santa Rosa is being developed. The current focus is addressing large sediment sources first, then later a TMDL will be developed for the larger watershed.
- Nathan Rich, NCRP Executive Committee, appreciated the panelists and efforts made to listen and collaborate.
- Supervisor Bohn praised the work that Calfire and USFS have done together in the past 25 years, continuing to ground-truth the analyses with farmers, well records, and local expertise and expressed the importance of developing relationships to take advantage of local knowledge and collaborate for success.
- Supervisor Heidi Carpenter-Harris appreciated Calfire and USFS for the evolved way that fires are being managed with engagement and respect to local communities.
- Supervisor Wilson added that the majority of work ahead is in recovery. He expressed the challenge of doing salvage work and community rebuilding and raised questions around developing practices to use standing timber to bring financial benefits.

V PRESENTATIONS

BIOMASS: UPDATE ON CONTRACT & PANEL DISCUSSION

NCRP Staff Team Update:

Karen Gaffney

- Karen Gaffney provided an update on Contracting, Regional Assessment, RFP, and Awards.

Panel Presentation & Discussion:

- Humboldt County Supervisor Rex Bohn Introduced GSNR.
- Michael Maguire, Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office of Planning & Research summarized past and future actions of OPR with respect to woody biomass utilization, with focus on stable supply of woody biomass to enable capital investments.
- Nick Goulette, Executive Director of Watershed Research and Training Center, noted that solutions must fit local contexts. He described four pilot projects: RFFI in SoHum/Mendo, RFS in Sonoma, CalForest WRX/Six Rivers National Forest Trinity/Humboldt/Siskiyou, Redwood Alternative Agriculture Fund – Humboldt County, each exploring different models, different ownership contexts, etc.
- Yana Valachovic, County Director/Forest Advisor of University of California Cooperative Extension in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties, noted that the region is playing catch-up after having dis-invested for decades. The North Coast is heavy in trees/stored carbon, but this resource is fragile. We carry responsibility for resources with only 4% of the population, and have difficulty keeping youth, developing and retaining a workforce.
- Supervisor Heidi Carpenter-Harris expressed concern that chainsaws are a significant tool whose availability depends on emission requirements and limited charging stations. She questioned how this work can be done without them.
- Michael Maguire acknowledged the constraints and that there is a responsibility to future generations.

NCRP & LOCAL PARTNER INITIATIVES

- Cybelle Immitt & Sherri Norris: NCRP Projects Overview
- Local Partners
 - Walker Wise, Sanctuary Forest
 - Sarah Beesley & Richard Nelson, Yurok Tribe
 - Ali Ong Lee, Humboldt Area Foundation & Wild Rivers Community Foundation

VI RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION: 19 YEARS OF DWR PARTNERSHIP

NCRP Leadership Council Co-Chairs Hillman and Gore

VII CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH PILOT

Karen Gaffney presented on the Forest Health Grant awarded by CAL FIRE. The grant is a pilot or test bed intended to result in a regional, landscape scale portfolio of projects that implement the goals of the CAL FIRE Forest Health Program, as well as evaluate opportunities to connect CAL FIRE’s Forest Health program with the priorities outlined in the Vision for North Coast Resilience funded by the California Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program.

Staff Recommendation:

- a) Direct RFFC Ad Hoc Committee, TPRC Co-Chairs and Executive Committee to advise NCRP staff on review and refinement of CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot processes, Project Evaluation & Selection Process Guidelines and Request for Proposal materials
- b) Authorize staff to work with CAL FIRE to make refinements to these materials, based on CAL FIRE program requirements.
- c) Present recommended CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot processes, Project Evaluation & Selection Process Guidelines and Request for Proposal materials to the Leadership Council in January 2024, and provide recommended slate of projects to the Leadership Council in July 2024.

Motion: Supervisor Madrone motioned to approve the Staff Recommendation as presented.

Second: Supervisor Howard

Vote: Passed unanimously

Public Comment: None

VIII LEAF HILLMAN & JIMMY SMITH AWARD

Co-Chair Hillman

IX NCRP HANDBOOK UPDATES

The NCRP Policies and Procedures Handbook documents the direction, guidance and decisions of the NCRP Leadership Council since its inception in 2005. The NCRP Handbook is an adaptive document, and has been revised multiple times over the life of the NCRP based on lessons learned and new information. The NCRP Executive Committee and TPRC Co-Chairs have committed to more regular strategy meetings with the NCRP Staff Team to address key challenges and opportunities, and these meetings will serve as an opportunity to make proposed updates to the NCRP Handbook for consideration by the full NCRP Leadership Council during quarterly meetings.

