

CARCD FORESTRY COMMITTEE REPORT – NOVEMBER 14, 2019

MEETING NOTES

Monthly CARCD Forestry Committee Meeting: The meeting took place at the CARCD Conference in Redding, CA on November 14th at the Turtle Bay Nature Center Board Room. Attendees included Laurie Tippin, Susie Kirschner, Pete Johnson, Phil Noia, Stewart McMorrow, Steve Haze, Jenn Shepard, Amanda McAdams, Sheryl Landrum, John Henshaw, Gordon Long, Mary Mayeda, Drew Loganbill, Kate Campbell, Susie Kocher, Jerry Reieux, Lizzy Eichorn, Jenny DiStephano, Gabriela Gard & Stephanie Rochemont.

CARCD Forestry Committee

Introductions/Housekeeping: Laurie had sent out a Google Form prior to the meeting for committee members to complete in order to include information about committee members on the CARCD website. The Google Form will ask for a short bio and areas of expertise. Please take the time to complete this form so that this information can be included on the website. Laurie will also be sending out a performance evaluation survey for the committee in the month of December

Sponsor Mixer Review/Feedback: Committee members held a booth as part of the sponsor mixer to inform RCD's about our role and ask for feedback on what information would be most useful to them. Several RCD's stopped by and filled out our sign in sheet, including noting a forestry related area they would like to improve on at their RCD. Much of the feedback centered on how RCD's can assist with post fire response. There was also interest in webinars/conference breakouts next year on how to build specific forestry programs.

Accomplishment Review of 2019 Committee Action Plan: The committee went through the first few sections of the action plan to provide updates on progress. If anyone accomplished items from the second half of the Action Plan that we did not get to discuss, please send a brief update to Laurie with what the accomplishment was. Some items completed this year include:

- Development of CARCD Forestry webpage
- Template for CARCD success stories
- Fact Sheet on how to become a TSP (needs to be uploaded onto website)
- Developed scope of work example for RCD's to assist with cone surveys

DOC RFFC Update: Jenny DiStefano with the Department of Conservation provided an overview and updates on the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program which granted block funding to several regional organizations throughout the state to build capacity for forestry projects. Funding will go towards projects including funding NEPA/CEQA or other project planning that is delaying implementation work, building local capacity in communities through FSC development and support, and working to develop Regional Priority Plans with a shovel ready list of projects to receive future grant funding. Within the committee itself, two RCD's have received this funding (IERCD and RCDSDC). In addition, funding was provided to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, North Coast Resource Partnership, State Coastal Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy, and the Watershed Resource and Training Center. More information can be found here:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Pages/Regional-Forest-and-Fire-Capacity-Program.aspx>

Both Committees

Legislative Updates: Mary provided an update on legislation focusing on the new AB 5 that will go into effect in January and has impacts on the way that RCD's do business with contractors. The bill, which goes into effect

1/1/20, more restrictively defines employee and contractors. Committee members expressed interest in being more active on legislative issues and working with Tasha Newman, lobbyist for CARCD, or being informed of forestry-related draft legislation. Sheryl has already been working closely with Tasha and has offered to help track and share those legislative updates. It was discussed that Tasha sends out a report on all legislation being tracked, and that it might be a good idea to post a condensed version of that with the forestry specific items on the webpage. Three individuals – Sheryl Landrum, John Henshaw & Paul Mason (though not present at the meeting to agree to these duties) – agreed to work jointly to identify how to coordinate with various interests in tracking legislation in order to inform the committee. Karen Buhr does provide legislative updates on committee calls that covers a variety of actions to assist RCDs, including forestry-related legislation.

One Tree Planted Global & Local Accomplishments and 2020 Plans: Stephanie Rochemont & Gabriela Gard of One Tree Planted returned this year to share some of their restoration highlights from the past year and to seek new projects for the upcoming year. They worked with Mary (Mendocino RCD) and Brad (Feather River RCD) last year on some post fire projects. They are also working on large campaigns including the Protect the Orca initiative by enhancing Chinook salmon habitat. While their model is \$1 a tree, they are able to contribute to projects in whatever way is most needed, so if the trees are donated or otherwise acquired, One Tree Planted can help fund fencing or other items for the project. If your organization is interested in starting a project with One Tree Planted please contact Stephanie at: (stephanie@onetreepanted.org)

Forest Stewardship Education Initiative FMTF Landowner Education & Outreach work: Susie Kocher provided an overview on her role and work through UCANR's Cooperative Extension program; including a quick introduction to the website and all of the great resources it houses (upcoming events, webinars, publications, etc). She also discussed upcoming forest stewardship workshops throughout the state to assist landowners in developing forest management plans for their properties in order to apply for CFIP and EQIP funding. Susie is looking for local workshop hosts and venues (with nearby forested areas) to host these workshops. Currently, workshops are scheduled in Ukiah, Berkeley, and Redding and they are looking for more locations to host.

Field Tour 11/15: A field tour of the Western Shasta RCD's China Gulch Fuel Reduction project will start at 9 am. Meet in the hotel lobby.

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (more complete notes will be available in 2020)

Assessment of Need for Forest Legacy Program/Legacy Program Update: Stewart informed the committee that Pacific Forest Trust has been hired to write the AON update document. 10 projects are ongoing, 2 with federal grant funding & the remaining with Wildlife Conservation Board grant funding.

Forest Stewardship Program: \$8 million is available to fund the CFIP program this year, with \$6 million slated for landowner contracts & \$2 million for a block grant program. Final guidelines for the CFIP program have been approved by the State & funding to landowners should be available soon. Guidelines for the block grant program are under review by the State prior to being released for public review/comment. This block grant will request proposals from NGOs & RCDs for providing landowner technical assistance & contracts for the CFIP program.

Joint Committee Revisit: Committee members discussed whether to take another look at making a joint forestry committee work. Since the State Forester, as allowed by federal legislation, has delegated responsibility for the FSCC to CARCD led to a discussion on what that would look like. Topics discussed included the charter, leadership, assignment of membership, open meeting requirements, advocacy, Legacy project ranking & a question on whether other federal requirements must be met. Laurie agreed to create a draft joint charter. More info will be found in the FSCC minutes in 2020.