

CARCD Forestry & Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (JFC)

Zoom/Teleconference –11 August 2020

On-Line:

Pete Johnson	Phil Noia	Stewart McMorrow	Mary Mayeda
Steve Jones	Laurie Tippin	Andrea Hefty	Dale Meese
John Henshaw	Karen Buhr	Kate Campbell	Mark Andre
Jerry Reioux	Paul Mason	Sheryl Landrum	Steve Haze
Elliot Chasin	Jerry Jensen	Brook Darley	Chris Zimny

Laurie brought the session to order at 8:05 a.m. and began with introductions of all on-line participants. During the introductions Mary took the time and effort to say some very nice words about the passing of Thom Schott this year on July 4th.

Committee Membership Discussion. Laurie.

New terms start in 2021 after approval by the CARCD Board of Directors. The question is how can the Committee outreach and recruit? Diversifying the Committee was one of the thoughts of those on line. Those wishing to serve would go through a vetting process. A discussion was centered on forming a sub-committee to perform outreach gather potential members, etc. John H. asked about attendance. It was agreed by the Committee that a sub-committee for membership would be a good idea. At this time John H. and Paul M, agreed to be on the Committee with Laurie. If you, the members, have some ideas on potential members (outreach) email Paul, John, Laurie.

Virtual Annual Conference Discussion. Karen Buhr. Committee.

The CARCD Annual Conference will be virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions. It will be a conference spread over 9 days in November. It will run from 12 - 24 November.

Karen Buhr asked the Committee:

- What would your portion of the Annual Conference look like?
- If we had a Tour - What would Conference Tour look like?
- What person would get you to be really be excited to attend an hour conversation and attend this portion of the virtual conference?

It was decided to hold the JFC Business Meeting on November 10, 2020. This would be another virtual meeting. Topics would be the Committee nominations, Annual Plan and Work Plan, among others to be identified later.

Topics for the Annual Conference included a discussion about a Fireside Chat type topic.

Virtual Tour Discussion included the following ideas – Stewardship Agreement Tour. This topic would cover the challenges, results of RCD involvement in Stewardship Agreements.

Ideas included biomass projects in Lassen and Modoc County. Sierra Institute has been working in Crescent Mills and Indian Valley. Some of the technology is new. Steve Haze offered a virtual tour of storage, supply chain, etc., power, etc. power pod, and micro-grid concept, integrating woodland and forest health.

Mendo RCD also has a small biomass project.

Napa RCD would consider a short program on its new forestry program.

Paul Mason and John Henshaw offered up a program concept on Conservation Easements.

John also offered that we should consider a program on Carbon Calculations for Small landowners. The Committee agreed that this was a great topic. The discussion included Mendo RCD working with John Nickerson to develop a user friendly greenhouse gas calculator for the Redwood Region. The GHG calculator tool will be completed in June 2021. John also said he would reach out to John Ford, who is also working on a model.

Small Group Chats.

The following ideas came up – contact Tom Smith. Cal Fire entomologist, to talk about the disease that is killing incense cedar in California as well as the leaf roller infestation in Placer County. Also Ambrosia beetles in Napa wine region.

Firesafe landscape demonstration in Southern California.

Also Carbon sequestration.

If you have ideas send them to Mary as soon as possible.

Local Working Group Discussion – Jerry Reioux.

NRCS is reinstating the Local Working Group (LWG). They recognize the importance of the input of local organizations on assisting in the identification and setting of local resource issues. Typically, RCDs run the meeting and provide the information to the local NRCS Field Office (see attachment)

NRCS is going to provide training on the process and how to hold a meeting. Information gathered will be and presented at the next NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting planned for late September or early October. This is everyone's opportunity to provide input on their local areas resource concerns.

Forest Legacy – Brook Darley.

Updates – Federal FL Program has additional funding from the recently enacted Great American Outdoors Act. This has created an increase in funds up to \$10Million. This removes the cap from \$ 7 Million to \$20 Million per year.

National Committee is revisiting the submitted 2021 projects that did not receive funds. For California this is Travis Ranch. The Committee is reconvening this month to reevaluate. If there is no change in funding the plan is to resubmit the 2 returning applications along with 1 new application.

The Committee will need to review and rank these projects prior to submittal to the USFS. Old projects are Mailliard and Grizzly.

