

YSS Meeting
August 17, 2018

Meeting Notes submitted by Lindsay Mattos

I.Meeting Opened at 10:10am with introductions by Chair Nathan Graveline.

II.Charter Updates (moved up agenda):

- An explanation of the proposed updates was provided by member Walt Kruse. No questions were asked by members.
- Consensus by the members present to accept the proposed changes. Carolyn Lott to send out the final version via email.

III.Financial Report:

- Report provided by Vice Chair Patrick Koepele and broken down by grant. Handout provided to members present. Copy to be emailed out after the meeting.
- Additionally, Seth Connelly will provide updates on the Rim Restoration later in the meeting.

IV.Field Trip Recap:

- Members provided thoughts on the success of the most recent field trip. Many felt it went well and that it was a great opportunity to provide feedback. Several members brought up the interesting the education discussions that took place during the trip including a discussion on sugar pines.

V.NDRC Update/Biomass Study:

- Angela Avery of SNC provided an update starting with the \$2.2 million Biomass Study.
 - The first phase is a feedstock analysis which has been drafted and is being reviewed by SNC and the core team. Hopefully, the draft will be finalized and release by the end of September.
 - Next will be an RFI to determine the interest from developers. There will be a two week turn around.
 - Followed by the economic analysis which includes looking at business models and existing infrastructure. Economic analysis is expected to be complete by February 2019.
 - The second phase is determining how to get the funding on the ground. Will be looking at opportunities and mechanisms to get funding out as quickly and efficiently as possible.
 - Options that are being discussed are a full wood products campus (big spending) and a smaller products site (mid spending.) It was expressed that nothing has been decided at this time.
 - Chris Trott explained that approximately 50 business options are being looked at and will be picking two that would have the best chance from an economic standpoint. Site locations are being considered in a later phase.
 - In regards to the feedstock analysis; publicly available data was used with a 40 mile radius. Broke down to approximately 800,000 acres of productive forest land of which 70% is public (pulled out restrictions such as park land, slop, etc.) Leads to approximately 500,000 acres realistically available of which 55% is public. Biomass was considered any kind of tree that would not make a saw log; tops, limbs, small trees, biomass from PGE and Caltrans, standing dead, and saw mill residual. (Note: during discussions Bone Dry Tons was defined at 200lbs with 0% moisture.) From the

sources listed above there was approximately 286,000BDT/yr, but with a few additional restrictions it dropped to 175,000BDT/yr. Other considerations discussed were Ag Biomass and competing facilities.

- Members asked questions and discussed the particulars of the feedstock analysis including the current contract at Ultra Power and what variables would have the most impact if changed. Members brought up the disconnect between what they are seeing on the ground and the feedstock analysis study.
- Angela Avery provided an update on Forest and Watershed Health.
 - Forest Service has started work on noxious weed component.
 - Funds have been released for two rangeland projects and working on NEPA for the other.
 - Biomass removal will not be completed this year due to fires. Contracting in fourth quarter for work in spring 2019.
 - Reforestation funding will be released for plantings in 2020.
 - NEPA to be complete in 2019 for Fuel Break with work to follow.

VI.Lidar Presentation (Remote):

- Award to Tuolumne County on behalf of YSS. (*Quick takeaways from presentation:*)
 - Wall to wall scans.
 - 100-500K positions/second with flight overlap.
 - Terabyte for 100,000 acres.
 - Still missing info in dense canopies.
 - Now using terrestrial Lidar to augment aerial.
 - Helps with quantifying fuels.
 - Overview of available data for each Eco-object, a lot of data.
 - Desire to have something that is easier to consume for a user with some GIS skills.
 - Members asked detailed questions about the data, shelf life of the data, how potential updates in the future can be done, and about possible options.
 - An example of the potential uses for the Lidar data was provided using Tahoe and fire risk analysis.
 - Followed presentation with a discussion of the cost and schedule for the project.
 - Fall '18 - partners and funding ideas.
 - Winter '18/'19 - contract.
- a. \$1/ac (over 250,000 acres)
- b. Economies of scale
- c. Lidar only
- d. snow/smoke free and leaf on
- Summer '19 - terrestrial Lidar.
 - Approximately \$50-75,000 per million acres.
 - Fall '19 - raw data delivery.
 - Late Fall '19 - 2nd deriv.
 - Winter '19 - 3rd deriv. Eco-objects Veg. Map
 - Extra processing \$50-75,000 per project. Some processing costs included.
 - Utilize the data that you gain through this project as a base data set that can be updated.
 - USGS can supplement up to 1/3 of the cost if it can help with their data. Similar to a grant submission to ask for a partnership.

- Members discussed all of the details of the cost as well as potential options. Plenty of questions for presenter Scott Conway.

VII. Wilder than Wild Screening:

- Overview of opportunity by John Buckley.
- Potential to show film at Sonora High School with cost taken on by CSERC and Tuolumne River Trust.
- Showing could be free to the public and take place September/October.
- Possibility of partnering with Union Democrat.
- Discussion by members of the possibility of a forum following the film.

VIII. Cal Fire Grant Discussion:

- \$5 million in grant funds awarded with YSS to determine how the funds will be spent.
- Originally included Lidar for Tuolumne County.
- Patrick Koepele went through the details and possible options. Noting that Looney is paid for separately with Forest Service funds.
- Discussion by members on alternatives. Agreement on alternative 1.

IX. USFS Report:

- Ferguson Fire all but contained, highest burn intensity was in the Anderson Valley and greatest losses were the lives.
- Donnell fire at ~30,000 acres, \$16-17 million on suppression, 53 recreational residences lost as well as Dardanelle resort. Hazard tree removal almost complete, highway 108 closed, but hoping to reopen soon. Sheriff has jurisdiction over evacuations.
- Arnold/Avery project is getting close to decision and Rock Creek will be open for decision soon.
- Draft of over snow vehicles to come out in next two weeks.
- Minimal damage to Sand Flat and Clarks Fork campgrounds