

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: Tuesday, February 12, 2025, 9:30 AM

Noticed Meeting Locations:

- CNRA Headquarters – 715 P Street (Room 2-301), Sacramento, CA 95815 (primary meeting location)

Virtual Option for Public Viewing: Microsoft Teams

A recording of the meeting may be viewed here: <https://calfire.box.com/s/45913c7tdutle58zz1erkdi2zgsslbjr>

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 (12)** – Mathew Nannizzi, Sal Chinnici, Dr. Matt O’Connor, Jonathan Meurer, Dr. Ben Waitman, Drew Coe, Givonne Law, Clarence Hostler, Clesi Bennett, Izaac Russo, Marjan Ghotbizadeh, Bill Short
 - **Members Absent (4)** – Dr. Michael Jones, Dr. Leander Love-Anderegg, Stacy Drury, Dr. Liz Forsburg-Pardi
 - **Staff Present (1)** – Kristina Wolf, Dave Fowler
 - **Audience Participants (4)** – Michael Baker, Roberta Lim, Cheryl Griffith, Will Olsen

A quorum was present.

2. **Report by the Co-Chair** – Dr. Elizabeth Forsburg-Pardi and Drew Coe
Dr. Wolf reported on behalf of Dr. Fosburg-Pardi

Funds were encumbered for both projects selected for funding in the 2024/25 FY cycle. Note, however, for project EMC-2024-001, 9GA24700: Balancing fuel considerations and rare carnivore habitat: an evaluation of risk and reward, grants located an error in their budget sheet, and they noted that the In-Kind match total was incorrectly added in the budget form. All of the individual amounts were correct, but the total formula was incorrect. Specifically, the total included the Salary sub-total and the Salary & Fringe Cost sub-total, counting the Salary twice in the calculation. This does change the total project cost, but does NOT impact the funding granted by the EMC.

Co-Chair Coe reported:

- Co-Chair Coe has accepted a position with the Northern Region as a BMP coordinator; he will not be working under the Forest Practice Program starting March 3, 2025. As such, he will be stepping down from his position on the EMC after this meeting. Drew also noted that Oriana Ramirez was hired as Forestry Assistant II and is a trained hydrologist, and she will be remaining in the Forest Practice Program; she was at the meeting to see what the EMC is about and is assisting with one of the CRA’s being presented. She will be a technical resource to the EMC going forward.

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- Forestry Report #8 is about to be passed on by CAL FIRE executive; this is CAL FIRE's grey literature, like a technical report, so that should come out in early March. The Forest Fire Prevention Exemption will also eventually be written up in the same format, and Co-Chair Coe will be involved in that as well, although there is no timeline developed for that that, as it can take some time to move this from the legislative report to grey literature.

Dr. Wolf added:

- The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Executive Officer's last day is February 14th.
- Co-chair Dr. Forsburg-Pardi will also be stepping down from the EMC. The Board will be appointing a new co-chair to the EMC.

3. Review of Open Co-Chair and Member Seats and Nominations to the EMC – Dr. Wolf, Board staff**Meeting Materials:**

- [Call for EMC Applicants](#)
- [EMC Members and Term Exp](#)

Dr. Wolf reported:

- In total there are five seats that need to be filled, with two currently empty, two empty after Liz and Drew step down, and one that is technically filled by Dr. Stacy Drury, but he has been unable to attend a meeting since Sept 2022.
- Both co-chair seats will be unoccupied shortly, with both Member Coe and Member Dr. Forsburg-Pardi stepping down. The EMC will appoint a new co-chair from the Board representatives, and the remaining co-chair seat will be filled by one of the EMC members.
- Four seats will need to be filled on the EMC:
 - Two seats on the EMC are currently unoccupied: 1 on the monitoring community, and 1 agency representative (US Fish and Wildlife Service).
 - Two additional seats for agency representatives are (or will shortly be) vacant (Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection-'CAL FIRE', and the US Forest Service).
 - Member Chinnici noted that he has been attempting to recruit an EMC member from Sierra Pacific Industries.
 - Member O'Connor noted that Professor Chris Surfleet at Cal Poly has expressed interest in joining the EMC.

4. Assignments for Project Liaisons and Completed Research Assessments – Project Liaisons and Board Staff**Meeting Materials:**

[4. 2024 EMC Projects Chart and Assignments - Meeting Updates](#)

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Information about EMC projects, including funding amounts, deliverables, and status may be found on the [EMC webpage](#).

Member Short reported:

- **EMC 2016-003:** The Completed Research Assessment (CRA) is close to completion. It should be completed within the next few months.

Dr. Wolf reported or asked EMC members about:

- **EMC-2017-001:** Will have a CRA Draft Presentation at this meeting.
- **EMC-2017-002:** Co-Chair Coe has been communicating with a senior at Western Washington University who may work with the data from this project. Results should be produced by late Spring 2025.
- **EMC-2017-006:** Co-Chair Coe will not continue to be a project liaison. These responsibilities will be passed to Member Dr. O'Connor and Member Nannizzi. No other updates on this project are currently available.
- **EMC-2017-007:** A Draft CRA is expected soon. Co-Chair Coe will not continue to be a project liaison. These responsibilities will be passed to Member Dr. Jones. Member Dr. O'Connor volunteered to assist Member Dr. Jones with this project.
- **EMC-2017-008:** Dr. Wolf asked Member Dr. Waitman to follow up on the status of a potential third publication for this project.
- **EMC-2017-012:** Co-Chair Coe will not continue to be a project liaison. Members Nannizzi and Dr. Waitman volunteered to take on the CRA responsibilities.
- **EMC-2018-006:** Member Waitman noted that a draft for the CRA has been completed and just needs to be sent to the PIs. The CRA will be ready for the EMC at the next meeting.
- **EMC-2019-002:** Will have a Completed Research Assessment Draft Presentation at this meeting.
- **EMC-2019-003:** Member Coe will determine with the PIs whether the research scope of this project was met. Member Coe will not be involved in the development of the CRA. Members Law and Dr. O'Connor have volunteered to work on the CRA.
- **EMC-2019-005:** Project funding disencumbered after funds expired. After the CZU Fire, alternative research objectives were developed. Member Short noted that, pending data analysis, a report should be completed for this project by the end of the month.
- **EMC-2023-002:** Member Ghotzibadeh volunteered to work as a project liaison.
- **EMC-2024-001:** Member Chinnici volunteered to work as a project liaison, but will not be able to participate in CRA development. Member Nannizzi also volunteered to work as a liaison on this project.
- **EMC-2024-004:** Member Chinnici stated that field work was prepared to begin on April 15, 2025. Member Chinnici volunteered to work as a project liaison, but will not be able to participate in CRA development. Member Waitman also volunteered to work as a liaison on this project.

