



SNAMP 2008 Q4 (Quarterly Meeting) Meeting Notes
Phone Conference
1/15/09

Present

UCST: Rocky Gutierrez, Kim Rodrigues, Ann Huber, John Battles, Aimee Sprague, Rick Sweitzer, Adriana Sulak, Susie Kocher, Roger Bales, Maggi Kelly

MOUP:

US Forest Service: Dave Martin, Tony Rodarte, Mike Chapel

CalFire: Crawford Tuttle

DWR: Frank Gehrke, Xa Xiu (sp?)

US FWS: Kim Squires

Summary of Main Outcomes

1. Suspension of bond funds (SNC grant) represents a \$158,000 shortfall for 2008-2009 SNAMP budget. UCST will need to address shortfall now.
2. UCST and MOUP have set up a series of call dates in the next 30 days to stay in close communication re: budget shortfall and what UCST will be doing to address it.
3. Quarterly reporting to MOUP has been changed to biannual reporting: one report pre-field season (April) and one post-season (November)
4. Ranger districts gave updates on Project timelines

Summary of Next Steps

1. Aimee will circulate upcoming meeting dates to UCST and cc Mike so he can pass on to MOUP
2. Aimee will check with UCST on tentative quarterly meeting dates for 2009
3. Ann will send Maggi / Qinghua's emails to Tony
4. Tony / American River Ranger District will send latest Last Chance Project timeline to Ann
5. Tony will send updated shapefiles to Owl team on Deadwood, Pine Nut, and Black Fork Projects
6. Ann will check with Chris Fischer if he needs a meeting with Spatial

7. John, Michi, and Mike will work out a more efficient budget reporting process
8. Ann will share updated project timelines to UCST
9. Dave and Kim Rodrigues will set a date for an IT meeting regarding Sugar Pine

Notes

1) UCST team updates (Ann)

Brief overview of what science teams are working on. Maggi will review status of Lidar work on Last Chance.

Desired Outcomes:

- 1) Shared understanding of what teams are working on
- 2) Address American River Districts questions about lidar work at Last Chance; determine if a future meeting should be scheduled on this topic.

- Q4 report to MOUP due early next week, see report for full updates from teams.
- Spatial team working on Sugar Pine LIDAR; completed bare earth model, which is on the SNAMP server (<http://snamp.ucmerced.edu>)
- Spatial Team met with other science teams for data integration and sharing needs in December and January
- FFEH is gathering vegetation data products and meeting with Kings River people to meet fisher research needs
- Spatial is seeking out NextMap data to meet research needs
- Water team has installed data loggers, snow depth sensors. They have not received all instruments for water quality monitoring. They are also beginning work on testing and parameterization of models.
- Maggi can help Tony Rodarte find DEM on SNAMP dataserver.
- Fisher team has traps and aerial tracking 31 fisher.
- Owl team is building habitat classification map and has shared shapefiles with other landowners. They are still waiting for updated shapefiles from Tahoe NF on Deadwood, Pine Nut, and Black Fork (from 3 areas).
- FFEH is working on Last Chance fuel models. They have finished some core work and are integrating with other projects.
- FFEH has submitted a research paper using SNAMP data that has been conditionally accepted in Journal of Forestry.
- PIM team is working on, as always, budgeting. Also coordination of meetings and communication with teams and MOUP.
- PPT is working on a 6 month progress report to SNC, group interactions with the public, IT meetings (planning for water, fisher, owl, ppt, and research design), local outreach, winter newsletters, interviews.

2) Budget (John)

All state bond funding has been suspended since mid December, including SNC funding for PPT team; John will speak about how this affects the science teams and seek a response from MOUP.

- a) Explain UC response to state freeze – immediate 180 day layoffs and will not cover any costs that were lost during the freeze.
- b) How freeze is affecting SNAMP now – SNC funds suspended (PPT).
- c) How freeze may affect SNAMP in longer term – DWR funds (Spatial and WATER)

Desired Outcomes:

- 1) Shared understanding with MOUP on what the state budget crisis means to SNAMP in the short-term and potentially longer-term
- 2) Get response from MOUP

- State has suspended all bond funds, including SNC, which leaves SNAMP short \$50,000 for 2008, and \$108,000 for 2009. This represents a 13% cut in SNAMP across the board.
- UC will not cover state grant supported salaries during the suspension, and will not allow accounts to be back charged when they become unsuspended.
- There are no other UC sources of funds to bridge the suspension, no CNR or Center for Forestry bridge funding.
- 2009 spatial and water teams depend also on bond money from DWR (Prop 89).
- Frank (DWR) has not heard much in terms of news- DWR is waiting to see what the legislature does.
- John said we need to decide NOW what to do in terms of scaling back for UCST.
- John: future uncertainty about funding is damaging to UCST and the project.
- Tony wondered about the timeline and whether water could be scaled back, but John said that water is already behind and needs to collect data now.
- Frank: cash flow is on hold because of budget uncertainty. This has to be resolved in the next week or so, or else the state will lose its ability to fund anything.
- Mike: we may want to consider meeting more often on phone conferences.
- Rocky: owl team is scraping to fill in behind the El Dorado cuts, so there isn't a lot of money there.

3) Reporting to MOUP (John)

Seek input / suggestions from MOUP on current format and frequency of quarterly reports.

- Quarterly budgets may be redundant as Mike already sees most of the invoicing.
- Agreement to change the quarterly reports to bi-annual reports (before and after the field season, in April and November).
- Internally we may uphold the quarterly status as they are helpful to the entire UCST.

4) Updates from American River and Bass Lake Ranger Districts

- Sugar Pine Project draft NEPA to public Feb 23
- Sugar Pine treatments will start end of July if no appeals, or mid Sept if appeals
- Sierra N.F. will be receiving supplemental funding to implement the Sugar Pine Project
- Last Chance Project treatments scheduled for late July/August if appealed, or June if no appeals
- The court ruling on how broad the 9th Circuit judgement applies is expected soon, which could change everything.

5) Scheduling for 2009

Immediate dates for next conference calls, to discuss / address changes due to budget issues:

Friday, Jan 30 at 3 PM

Tuesday, Feb 10 at 2 PM

Tuesday, Feb 24 at 2 PM

Can use Mike's FS call in number.

Tentative dates for 2009 quarterly meetings:

April 22 at 1 PM

July 16 at 1 PM

October 20 for Annual Meeting (all day)

Jan 11 2009 at 1 PM

Still need Q.5 dates, will set in next meeting.