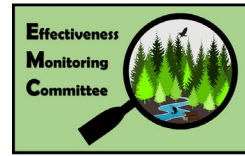


## EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING COMMITTEE

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## Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) Meeting Notes

**Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:30 AM

**Noticed Meeting Locations:**

- CNRA Headquarters – 715 P Street (Room 2-301), Sacramento, CA 95815
- U.C. Cooperative Extension Mendocino – 890 North Bush Street, Ukiah, CA 95482
- University of California, Santa Barbara – Noble Hall Room 2221, UCEN Rd, Goleta, CA 93117

**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/register/6305868943314441564>

The [agenda](#) is posted online.

**1. Call to Order, Hybrid Meeting Format, Roll Call, and Core Values – Dr. Kristina Wolf, Board staff**

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

- **Members Present (11)** – Drew Coe (Co-Chair, Sacramento), Dr. Elizabeth Forsburg-Pardi (Co-Chair, Sacramento), Dr. Michael Jones (Ukiah), Dr. Leander Love-Anderegg (Santa Barbara), Sal Chinnici (Sacramento), Dr. Matt O'Connor (Ukiah), Jim Burke (Ukiah), Clarence Hostler (Ukiah), Bill Short (Sacramento), Jonathan Meurer (Sacramento), Mathew Nannizzi (Ukiah)
- **Members Absent (4)** – Dr. Stacy Drury, Ben Waitman (virtual only for short period), Clesi Bennett (virtual only), Jessica Leonard
- **Staff Present (3)** – Dave Fowler, Aaron Rachels, Dr. Kristina Wolf
- **Audience Participants (3)** – Michael Novak, Will Olsen, Richard Gienger

**A quorum was present.**

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

**Member Coe reported:**

- Watershed Protection Program will be presenting most recent findings next Wednesday at the Board meeting.
- Working to establish additional monitoring groups/work within Cal Fire.

**a. Membership Updates**

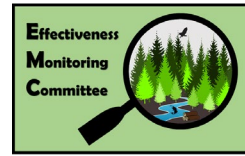
**[Open and Expiring Seats](#)**

**Dr. Wolf reported:**

- EMC currently has 3 unoccupied seats (2 on monitoring committee, 1 agency representative (USFWS)).
- 2 EMC seats are set to expire, but those members have indicated they would be willing to be re-appointed (agenda item later today). Member Chinnici's term is set to expire in July and if he knows if he would like to continue the EMC may vote on that today as well.

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- Member Drury and Member Leonard's seats are also available, but they have indicated they're willing to continue in their roles until suitable replacements are found.
- A [Call for Applications](#) will be distributed via email; please disseminate widely.

#### b. Full Project Proposal Funding updates

##### Dr. Wolf reported:

- EMC-2023-001: Funding should be encumbered shortly
- EMC-2023-002: A funding recommendation may be voted on later in this meeting
- Detailed list of committee members can be seen here: [EMC Membership Roster](#)

### 3. Member Reappointment: Dr. Leander Love-Anderegg and Dr. Matt O'Connor – Dr. Wolf, *Board staff*

#### **VOTE RECORD:**

- Recommendation to the Board for reappointment of Dr. Leander Love-Anderegg and Dr. Matt O'Connor to the Monitoring Community on the EMC.
- **Motion:** Member Chinnici
- **Second:** Member Forsburg-Pardi
- **Discussion (if any):** none

#### Roll Call Vote

Member	Vote (Aye, Nay, Abstain, Absent)
Michael Jones	Aye
Leander Love-Anderegg	Aye
Mathew Nannizzi	Absent
Sal Chinnici	Aye
Matt O'Connor	Aye
Stacy Drury	Absent
Ben Waitman	Absent
Drew Coe	Aye
Jessica Leonard	Absent
Jonathan Meurer	Aye
Clarence Hostler	Aye
Bill Short	Absent at time of vote
Clesi Bennett	Virtual only, non-voting
James Burke	Aye
Co-chair Liz Forsburg-Pardi	Aye

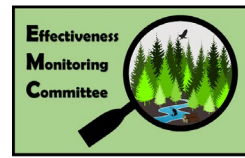
Motion passes unanimously with 9 ayes. Recommendations for the reappointment of Dr. Love-Anderegg and Dr. O'Connor will be sent to the Board for final approval at its March meeting.

