



## CHIPS BOARD MEETING

APRIL 21, 2021

5:30-7:30 pm

1. Call to Order: Wilensky, Miller, Vial, Torgerson, Dondero, Calaveras Band, Wilson
2. Agenda with modification motioned by Vial, Dondero 2<sup>nd</sup> passed 5-0
3. March minutes- motioned by Vial, Torgerson 2<sup>nd</sup> Passed 5-0
4. Financials-

Cash in bank 172,595.61

Reserved-Safety Incentive Program (13,121.60)

Reserved-PPP loan (145,432.87)

Available 14,041.14

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Accounts to be paid

today 7,940.65

Additional accounts payable

(does not include the Washoe

fuel bill) 12,076.83

Future income to include approximately \$109,000

5.Executive Director Report

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan #1 was forgiven April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- PPP loan #2 was funded March 15th. Funds were transferred to main operating account on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- No action on possible application to California Relief Grant through the Small Business Development Center. Maximum award is \$25K.
- Completed pre-screening application for Community Vision line of credit to overcome cash flow issue. Received term sheet. Possible Board action to authorize acceptance of the term sheet.
- Have not determined if a single audit for 2019 is needed based upon the amount of Federal funds received.
- No activity on the cost allocation plan.

### GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS UPDATE

**Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Upper Mokelumne Forest Restoration Project.** Submitted revised Invoices #2 and #3 as required by WCB, and am beginning to prepare Invoice #4. Drafted the required Implementation Plan.

Executed contract with Cutting Edge Forestry for the pre-commercial hand thin and reforestation (tree planting) of 211 acres and 146 acres, respectively. Implemented the reforestation over a five-day period, planting a total of

23,600 trees. Hand thin treatments are planned for late summer or early fall. Received one bid proposal for the pre-commercial mechanical thin treatment of 312 acres from a Colorado-based company. No bids were received from local contractors. The review committee comprised of project and ACCG partners will meet 4/12 and make recommendation for award to the Board.

The hand and mechanical thin treatment unit costs were under-estimated in the grant budget, creating an approximately \$90-100K deficit. Regine is in the process of discussing this with the WCB program manager, Forest Service and Steve to determine whether or not CHIPS should consider awarding some or all of the mechanical thin units as proposed, re-solicit the Request for Proposals to potentially attract local contractors and lower bids, and/or attempt to utilize alternative funds to complete the balance of the work.

The CHIPS Washoe crew was deployed on 4/9 to begin work on the roadside thinning units. Work is expected to continue throughout the season.

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Timber Regulation Forest Restoration (TRFRF) 925 Forest Restoration and Prescribed Fire Crew Development.** Steve worked with Big Sandy Rancheria to secure a contract and begin crew work. See description under SNC 952 grant.

**SNC 952-CCI Intertribal Stewardship Workforce Initiative (ISWI).** The Chico crew continued work in the Magalia-Paradise vicinity. The start of work with Collins Pine has been delayed due to snow.

BBSI conducted two additional CPR/First Aid trainings, one for the Chico crew and another for the Mariposa crew. Conducted a job fair in Mariposa intended to expand the crew; two applicants were hired. Greenville Rancheria Fire Department conducted a week-long Basic 32 Firefighter training in Woodfords for the CHIPS Washoe crew and Washoe Tribe Environmental Protection Department employees. Basic 32 training will allow CHIPS crews to assist with prescribe burning on federal land in addition to wildfire response. A second Basic 32 training is set for this week in Oakhurst for CHIPS' Mariposa crew and the Big Sandy Rancheria crew, and a third training is set to begin 4/26 in Chico for the Chico crew and other tribal entities.

Thurman is beginning work to plan the S212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw trainings for all crews. The ISWI grant includes developing, training, equipping, contracting for, and deploying at least eight new tribal stewardship workforce crews throughout the Sierra.

Steve and Big Sandy Rancheria secured a contract with the Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council for fuels thinning, hazard tree removal and pile burning on private lands in the Oakhurst vicinity. Work is expected to be complete the first week of May, and has included services performed by the Mariposa, Chico and Washoe crews and also the Big Sandy Rancheria crew.

**SNC 1067 South Fork Mokelumne River Phase 3 Treatment.** Submitted Invoice #8 and our third and final advance request. Mastication of hand piles and decaying log decks located on 66 acres of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sandy Gulch unit is complete. Working with CAL AM Team and the BLM to explore the possibility of applying the remaining grant funds to mark trees, and thin and reduce fuels on unmaintained plantations.

**SNC 1068 South Fork Mokelumne River Phase 4 (NEPA/CEQA).** No action this reporting period. This grant includes drafting the NEPA/CEQA document for up to 640 acres of public and private lands.

**SNC 1214 View 88 Fuels Reduction and Prescribed Fire Readiness Project.** The media release is under review with the Forest Service and SNC. CHIPS delineated the treatment units into project areas and will draft the contractor Request for Proposals for mastication and mechanical piling in the next month. The RFP will cover approximately 325 acres along Highway 88. CHIPS is planning to conduct hand thinning and piling within an additional 75 acres of the project area. The treatments are intended to prepare the landscape for prescribed burning.

**SNC 1226 Fuels Reduction in Bummerville, Calaveras County.** No action this reporting period. This project includes completing NEPA/CEQA compliance on 456 acres of BLM land in the vicinity of Bummerville, West Point and Wilseyville.

**CAL FIRE Arnold Avery Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Fuel Break Maintenance Project.** Received 7 contractor bid proposals for 888 acres of fuel thinning in the Butte Fire dozer line fuel break and Village fuel break. A committee comprised of project and ACCG partners reviewed and evaluated the proposals, and made recommendations to the CHIPS Board for contract awards. Board action needed on contractor recommendations on or before 4/12.

**US Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant Sierra Nevada Small Scale Community Biomass Projects Collaborative.** No activity this month.

**Blue Mountain Electric Company.** Teresa James will prepare and file returns for BMEC for "no activity" for 2017, 2018 and 2019 so documentation is square with the Franchise Tax Board. CHIPS needs to file a resignation of agent form to document the change in ownership.

**PG&E Vegetation Management Project.** Application for \$100,000 grant for the Tiger Creek South Fuel break Project that runs from the Tiger Creek Reservoir to the previous Lily Gap fuel break, connecting Cal Am Team's work in Amador and Calaveras Counties is pending.

**Sierra Nevada Alliance (SNA) Sierra Corp Program (Forestry Fellow).** Refer to Forestry Fellow Report to be given verbally at Board meeting.

**Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests Specific Project Agreement (SPA).** Steve and Irv met with the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF to discuss services performed and work planned for 2021. Submitted revised invoice for work performed in January.

**Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG).** Megan and Regine supported administration of the ACCG administrative, planning, and funding coordination work groups with notetaking, emails and agenda development, and project mapper maintenance.

6.Safety Incentive-West Point's crews' funds have been dispersed. Tobia's widow will receive his and the Washoe funds will be resolved in a few days with the gas bill.

7.Public Comment- none

Closed session- Steve, Megan, Regine and Johnathan will begin talking about what CHIPS will look like going forward. Board to meet in 2 weeks.