

FCAT Final Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

4:00 to 5:00 PM

Action Items are in bold and underline.

Present: Chris Keithley (CAL FIRE), Claire Jahns (CNRA), John Dingam (ARB), Klaus Scott (ARB), Helge Eng (CAL FIRE), Ken Pimlott (CAL FIRE), Kevin Hunting, (CDFW), Miram Morrill (BLM), Kim Carr (CAL FIRE), Janet Barentson (CAL FIRE), Jim Branham (Sierra Nevada Conservancy), Pat Wright (Tahoe Conservancy), Justin Johnson (CAL FIRE), Russ Henly (CNRA), Liz Berger (USFS), Matthew Resichman (CAL FIRE), Edie Chang (ARB), Ashley Conrad-Saydah (CAL EPA), Staci Heaton (RCRC), Lori Gilbert (ARB), Iryna Bolotina (CAL FIRE), unknown (DWR), various others (unknown)

1. Opening remarks

Chief Pimlott: Opening comments

2. Review agenda

3. Approved December 14, 2015 meeting minutes with three changes.

4. Overall Project Timeline for Forest Carbon Plan:

Chief Eng: Passes out timeline for discussion, which shows milestones he has identified. Suggests sending edits to him. Regularly scheduled FCAT meetings are in bold. Has added two meetings. Goes over significant milestones—public workshops, public release of various documents, public comment, consideration of comment and completion of analysis. Will move forward with or without completion of economic analysis. Goal is to complete forest carbon plan at end of 2016.

Ms. Chang: Discusses scoping plan process that includes release in May (probably). Natural and Working Lands section will include current FCAT-FCP work. If targets have been developed, they will be used. Discussion draft will go to ARB in June. Release version with economic and environmental analysis is expected in August. Return to ARB for final scoping plan approval in November 2016. This would appear to work well with FCAT timeline.

Ms. Jahns: Two items need to be addressed on the timeline. We need more than a week for public comment on concept paper. Three to four would be

better. If we go to April 6th, it allows two weeks after the workshop and four weeks after public release of the concept paper. That would seem to be a minimum of what group should allow. It will require a few days to compile and review comment. Relax the final concept paper deadline—give more time for comment, take sufficient time to review the comment, develop final goals and targets from FCAT and put those in the scoping plan in May.

Ms. Chang: Questions whether there is a need for a final draft concept paper or are goals developed as part of the concept paper review and public comment simply put into the scoping plan. This will depend on the purpose of the concept paper—need to be very clear regarding what purpose of comment is. On what should comments focus?

Mr. Wright: Focus of comments will depend on what the purpose of public comment and participation are—is FCAT seeking comment on the paper or the issues raised in the paper?

Dr. Henly: We are clear that concept paper will cover goals and strategies.

Ms. Jahns: Again emphasizes need for ample time for public comment. FCAT should release its own goals and strategies document that has taken into account public comment while leaving ample time for analysis to occur over the summer.

Dr. Henly: What will be publicly released in terms of the “final” concept paper will be determined by FCAT.

Various: Thinks some kind of public release should occur.

Ms. Chang: Scoping plan concepts are due from agencies on March 14. FCAT can begin to develop goals and strategies prior to the public meetings with the intention of considering and incorporating public comment. Scoping plan will be 100 pages w/o appendices, and the forestry section will be one part of the Natural and Working Lands portion, so there will be 2-3 pages on forestry. The concept paper could be attached as an appendix.

Dr. Henly: Reminds group that concept paper is meant to inform scoping plan and FCAT work on the FCP.

Ms. Conrad-Saydah: Discusses various groups working in forestry realm and how FCAT work may inform those processes

Mr. Wright: It would be good to have a document that describes the forestry-related work of the various groups, how they relate to one another with an

integrated schedule or diagram of the various related documents, plans, strategies and groups and how they tie together over appropriate temporal scales (timelines) and goals.

Various: Could that be added to the concept paper?

Ms. Jahns: Has a diagram that she can send around that may be useful and may have some of the items folks are talking about.

Ms. Heaton: This is needed at county level, and her constituents are anxious for some work to be done on this.

Chief Pimlott: Wants to add more meetings at the end of the FCP development process. Group needs to ask whether they are doing the right job given stakeholders input that FCAT should be doing the public's work. Does the schedule allow ample time for public engagement, review, and comment? This needs to be accounted for in the schedule. The group needs to continue to make steady progress while avoiding disenfranchising the public. Secretary Laird clearly wants FCAT to make progress parallel with scoping plan.

Ms. Conrad-Saydah: We can put schedule on the website to ensure greater public transparency and could put public comments and responses on web, if possible. We can add scoping plan dates as well.

Mr. Branham: None of the stuff is new, and it should not be unexpected by the public.