### 4. 2023 Meeting Notes Approval – Co-chairs Dr. Forsburg-Pardi and Coe

Co-chairs Forsburg-Pardi and Coe stated that the meeting notes from [November 2022](#), [June 2023](#), and [August 2023](#) are approved and will be posted online.

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## 5. Assignments for Project Liaisons and Completed Research Assessments – Dr. Wolf, Board staff

Dr. Wolf reviewed the needs for project liaisons and/or Completed Research Assessment (CRA) authors and asked for volunteers from the EMC to fill those roles. Members volunteered as follows:

- EMC 2022-003: Member Meurer will be project liaison.
- EMC 2023-003: Member Hostler will be project liaison.
- EMC 2022-004: Member Love-Anderegg will be project liaison.
- EMC 2022-005: Member Coe will be project liaison.
- EMC 2018-003: Member Love-Anderegg will work with Member O'Connor on the CRA.
- EMC 2017-001: Member Burke will work with Member Coe on the CRA.

## 6. Project Updates – Project Liaisons and Board staff

### **EMC 2018-006 (Drew Coe):**

- Draft of final report was submitted in October 2023.
- Member Coe met with Principal Investigators (PIs) Bladon and Segura last week regarding specific comments on the report. The completed final report should be submitted shortly.
- Due to his involvement in developing the project scope, Member Coe does not think he should be involved in writing the CRA. Member Burke volunteered to fill this role.

## 7. Discussion of Deliverables for EMC 2019-002: Evaluating Treatment Longevity and Maintenance Needs for Fuel Reduction Projects Implemented in the Wildland Urban Interface of Plumas County – Co-chair Coe and Member Dr. Stacy Drury

Member Coe reported that he and Dr. Drury were tasked with developing the CRA for this project and, upon reviewing the work, did not feel that the proposed scope of work was followed (questions were answered qualitatively; proposed LiDAR/point cloud data sets were not included). The project also does not evaluate treatments outlined in the Forest Practice Rules (FPRs). The EMC now faces the question: proceed with the CRA as is, or go back to the PI regarding the lack of satisfactory deliverables?

### Discussion

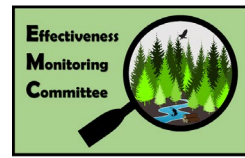
- Member O'Connor: It may not be possible to squeeze more out of the data that was collected; some contact with the PIs over the lack of deliverable should be made before proceeding with the CRA.
- Member Chinnici: May be good for EMC members to review the draft CRA to fully understand the issues.
- Dr. Wolf: If the EMC members submitted comments on the CRA to Member Coe and Member Drury between EMC public meetings, that would violate the Bagley-Keene Act.
- Member Coe: He and Member Drury will discuss the issues directly with the project PIs. They will update the EMC at the next meeting.

## 8. [Discussion and funding recommendation for EMC-2023-002: Assessing Fire Hazard, Risk, and Post Fire Recovery for Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones and Riparian Areas of California](#) – Co-chair Coe and Member Dr. Michael Jones

Dr. Wolf noted that a vote for this was tabled at the August meeting and there no quorum at the November meeting.

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**Discussion**

- Member Coe: Conceptually likes this project, notes that the PIs are the same as EMC 2019-002 (Agenda Item #7). If the project is funded, he noted that it should have a vigilant project liaison.
- Member Jones thinks that the edits made to the project proposal met the EMC's initial concerns as discussed in August. The project could potentially produce a multitude of data for a low cost.
- Member Love-Anderegg questions whether FPR-relevant questions would be addressed or would data merely be collected; Member Jones responded that the edits from the PIs in the revised Full Project Proposal addressed these concerns, though he agrees that a liaison may be needed to ensure the project stays on-task.
- Member Short has concerns about funding this project given the PIs product on EMC 2019-002. Member Coe clarifies this that PIs are not identical between the two studies, but there is overlap.
- Member Chinnici previously recused himself from the voting since he was involved with a competing proposal. Since that project has already been funded, he will no longer be recusing himself.
- Dr. Wolf noted some inconsistencies in the requested funding, and noted that the correct EMC funding amount appears to be \$87,375.
- Member O'Connor asked Members Coe and Jones what their opinions were on the data collection techniques the project proposed.
  - Member Coe indicated that the critical piece is how they represent the hydrography (this was communicated to the PIs); the stream network needs to be divided based on watercourse classification, as different classes of watercourses are subject to different FPRs.
- Member Meurer and Coe note that the data set produced could directly link back the FPRs (but wouldn't immediately test current FPRs).