However, under current USFS guidance California may not receive more funds because of the amount of obligated funds. But, Mailliard Ranch should close soon as it is on the Wildlife

Conservation Board (WCB) agenda in August. After that it should close in 30 to 45 days. Grizzly is on the WCB agenda for February 2021.

New applications include: Trinity Timberlands, Shackleford Forest and Brushy Mountain, Phase 3.1. In late August Brook will send to Committee members the FLIS output and ranking sheets. Then there will be a follow up Zoom meeting in late August or around the 1st of September. The Committee would then have a week to score the applications.

The role of the new AON in the ranking was brought up. The scale of the map may limit its role unless it can be enlarged. Brook reminded us that the Committee will need to follow USFS ranking guidelines.

It was agreed that Brook would post the FLIS and ranking worksheet on the Joint Forestry Committee website.

The Western States peer review will occur after the committee conducts its ranking.

Brook announced that he will be retiring the beginning of November 2020. WE are lucky in the fact that Al Klem has been selected to fill Brooks shoes and that he will be shadowing Brook for a couple of months.

Program/Agency Reports:

USFS - Andrea Hefty. Andrea announced that she is on detail through October. The Great America Outdoors Act was signed 20 July. The USFS is expecting \$10 – 80 Million for deferred maintenance. The Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has now been permanently funded! Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFLR) has essentially doubled in funding. Jason Ko wanted the Committee to know that CFLR in 2021 would include Yuba, WKRP (?) and an extension of Dinky Creek.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program has \$300 Million available. It is now a stand-alone program. This program needs more applicants. The Central Sierra RCPP expires in 2021.

Community Forest Program (CFP) is not included under the LWCF funding and still is its own funded program.

NRCS – Chris Zimny. Funding for EQIP projects, including forestry projects, has been reduced/limited for the FY20 fiscal year. Many worthy forestry projects did not receive initial funding. Yearend unused funding could be reallocated to California to fund some unselected projects.

Technical Assistance funding (the \$ used to fund staff and partners that assist NRCS in planning and other work) has also been reduced/limited for FY 20. Existing forestry assistance agreements with CARCD and AFF will continue to be funded to levels established in agreements.

The new Resource Conservation Planning Partnership (RCPP) funding is an excellent opportunity for partners to secure NRCS funding to assist NRCS implementing priority projects. RCPP assures partners that funding will be available to meet the objectives in an RCPP.

The announcement for FY 21 new Joint Chiefs Landscape Partnership proposals has been released. Concept proposals, cooperatively prepared through USFS Region 5 and NRCS-CA, are due to the respective Region/State Offices by August 20th. Partners, such as RCDs, have been an important part of JC projects. They can help prepare proposals and received funding as part of the proposal. Partners have greatly assisted NRCS-CA in executing JC project. This year's project proposal emphasis is on 1) wildfire hazard reduction in regional priority firesheds, 2) water quality improvement, and 3) critical habitat restoration. NRCS-CA/USFS R-5 currently has 5 active JC projects.

Cal Fire – Dale Meese. CFIP – Prop 68 Funding ends Aug 30, 2020. However, all of the \$6 Million will have been encumbered. After Aug 30th there are no new funding sources for new projects.

Block Grant (\$2 Million). Stewart and Al Klem. All funding was encumbered in 2 projects and the contracts have been approved and signed. They received at least 6 applications. Projects selected are the North Bay Forest Improvement Project and a project in Plumas County.

PFT – Paul Mason. There is a new project on the east side of Mt. Shasta near Ash Butte. PFT is going to revisit the portion of the Federal FL Program on who can hold a FL easement. Currently if FL \$ are utilized the State Forester must hold the easement. PFT is going to revisit the idea of qualified entities holding the easement when Federal and State dollars are involved.

State legislation – not a lot in the forest arena this year.

GGRF funding is an issue. There is a lot less funding coming into the programs due to the uncertain revenue source (selling of carbon credits). Probably will be no allocation of \$200 Million this CA fiscal year. There may not be funding until next year.

Open Discussion Period.

There was no open discussion.

Laurie adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

Submitted By: Jerry Reioux
JFC Exec. Secretary

Minutes Approved: Laurie Tippin Sept. 29, 2020