

CARCD FORESTRY COMMITTEE REPORT – MAY 12, 2020

MEETING NOTES

Quarterly CARCD Forestry Committee Meeting: The conference call meeting took place on Tuesday May 12th. Attendees: Laurie Tippin, Pete Johnson, Stewart McMorrow, Jerry Reieux, Susie Kirschner, Jenn Shepard, Phil Noia, Jerry Jensen, Steve Jones, Paul Mason, Mary Mayeda, Sheryl Landrum, Jason Ko, Kate Campbell, Mark Egbert & Karen Buhr.

CARCD News & Views: Karen Buhr, Executive Director, shared key highlights of RCD issues. RCDs are sharing resources during the pandemic. CARCD has created a COVID-19 web page to provide information. Some confusion has existed around whether field work is authorized by the Governor's "stay at home" order. Recent federal & state legislation regarding financial stimulus hasn't included Special Districts – work is ongoing to change this in any future stimulus legislation. Three town hall meetings have occurred with RCD personnel to gather input & provide information on the proposed legislation to update Division 9 of the PRC. Primary topics in the legislation include clarifying direct contracting authority, interagency agreements and an update to the extent of RCD authorities. However, due to the pandemic & Governor's advice, the bill is being held for this FY. Finally, the annual RCD conference will not be held in person this year. CARCD staff & others are working on holding it virtually.

CARCD Forestry Projects Update: Jenn announced that she will be leaving CARCD on 6/5 for a new job. Jenn provided an update on several forestry projects that CARCD is managing. The RCPP tree mortality grants continues to move forward in the 10 counties highly impacted by bark beetle/drought tree mortality. NRCS' forestry assistance grant with CARCD also continues to be used whereby several RCDs are providing forestry assistance to private landowners (planning & implementation through EQIP contracts). CARCD has received a subaward grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy under DOC's Regional Forest & Fire Capacity program for capacity building for the central Sierra RCDs.

Draft Joint Committee Charter: Recommendation from both the CARCD forestry committee & the FSCC to the CARCD board for their recommendation & the President's approval of the Joint Forestry Committee charter has been made. The action is on May's board meeting agenda. Follow up: the CARCD President has approved the Joint Forestry Committee Charter (5/13/20).

Joint Committee Officer Nomination Proposal: Laurie proposed a process for committee officer nomination & time period once the draft charter is approved. Follow up: after approval of the charter on 5/13, the officer nomination period opened & subsequently closed on 5/31/20. Nominations were open to all committee members to nominate another member or themselves. Currently voting is occurring through 6/15/20 via a Google survey emailed to all committee members in early June.

2020 Membership Term Update: Seven expiring terms will occur on 12/31/20 – Jerry Jensen, Jeannine Giuffre, Jon Barrett, Mark Andre, Mark Egbert, Pete Johnson, Sheryl Landrum & Susie Kirschner. The process for filing these positions will be discussed at the August meeting.

Member Reports:

- *CAL FIRE:* Stewart reported that the Wildfire Resilience/Forestry Assistance block grant RFP is open through 5/31. \$1.5 million will be awarded in CFIP contracts by 6/30. CFIP may receive up to \$5 million from the CCI fund. 77,000 seedlings were planted at LA Moran Reforestation Center. The State's Forest Legacy program is on hold for the time being – no new projects are being accepted due to the backlog of active projects that needs to be reduced. Three projects were submitted (2 from CARCD) to USFS S&PF call for proposals – up to \$30,000/project is available (see next report).
- *USFS S&PF:* Nationwide, \$200k is available for forest stewardship projects. R5 S&PF submitted 5 proposals – 3 from CA, 2 from the Pacific Islands. Jason is creating guidelines for managing FSA's Emergency Forest Restoration Program. The guidelines will be posted on the forestry committee web page once they're finalized.
- *Pacific Forest Legacy:* Paul reported that they held their annual Forest Fete virtually this year due to the pandemic. The website crashed due to the event's popularity & it was rescheduled/held over a several day period to accommodate the interest. Paul continues to work on the USFS Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (AON) update. A draft will be circulated to the committee for their review. The final document is due to the USFS 6/30.
- *FSCC:* A joint meeting with the CARCD committee was held 4/16. The main topic was the AON update mentioned above, specifically, Rich Walker & Paul presented for discussion the attributes & their weights the FSCC previously identified/agreed upon. The committees discussed the data sets being used & the relative weights assigned to each attribute & provided several recommendations/changes.

*Next Committee Call: **August 11 at 8am***