**VOTE RECORD:****Motion to deny funding for this project.**

- **Motion:** Member O'Connor
- **Second:** Member Meurer
- **Discussion (if any):** A lengthy discussion resulted in Member O'Connor withdrawing his motion

**Motion to approve funding for this project.**

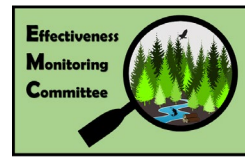
- **Motion:** Member O'Connor
- **Second:** Member Burke
- **Discussion (if any):** None

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote (Aye, Nay, Abstain, Absent)</b>
Michael Jones	Aye
Leander Love-Anderegg	Aye
Mathew Nannizzi	Absent
Sal Chinnici	Nay
Matt O'Connor	Aye
Stacy Drury	Absent
Ben Waitman	Absent (Virtual only for brief time before this)
Drew Coe	Aye
Jessica Leonard	Absent

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Jonathan Meurer	Aye
Clarence Hostler	Aye
Bill Short	Nay
James Burke	Aye
Clesi Bennett	Virtual only (non-voting)
Co-chair Liz Forsburg-Pardi	Aye

Motion does not pass with 8 Ayes and 2 Nays.

Member Short indicated that more specificity in the proposal, he could be convinced to vote aye.

**Member Short** moved to approve funding with the stipulation that the PI and group modify the proposal to more explicitly discuss methodologies and intent to differentiate classifications of watercourses per the FPR classification system.

**Member Coe** seconds the motion.

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote (Aye, Nay, Abstain, Absent)</b>
Michael Jones	Aye
Leander Love-Anderegg	Aye
Mathew Nannizzi	Absent
Sal Chinnici	Aye
Matt O'Connor	Aye
Stacy Drury	Absent
Ben Waitman	Absent (Virtual only for brief time before this)
Drew Coe	Aye
Jessica Leonard	Absent
Jonathan Meurer	Aye
Clarence Hostler	Aye
Bill Short	Aye
James Burke	Aye
Clesi Bennett	Virtual only (non-voting)
Co-chair Liz Forsburg-Pardi	Aye

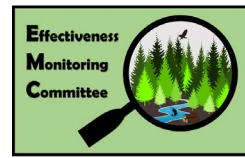
Motion passes unanimously with 10 ayes. This proposal will be recommended for funding to the Board at its January meeting.

9. [EMC 2023 Annual Report and Workplan](#) – Kristina Wolf, *Board Staff*

Dr. Wolf does not recommend voting on this draft today because she is aware of many edits that are still required, particularly to the Project Updates section; edits to the workplan have been minor so far. Dr. Wolf requests that within two weeks, EMC members should submit their comments/edits to Kristina on this report via email. **Section 5 is the primary area that project liaisons need to update. This will not be voted on today.**

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## 10. [Discussion of 2024/25 Research Themes and Critical Monitoring Questions](#) – Kristina Wolf, *Board Staff*

Dr. Wolf stated that there were some very minor revisions proposed to the Critical Monitoring Questions (CMQs):

- Discussion of the meaning of the word “feedbacks” on Theme 12’s paragraph; an EMC member commented they were not sure of the meaning of that sentence. New wording proposed: “the same process, function, and structure that would naturally occur...”
  - Member Jones: noted that the edit proposed is to a sentence that was a direct quote from the referenced paper. Therefore, the sentence reverted to its previous form this time with quotation marks to indicate this is a direct quote.
- Co-chair Forsburg-Pardi: noted that the Forest Practice Committee would like to see if the EMC can more directly address issues surrounding how the FPRs impact botanical resources, and proposed that, under Theme 9 this question be added: “Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in protecting rare, threatened, or endangered plants?”
  - Co-chair Coe proposed that in the preceding paragraph, add “vegetative communities” to the list including “... snags and den trees, downed trees, large woody debris...”
- Dr. Wolf asked EMC members whether these edits to Theme 9 would influence their votes in the online poll for prioritization of CMQs in the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP). No EMC member indicated they would want to change their votes in the poll. The results of that poll are shown in Agenda Item 11.

