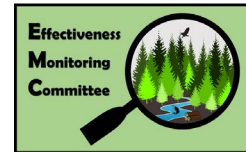


EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov
(916) 653-8007



Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) Meeting Notes

Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 9:30 AM

CNRA Headquarters: 715 P Street (Room 2-301), Sacramento, CA

Virtual Option for Public Viewing: GoToMeeting

A recording of the meeting may be viewed by filling out the registration form here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/886106749323843675>

Times before each agenda item ([August 2, 2023 Agenda](#)) are approximate and align with the timer in the video recording.

1) Call to Order, Hybrid Meeting Format, Roll Call, and Core Values – Kristina Wolf

Kristina Wolf called the meeting to order, reviewed the hybrid meeting format and methods for interacting with the committee, and called the roll:

Participants (17)

Members Present (11) – Dr. Elizabeth Forsburg-Pardi (Co-Chair), Drew Coe (Co-Chair), Jonathan Meurer, Jim Burke, Jessica Leonard, Mathew Nannizzi, Matt O'Connor, Bill Short, Ben Waitman, Clarence Hostler, Michael Jones

Members Absent (4) Dr. Stacy Drury, Clesi Bennett, Sal Chinnici, Dr. Leander Love-Anderegg, Dr. Peter Freer-Smith

A quorum was present.

2) Report by the Co-Chairs – Co-chairs Drew Coe and Dr. Elizabeth Forsburg-Pardi

a. Co-Chair Drew Coe reported on open, pending open, and expiring seats on the EMC:

- 2 monitoring community seats and 1 agency representative seat currently open. Seeking replacements for Members Dr. Drury and Dr. Love-Anderegg seats
Members Dr. O'Connor and Dr. Love-Anderegg's seats are expiring
- Details on the open seats are available here: https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/gxrfxutx/2a-emc-members-and-term-exp-2023-08-02_ada.pdf

b. Currently a report is undergoing analysis: CalFire's post-fire salvage study ('relatively poor performance'); report available later in the fall.

Board Staff Dr. Kristina Wolf reported on Grant funding:

- Timeline for grant funding has been moved up for future years with the goal of giving researchers an extra ~6 months to use the funds for their research.
- **Dr. Wolf presented the Project Liaison Guide;** has been sent to all EMC members and is also available online; guide for liaisons coordinating with project PIs, writing/submitting end-of-year reports, keeping communication logs.

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- Will send out the guide again following the meeting

3) Project Updates

- Drew Coe:
 - **EMC 2018-006** (Kevin Bladon): just had its post-doc leave for a full-time faculty position, but report should still be completed by October 2023
 - **EMC 2017-006**: CRAs should be given to the committee around the time of next meeting
 - **EMC 2017-001**: was not able to obtain additional staff for this study, so its timeline might be longer
- Matt O'Connor:
 - **EMC 2018-003**: this project has been completed, will be working on the CRA
- Discussion regarding support staff assisting with being project liaisons, working on CRAs (consensus that assistance from support staff is acceptable)
- Discussion regarding liaisons who are also project PIs completing CRAs (consensus that, in such instances, those liaisons should not be the lead on CRA completion).
- Dr. Kristina Wolf:
 - 3 new projects from 2022/23 will need project liaisons
 - Follow-up email from this meeting will include these three projects and ask for volunteers to be project liaisons

4) Review of 2023/24 Full Project Proposals – Dr. Kristina Wolf, Board Staff

- Redacted versions of the project proposals will be posted in the Meeting Materials section online.
- After discussion, EMC members will finalize their project rankings during the lunch break and submit them to Dr. Wolf.
- Review of budget: if all proposals were granted, the EMC would be ~\$7,000 short in 2023/24; partial funding of a project is possible. Budget projections can be viewed here:
 - [EMC Budget Projections 2023-24 to 25-26 \(ca.gov\)](#)
- EMC members engaged in discussions for the following four project proposals:

EMC-2023-001: Climate Adaptive Post-Fire Oak Restoration

- Forsburg-Pardi: no comments.
- Coe: no comments.
- Waitman: Concerned the study was not primarily focused in timberlands; liked study design, doesn't see relevance to forest practice rules.
- Burke: Appreciated the foundational research that could be used for restoration; sees how it could be applied to commercially managed timberlands, but is a "stretch"; not sure how he can reflect that in his rankings; Dr. Wolf comments that the rankings are not the *only* criteria on which projects are chosen.
- Leonard: Liked the project overall and would hope to hear more on how it could be applied to the FPR.

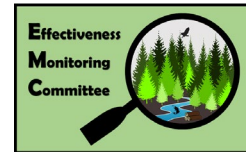
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- Hostler: no comments.
- O'Connor: echoes above comments.
- Nannizzi: echoes above comments.
- Jones: Sees harvesting of fuel wood in southern CA as a potential application of this study, but also a stretch.
- Meurer: Lots of variables in this project (ex. precipitation), concerned since the project open spans three years and the data set that would result; Perhaps better suited to a controlled laboratory setting than a field one.
- Short: echoes above comments.