NCRP Staff Discussion:

- Co-chair Hillman provided a Tribal meeting update, and reflection on development of NCRP and future direction. For Tribal people, it is more important to do things right rather than quick. Time should be taken to update the Handbook and incorporate ideas about growing and building on successes through engagement with staff to set the stage for the next 20 years.
- Co-Vice-Chair Downey requested more time to review pilots and to continue building capacity for Tribes, including travel and creating set-asides for Tribes to be able to attend and more opportunities to sit at the table with NCRP to work together.
- Javier Silvia noted that the Handbook is the backbone of how operations and communications should flow. Relationships between Tribes and counties should be solid and structured enough that those who fill the shoes of Co-Chair Hillman and others can carry on what has been built.

- Supervisor Wilson recognized that the exchanges, knowledge, and connection at these meetings are of great value.
- Supervisor Madrone supported the idea of paying for travel in order to level playing field for tribal participants.
- Sherri Norris noted that the DACTI program used to provide support for Tribal travel, and now that the program is ending.
- Cybelle Immitt responded that the issue is state funding versus state reimbursement rate, which does not cover full cost so other funds must be sought.
- Karen Gaffney offered that HAF or other foundations provide this flexibility and called for influencing state requirements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Authorize the NCRP Executive Committee and TPRC Co-Chairs to work with staff on Handbook refinement and updating
- Bring updated Handbook to the Leadership Council for consideration and approval

Motion: Supervisor Madrone motioned to add above discussion

Second: Supervisor Howard

Vote: None opposed

Public Comment: None

X CONSENT ITEMS: SLATE OF STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Ad Hoc Committees

At the July 14, 2023 NCRP meeting in Yreka, the Leadership Council directed NCRP staff to form three new Ad Hoc committees (Illegal Cannabis, Capacity, Funding) and to poll Leadership Council and Technical Peer Review Committee members regarding their interest.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- Form Illegal Cannabis Committee with funding to be integrated into executive committee; capacity to be integrated into RFFC.
- Confirm Supervisors Criss, Carpenter-Harris, and Gogan as Illegal Cannabis Committee members

B. Wildfire Listening & Learning Sessions

Co-Chair Hillman suggested a series of meetings to support regional partners – including Tribes, counties, federal/state/local agencies and other partners – in sharing challenges, opportunities and lessons learned from recent wildfires, as well as opportunities to continue to improve outcomes based on enhanced collaboration and communication.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- NCRP RFFC Ad Hoc to work with NCRP staff to develop 3-4 listening and learning sessions around the North Coast Region, and integrate information from the

sessions into NCRP strategy documents, including the updated *Vision for North Coast Resilience*.

Motion: Supervisor McKenzie motioned to approve the recommendations as presented.

Motion to Amend: Supervisor Criss asked for Tribal representation on this committee and provided additional thoughts on value of this committee to band together to seek funding for cleanup of chemical pollution, etc. Michelle Downey agreed to join this committee.

Second: Supervisor Ogren

Vote: None opposed

Public Comment: Heidi is interested in joining the ad hoc committee.

XI 2023-24 QUARTERLY MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS (IN PERSON)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- January 19, 2024 (Ukiah)
- April 25-26, 2024 (Weaverville) – (New Proposed Dates)
- July 19, 2024 (Del Norte)
- October 18, 2024 (Yreka)

Motion: Supervisor Bohn motioned to approve recommended dates and locations

Second: Supervisor Wilson

Vote: Unanimously passed

XIII UPDATES (see Meeting Materials)

- A. REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR & PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE
- B. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- C. LEGISLATION UPDATE
- D. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DIRECTION AND STAFF ACTION
- E. NCRP DASHBOARD OF OUTCOMES

Meeting Adjourned

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

About 90 were in attendance

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Co-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Karuk Tribe, Northern District

Co-Chair: Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County

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

Executive Committee: Michelle Downey, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Manager, Round Valley Indian Tribe, Central District

Executive Committee: Nathan Rich, Kashia Band of Pomo

Executive Committee: Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Dean Wilson, Del Norte County

Supervisor Chris Howard, Del Norte County

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County

Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County

Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County

Supervisor Brandon Criss, Siskiyou County

Supervisor Susan Gorin, Sonoma County

Supervisor Heidi Carpenter-Harris, Trinity County

Supervisor Liam Gogan, Trinity County

Alternate: Barry McCovey, Department Director, Yurok Fisheries Department, Yurok Tribe, Northern District

Alternate: Salvina Norris, Policy and Procedures Chair, Dry Creek Rancheria, Southern District

Alternate: Supervisor Natalie Arroyo, Humboldt County

Alternate: Supervisor Maureen Mulheren, Mendocino County

Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma Water, Sonoma Water

Alternate: Supervisor Ric Leutwyler, Trinity County

Alternate to Susan Gorin: Jake Mackenzie, NCRP Chair Emeritus, Sonoma Water

TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-Chair: Sandra Perez, Program Manager, Trinity County

Co-Chair: Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County

Co-Chair: Dale Roberts, Engineer, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County

Co-Chair: Sandra Perez, Program Manager, Trinity County

Co-Vice-Chair: Councilmember Michelle Downey, Round Valley Indian Tribe, Central District

