



CARCD FORESTRY COMMITTEE REPORT – NOVEMBER 14, 2018

Monthly CARCD Forestry Committee Call: The November meeting, held jointly with the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, took place at the Kona Kai resort in San Diego as part of the CARCD Annual Conference. Attendees included: Laurie Tippin, Pete Johnson, Jerry Reioux, Susie Kirschner, Jerry Jensen, Matthew Brown, Jon Barrett, Jenn Shepard, Mary Mayeda, Phil Noia, Sheryl Landrum, Jeannine Giuffre, Steve Haze and guests Beth Dalgleish, Stephanie Rochemont, Malia Nanbara, Dan Taverner & Brad Graevs.

Major discussion items included:

CARCD Forestry Committee

Introduction to the Committee: Pete Johnson provided a brief history of the Forestry Committee & its current member representation for new committee members. In summary, the CARCD committee used to be combined with the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (FSCC) & co-lead by both CARCD & CALFIRE. Within the past year, the combined committee split into two separate committees though most meetings continue to be held jointly. Many, but not all, members of the CARCD committee continue to also be members of the FSCC. If you are a recently appointed RCD member to the CARCD committee, you are only a member of the CARCD committee. The FSCC is updating its charter & membership may change in the near future.

Charter & Member Tenure: Laurie Tippin provided an overview of the charter, which is located on the Committee website [here](#). Also check out the brief article of the joint committee field tour on 11/13 under the “News” feature on our website. For the members present, we agreed upon committee tenure terms. This document will be emailed to everyone & posted on our website.

Committee Vice Chair: Due to unforeseen circumstances, Steve Jones has stepped down as vice chair of the committee. Mark Egbert, District Manager of the Eldorado Co RCD, has tentatively expressed interest in the position. He will talk with his board of directors & get back to Laurie.

CARCD Forestry Programs/Grants: Jenn Sheppard, CARCD’s new Forestry Program Manager, provided several updates on forestry grants that will soon be available to RCD’s throughout the state. The RCPP Tree Mortality Grant through USDA-NRCS will provide \$10 million in funding to 10 counties in the Sierra Nevada region to address the tree mortality crisis with a majority of this funding going towards NRCS EQIP contracts to landowners. Funding will be made available to local RCD’s in those counties to carry out tree removal and reforestation as part of this grant. Additionally, CARCD is working to finalize a grant award from NRCS to provide statewide technical forestry assistance. This grant would allow for the hire and strategic placement of registered professional foresters (RPF’s) in various NRCS regions.

One Tree Planted Partnership: Beth and Steph of One Tree Planted presented, along with Mark Egbert, on their reforestation non-profit. Their organization works with corporate donors, as well as individuals and other groups, to raise money that is then distributed for reforestation projects throughout the world. Mark has been working with this organization as the tree supplier for several RCD reforestation projects in California. They are looking to plant 1 million trees in California in 2019 and hope to partner with RCD’s to get some of these projects in place. Mark is also looking for regional coordinators throughout the state to take inventory for reforestation needs statewide.

CARCD News and Views: Karen Buhr, CARCD Executive Director, provided several updates. First, she asked the committee to provide feedback on any legislation to bring to Sacramento in the upcoming legislative cycle, especially after this year’s severe fires. She also commented that the RCPP grant is ready to go and CARCD will be moving

forward with Jenn on implementation. Karen also mentioned that CARCD would be happy to review RCD applications to Cal FIRE to ensure correct messaging and best chances of receiving funding.

Review Draft Action Plan: As part of the conference, CARCD committee members hosted open hours to meet with other RCD staff and discuss the action plan and how the committee can best assist other RCD's in developing forestry programs. Prior to discussing with other RCD's, committee members reviewed the plan and commented on any issues with the language and action items. Comments included:

- *Best way to form a relationship with Fire Safe Council:* In general, members felt that oftentimes FSC's are receiving large landscape scale projects, when typically they are better suited for community outreach and community scale projects. Some committee members warned that they only partner with FSC's if their RCD manages the entire grant. This prevents poor accounting and reporting that occasionally happens with FSC's and reflects badly on RCD's affiliated with the project.
- *Sharing employees with other RCD's:* Occasionally, neighboring employees will share employees to complete common projects, the issue of LAFCO was brought up. The general consensus was that *most* LAFCO's are okay with RCD's sharing staff and projects as long as there is an MOU in place that is approved by LAFCO. It was further clarified that simply consulting with another RCD on how to perform work is always allowed, but performing physical labor in outside districts is not recommended unless an MOU is approved.
 - It was suggested that the committee develop a directory of all the RCD services in forestry that other RCD's might be able to contract for fee for service work. The committee may want to include a warning on this page about the need to consult with LAFCO.

Not many RCDs participated/visited the Committee's open hours & only a few suggestions were received.

Both Committees (CARCD & FSCC)

Governor's Forest Management Task Force: The governor initiated an executive order to implement a new task force focused on forest management. The task force is divided into 4 regions and will enable discussion on issues and barriers prevalent in those regions. Several committee members had been contacted by their local task force, but most had not. It was discussed that each of the four regions should have at least one RCD on the committee (if not more). We will look at this topic again in December to ensure RCD representatives are serving on these committees.

Update on SB 901: This Bill, primarily dealing with liability for public utilities during fire events, also has funding for fire program grants. Nearly \$165 million may be available for fire related grant programs each year. This Bill also allows for the upfront payment to RCD's, non-profits, etc to receive advanced payments up to 25%, the development of a technical assistance program for wildfire resiliency, NEPA/CEQA authorizations to reduce redundancy and several new forest management & timber harvest plan exemptions.

CY19 Field Meeting Dates and Locations:

- February 26th **Sacramento/Davis region**
- May 30/31st or June 6th/7th **Blodgett Forest (Georgetown, CA)**
- Aug 22nd/23rd or Sept 12th/13th **Redding** – Primarily a meeting for FSCC on ranking legacy projects
- November 20th **Red Bluff (location not yet confirmed)** – CARCD Conference

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

FSCC Charter Update: FSCC members should review the charter and provide comments to Jerry Rioux. Any CARCD Forestry Committee members with comments on this charter should respond with these comments to Laurie. She will then form one consolidated response to send to Jerry Rioux for consideration. All comments should be in before the teleconference in January.

Agency Reports

The Joint Chiefs program is accepting proposals across the state. There is \$1.5 million available from the Forest Service and NRCS. This program is a partnership between USFS and NRCS to perform fuel reduction work in adjacent public (USFS) and private (NRCS) lands.

The next Joint Forestry Committee Call will take place December 11th at 8:00am.