Ms. Chang: Scoping plan public review will allow further discussion of ongoing FCAT work and issues related to the FCP.

Ms. Barentson: Suggests adding scoping plan milestones to the FCAT one.

Various: Discusses schedule in late summer and fall. **Chief Eng will send out a version of the schedule.** Discussion of putting schedule with months or seasons associated with meetings and milestones rather than specific dates. Members will get specific dates, and a more general schedule will be posted for the public.

Chief Pimlott: Next meetings will be 1.5 hours and reflected on the schedule.

5. ARB Scoping Plan Update

Ms. Chang: Nothing new to add after previous discussion. There is a new timeline out, and plan to take to the board at end of 2016.

Ms. Conrad-Saydah: Asks about effect of clean power plan decision by Supreme Court.

Ms. Chang: Effort to move quickly was due to desire on California's part to lead in climate issues by submitting clean power plan to Obama Administration in September to allow approval prior to administration changing. Can't make that deadline due to plan's dependence on the cap and trade regulation past 2020. Clean power plan goes out farther, and regulatory changes have to be made to the cap and trade program before going ahead with the clean power one. Good to have scoping plan done before finalizing cap and trade.

Ms. Barentson: **Chief Eng will prepare and circulate a draft monthly activities timeline for posting on the web. Ms. Jahns will circulate the inter-relationship document as the potential basis for a description or process diagram of how various forestry efforts occurring statewide (and nationally) complement one another, etc.**

6. Public Workshops and Concept Paper

Dr. Henly: Interested in comments on the concept paper by end of this week or Monday at latest. Some have come in already—from DFW, USFS, others. Background, goals and strategies are open up for comment. Wants all comments-- editorial and otherwise. Will be doing this in conjunction with the ARB Natural and Working Lands group. **Send your comments on the draft concept paper to Dr. Henly by the end of this week (February 26) or Monday (February 29) at the latest.**

Mr. Branham: The paper should call out key topics that FCAT wants comments on. Those areas should be emphasized so it is easier to focus comments on them.

Ms. Chang: Suggests adding text that will elicit more comment. It is not written that way now, but needs to have text that will tease the comments out of the public. Written as "here it is," but needs to ask questions. It needs to focus reviewer's attention on carbon accounting and inventory, so as to get information about that subject.

Dr. Keithley: Need to maintain consistency with national framework. **Klaus Scott and John Dingham of ARB will work with Dr. Keithley on this and will try to incorporate (or consider) Ms. Conrad-Saydah's suggestion of using lists of applicable carbon accounting and inventory data sets one could use or similar resources relative to carbon inventory work that is similarly**

applicable. The discussion would mention potential data sets and then ask the public to comment about the appropriateness of their use.

Ms. Jahns will add sentences about integrating science on a periodic basis, and Dr. Henly can use as he sees fit.

Various: Discussion on the purpose of public comment—confirmation of direction of FCP.

Chief Eng: Suggests describing methods and analysis behind the setting of targets and goals so the public can comment on what it thinks are reasonable ways to achieve goals of the FCP.

Various: Thinks this is good.

Ms. Chang: Will scoping plan describe metrics associated with achievement of goals, and is there consistency between concept paper and that?

Ms. Jahns: Natural and Working Lands group wants metric to reflect actions taken (acres preserved or treated, etc.) rather than tonnes of carbon sequestered. The goals in the concept paper and the scoping plan should be the same, or nearly so.

DWR Person: DWR will provide comment by Monday.

Dr. Henly: Provides update on public workshop:

- A. March 23, Sacramento, CAL EPA room
 - i. FCAT Forestry Workshop will occur from 9 AM to 12 PM (probabaly), and Mr. Branham will facilitate.
 - ii. Natural and Working Lands group Workshop will occur in the afternoon.
- B. March 24 or 25, Forestry Workshop-- still making arrangements.
- C. No one appears opposed to concept paper, so will take comments, finish document and circulate to the public, provide notice of workshops at least two weeks in advance, finalize arrangements, with no FCAT meeting between now and public workshops

Ms. Jahns: Suggests changing a goal by combining federal and non-federal to have 1,000,000 treated acres, if possible, and add appropriate language so public can provide input on it. May be appropriate to say the goal is to treat “up to” that amount.

Group: No more comments for Dr. Henly.

7. Subcommittee Updates and Discussion

- a. Mr. Scott: Discussed Mark Rosenberg's work on inventory committee.
- b. Ms. Carr: Federal and state lands has not done much work lately, but biomass is moving along steadily but slowly. It needs more support.
- c. Chief Eng: He introduces co-chair Chief Reichman. Sub-committee has done some work and has received comments from Parks and Recreation, Tahoe Conservancy, which were incorporated.
- d. No more comments from Dr. Henly.

8. **Next meeting: April 18**