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

Nathan Rich, Kashia Band of Pomo, Southern District
Supervisor Nancy Ogren, Siskiyou County
Toz Soto, Senior Fisheries Biologist, Karuk Tribe, Northern District
Patricia Rabano, Tribal Historic Preservation Manager, Round Valley Indian Tribe, Central District
Jose Baquero, Dry Creek Rancheria, South District
Andrew Leighton, Crescent City Engineering Project Manager, Del Norte County
Jonathan Olson PE, County Engineer, Del Norte County
Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Environmental Services, Public Works Department, Humboldt County
Pat Kaspari, General Manager, McKinleyville Community Services District, Humboldt County
Joe Scriven, Interim Executive Director/Fisheries Biologist, Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County
Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager, Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation, Mendocino County
Sean Curtis, Modoc County Natural Resources, Modoc County
Rick Dean, Siskiyou County Director of Community Development, Siskiyou County
Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County
Mark Lancaster, Director, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

NCRP STAFF

Karen Gaffney, NCRP Director of Strategic Planning and Communications, West Coast Watershed
Cybelle Immett, NCRP Director of Administration and Contracting, Humboldt County
Susan Haydon, NCRP Director of Legislation and Policy Development, Sonoma Water Agency
Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement, California Indian Environmental Alliance
Javier Silva, Tribal NCRP Consultant
Steve Nevarez, Tribal NCRP Consultant
Rose Roberts, NCRP Technical Consultant
Tanner Speas, NCRP Admin Humboldt County
Lauren Rowan, NCRP Admin Humboldt County
Julia Cavalli, NCRP Admin Humboldt County
Molly Oshun, NCRP Staff Sonoma Water

PARTNERS

Forest Schafer, CA Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force
Chief Gabe Schultz, CAL FIRE
Art Hinojosa, CA Department of Water Resources
Matt St John, Environmental Program Manager/Climate Specialist, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Joel Gerwein, CA State Coastal Conservancy

Ted McArthur, Forest Supervisor Six Rivers National Forest
Nick Goulette, Executive Director, Watershed Research and Training Center
Clarke Stevenson, Watershed Research and Training Center
Michael Maguire, CA Office of Planning and Research
Yana Valacovich, University of California Cooperative Extension
Terrance Rodgers, Golden State Natural Resources
Jana Ganion, Blue Lake Rancheria
Walker Wise, Water Program Coordinator at Sanctuary Forest
Sarah Beesley, Yurok Tribe
Richard Nelson, Yurok Tribe
Rebecca Jacobson, CA Department of Conservation

PUBLIC

Fred Simmons, Cahto Tribe of Laytonville, CA
Drew Barber, Vollmar Consulting
Selena Rowan, Tanoak Consulting
Rebecca Jacobson, California Department of Conservation
Terri McCartney, Pinoleville Pomo Nation
Rod Mendes, Yurok Tribe Fire Department
Branden Bieber, Resident
Leif Stormbird, Contractor
Lyn Javier, VanDuzen Fire Safety Council Representative
Joseph Sloan, Redwood Coast Energy Authority
Heather Pardue, Elk Valley Rancheria
Dee Swanhuysen, Taking Action for Living Systems
Basho Parks, Lower Trinity PBA
Blaze Shannon, Lower Trinity PBA
Ali O. Lee, Humboldt Area Foundation & Wild Rivers Community Foundation
Paul Rosenblatt, Westhaven Community Services District
Cristina Valverde, Beaver Taught Salmon LLC
Luna Latimer, Mid Klamath Watershed Council
Sherry Constancio, CA DWR Eureka Flood Center
Gregg Foster, Redwood Region Economic Development Commission
Eric Martinez, Department of Water Resources
Yuliya Osetrova, Department of Water Resources
Mark Fenstermaker, Pacific Policy Group
Joel Gerwein, State Coastal Conservancy
Christy Prescott, US Forest Service

Zachary Erickson, Wiyot Tribe
Sal Chinnici, HRC LLC
Leece LaRue, Karuk Tribe
Tim Bailey, The Watershed Research and Training Center
Cynthia Ford, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
John Friedenbach, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
Lindsey Holm, BBWA
Jill Demers, Humboldt County RCD
James Pitcher
Xavier Tito Cervantes, DWR/DRA/NRO
Yana Valachovic, University of California Cooperative Extension
Genevieve Taylor, Ag Innovations
Erin Dunn, Assemblymember Jim Woods
Paul Mason, Pacific Forest Trust
Dana Stoltzman, SRF
Hayley Ross, HRC
Sal Chinnici, Humboldt/Mendocino Redwood
Neal Rohs
George Jennings
Elizabeth Pope, NCRWQB
Sandra Perez, Trinity County
Amanda Gonzales, Bear River Band Rohnerville Rancheria
Laurence Crabtree, GSNR
Terrance Rodgers
Jessica Boyt, DWR
Joseph Parker, RVIT
Mika Cook, RAAF