### **Motion to approve revisions as proposed to the Research Themes and Critical Monitoring Questions:**

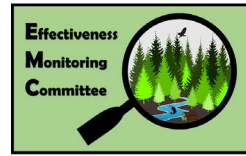
- **Motion:** Member O’Connor
- **Second:** Member Burke
- **Discussion (if any):** None

### Roll Call Vote

<b>Member</b>	<b>Vote (Aye, Nay, Abstain, Absent)</b>
Michael Jones	Aye
Leander Love-Anderegg	Aye
Mathew Nannizzi	Absent
Sal Chinnici	Aye
Matt O’Connor	Aye
Stacy Drury	Absent
Ben Waitman	Absent (Virtual only for brief time before this) – but responded to poll
Drew Coe	Aye
Jessica Leonard	Absent
Jonathan Meurer	Aye
Clarence Hostler	Aye
Bill Short	Aye
James Burke	Aye
Clesi Bennett	Virtual only (non-voting) – but responded to poll
Co-chair Liz Forsburg-Pardi	Aye

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Motion passes unanimously with 10 ayes. The revised Research Themes and Critical Monitoring Questions will go before the Board for approval at its March meeting.

## 11. Review of 2024/25 Request for Grant Proposals and Prioritization of Critical Monitoring Questions – Kristina Wolf, *Board Staff*

Dr. Wolf noted that this document is mostly complete, but the deadlines/dates and priority CMQs (from the poll EMC members completed prior to/during the meeting) need to be added.

- Dr. Wolf presented the results of the [EMC poll](#) to designate up to six priority CMQs in the RFP, which should be released in March:

Four questions were clear top priorities for the EMC; many of the remaining questions tied with 3, 2, or 1 votes. Member Forsburg-Pardi proposed that the EMC select the top FOUR questions identified in the poll as the priority CMQs for this year's RFP (2024/25):

### ***Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in...***

- ... managing WLPZs to reduce or minimize potential fire behavior and rate of spread? (Question 1h)
- ... managing fuel loads, vegetation patterns and fuel breaks for fire hazard reduction? (Question 6c)
- ... managing forest structure and stocking standards to promote wildfire resilience? (Question 6d)
- ... improving overall forest wildfire resilience and the ability of forests to respond to climate change (e.g., in response to drought or bark beetle; reducing plant water stress) and variability, and extreme weather events (evaluate ecosystem functional response to fuel reduction and forest health treatments)? (Question 12a)

The EMC agreed this was a satisfactory route.

## 12. [EMC Charter](#) Revision – Kristina Wolf, *Board Staff*

Dr. Forsburg-Pardi noted that the next step for updates to the charter is for the co-chairs to look at it, provide edits to Dr. Wolf, and then the updated charter will be presented to the EMC at the next meeting.

## 13. Public Forum

No public comments.

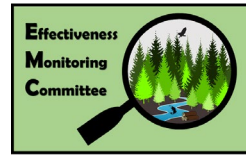
## 14. Future Meeting Locations, Dates, and Agenda Items

The next EMC meeting will occur on Monday, June 17 in Sacramento. Items on the agenda will include:

- Review of the Initial Concept Proposals
- Potential for multiple CRAs
- Likely at least one if not multiple final projection presentations

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## 15. Announcements: Scientific Conference, Symposiums, and Workshops

- Drew Coe or Will Olsen will be speaking on salvage logging Best Management Practices (Boggs Mountain study) at the [CLFA conference](#) in Anderson, CA from February 29–March 1.
- [71st Annual Meeting of the Western Section of the Wildlife Society](#) in Rohnert Park, CA (February 5-9); note the 2024 meeting is sold out, but **The Snake Symposium AND the R Workshop have \*not\* sold out, and space is still available.**
- [Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference](#) in Santa Rosa, CA (March 26-29)

## 16. Meeting adjourned.