EMC 2023-002: Assessing Fire Risk and Post-Fire Recovery in Riparian Areas

- Coe: intrigued by it; concerned about overreliance on remotely sensed data; would like to see more field verification.
- Forsburg-Pardi: no comment.
- O'Connor: echoes Coe's comments; notes the low amount of requested funds.
- Waitman: thinks there are opportunities to better apply findings from this study to the FPRs.
- Meurer: useful data, would also like to see more of a ground-truthing component.
- Hostler: likes the study for its base data set, but unsure how it would apply to any possible FPR changes.
- Short: should take into account that no journal article proposed, just a publicly-released data set.
 - Dr. Wolf comments that some journals will just publish data sets, could go that route.
- Burke: surprised this proposal hasn't already done but values the proposal if it hasn't.
- Leonard: could be a good data set for the price.
- Jones: no comment.
- Nannizzi: fascinating topic in a much-needed research area (have to manage riparian zones at some point); wish the project had "connected the dots" better.

EMC 2023-003: Pre and Post Harvest Fuel Loads for Site Productivity

- Forsburg-Pardi: no comment.
- Coe: very relevant to the forest practice community; Would like more information on how many replicates the study will have (statistical power).
- Nannizzi: agrees very applicable for forest practice community.
- Short: had concern with lack of specificity in some sections ('duplication of plots, etc.')
- Burke: by far his favorite project.
- Waitman: no comment.
- O'Connor: echoes previous comments.
- Jones: liked the study, called it ambitious; number of plots would be extensive.
- Hostler: discussed with Drew Coe the value of photo points.

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- Discussion of whether the EMC can ask for substantive changes before approving funding for a project; Dr. Wolf says there is no set procedure; requests could be presented to a project's PI and discussed from there (conditions can in theory be put on project approvals); However, Kristina suggests that this not influence the recommendations on *other* projects (i.e., recommendations solely contingent on available funding) .

EMC 2023-004: Oak Woodland Management

- Forsburg-Pardi: no comment.
- Coe: useful, but niche subject; was not sure about the proposed treatment into strips and whether that was the best approach.
- Meurer: echoes Coe's comments.
- Hostler: no comments.
- Short: wants to know how these findings would apply to other forest types.
- O'Connor: not that applicable to a commercial forest scenario; in response to Coe's comment, notes that a figure on the following page shows a decent distribution of species within the treatment strips.
- Waitman: shares concerns that have already been stated; not concerned with the treatment strips, however; Likes the study, but thinks it's a stretch to apply it to the FPRs.
- Nannizzi: applications are niche, but still interested in the subject matter.
- Leonard: questions about the degree to which this data can be extrapolated.
- Jones: would like to see more justification for the methods; concerned about the treatments being adjacent to each other.

Project Rankings:

- EMC-2023-001: 15.4
- EMC-2023-002: 18.3
- EMC-2023-003: 20.4
- EMC-2023-004: 16.7
- Member Coe encouraged the EMC to not spend all the money now just because they have it available; can hold out for an even better project in a future year.
- Lengthy discussion on EMC-2023-002 regarding how close the proposed deliverables would be to a usable/useful product; generally consensus was that the final data set would be quite a bit more work.
- Lengthy discussion on EMC-2023-004 regarding the broader implications on woodrat-specific data.

VOTING RECORD

- Motion by Member Burke to eliminate EMC-2023-001 and EMC-2023-004; seconded by Member O'Connor.
 - Waitman: aye
 - Meurer: aye
 - Burke: aye

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- Nannizzi: aye
- O'Connor: aye
- Jones: aye
- Leonard: aye
- Hostler: aye
- Short: aye
- Forsburg-Pardi: aye
- Coe: aye
 - Motion passes unanimously
- Motion by Member Burke to fund 2023-003 (as proposed) with the caveat requesting a data management plan that includes provisions for making the data publicly available. Seconded by Member Waitman.
 - Burke: aye
 - Nannizzi: aye
 - Meurer: aye
 - Leonard: aye
 - Waitman: aye
 - Jones: aye
 - Short: aye
 - Hostler: aye
 - O'Connor: aye
 - Coe: aye
 - Forsburg-Pardi: aye
 - Motion passes unanimously; will be recommended for funding to the Board at the August 2023 meeting.
- For 2023-002, Member Coe and Jones will have a discussion with the PIs regarding the scope of the project (ex. ground-truthing); then the EMC will vote on the funding for this project at a future meeting

5) **EMC Charter Revision – Kristina Wolf**

- EMC charter was initially approved in 2014; Kristina was hoping that EMC members could review the charter and send back potential edits; Kristina offered to take the first attempt at this and send our potential edits
 - Can have a more in-depth discussion of edits at the January meeting.

6) **EMC 2023 Annual Report and Workplan – Kristina Wolf**

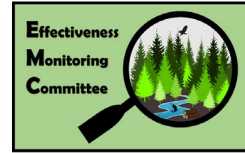
- Anything that was not included in the previous year's annual report should be included in this year's project update; December 31st deadline for EMC members to return edits and project liaison updates.

7) **Public Forum**

Nobody requested to speak.

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8) Future Meeting Locations, Dates, and Agenda Items

- Boggs Mountain Field Tour in November 2023; assessment of post-fire salvage work
 - Tentatively set for Thursday, November 16th

- EMC Meeting in January 2024
 - Tentatively set for Thursday, January 18th
 - Kristina asked the members if there was any desire to meet at another location
 - Interest shown in meeting in Ukiah

9) Announcements: Scientific Conferences, Symposiums, and Workshops

Nobody requested to speak.

Meeting adjourned.