5. Project Updates – Project Liaisons and Board Staff

- These updates were covered during the previous agenda item.

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6. Completed Research Assessment Draft Presentation, EMC-2017-001: Effects of Forest Stand Density Reduction on Nutrient Cycling and Nutrient Transport at the Caspar Creek Experimental Watershed – Co-Chair Coe and Member James Burke

Meeting Materials:[6. Completed Research Assessment EMC-2017-001 DRAFT](#)**Co-Chair Coe reported:**

- The initial CRA for this project was delayed in case additional funding was secured for the project.
- The PI has submitted a final report; this study was designed with a more innovative regression technique that was not included in the final report; however, the basic building blocks are there that will enable this to occur. Optimistically, Co-Chair Coe thinks this additional analysis will take at least a year.
- As the draft CRA shows, this study produced results with links to the Forest Practice Rules (specifically, the embedded Basin Plan narrative and numeric water quality objectives).
- Co-chair Coe will continue to be involved with this project after stepping down from the EMC.
- Oriana Ramirez and Co-Chair Coe indicated that this additional regression data analysis will be necessary to determine if the forest stand density reduction did adhere to water quality objectives.

7. Completed Research Assessment Draft Presentation, 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

Meeting Materials:[7. Completed Research Assessment EMC-2019-002 DRAFT](#)**Co-Chair Coe reported:**

- As discussed at previous EMC meetings, very little of the project scope was met by the final report of this project.
 - Quantitative data in the final report is lacking. It is not possible to tell which data were collected from exemptions and which data were collected from Timber Harvest Plans (THPs). No useful links can be made to the Forest Practice Rules. Data collection with drones (as the project proposal suggests) was not included.
- Discussions with the PIs regarding an additional attempt at data analysis and a final project report were not successful.
- Three of the PIs lost their homes in the Dixie Fire, which may have contributed to the incomplete research objectives.
- The EMC has recently provided examples of CRAs to the PIs. Additionally, updated project liaison guidelines seek to improve the quality of final project reports in the future.

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- Member Coe updated the language to provide some of the extenuating circumstances that could have impacted the final project deliverables during the meeting, and the EMC decided to conduct a vote on advancing this to the Board.

VOTE RECORD:

- **Motion:** Recommendation to move the CRA for EMC-2019-002 to the Board with the revised language/caveats.
- **Motioned:** Member O'Connor
- **Seconded:** Member Meurer
- **Discussion (if any):** none

Member	Vote (Aye, Nay, Abstain, Absent)
Ben Waitman	Aye
Givonne Law	Aye
Jonathan Meurer	Aye
Marjan Ghotbizadeh	Aye
Clarence Hostler	Aye
Bill Short	Aye
Clesi Bennett	Aye
Stacy Drury	Absent
Matt O'Connor	Aye
Sal Chinnici	Aye
Mathew Nannizzi	Aye
Leander Anderegg	Absent
Michael Jones	Aye
Co-chair Drew Coe	Aye
Co-chair Liz Forsburg-Pardi	Absent
Izaak Russo	Aye

Motion passes unanimously. A final version of the CRA will be sent to the Board for its review and vote at the next Board meeting.

8. 2025 Research Themes and Critical Monitoring Questions – Dr. Wolf, Board staff

Meeting Materials:

[8. Research Themes and Critical Monitoring Questions](#)

Dr. Wolf asked:

- Do the Critical Monitoring Questions need any edits before this year's Request for Proposals?
- No EMC members indicated that any updates were needed. The questions will remain the same for the current calendar/fiscal year.

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9. 2025 Priority Research Questions and Request for Proposals (RFP) – Dr. Wolf, *Board staff*

Meeting Materials:

- [9. EMC 2025-26 Priority Critical Monitoring Questions EMC Member Poll Results](#)
- [9. EMC Grant Guidelines 2025-26 DRAFT - Clean](#)
- [9. EMC Grant Guidelines 2025-26 DRAFT - TC](#)
- [9. Projects and CMQ Matrix](#)
- Dr. Wolf sent a poll to the EMC members to select the research questions they thought should be prioritized for 2025. The result of the poll are shown above.
- The Top 6 Priority Research Questions were...
 - Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in...
 - (1h) Managing WLPZs to reduce or minimize potential fire heavier and rate of spread?
 - (5a) Maintaining and restoring the distribution and quality of foraging, rearing, and spawning habitat for anadromous salmonids?
 - (6c) Managing fuel loads, vegetation patterns, and fuel breaks for fire hazard reduction?
 - (6d) Managing forest structure and stocking standards to promote wildfire resilience?
 - (3a) reducing or minimizing management-related generation of sediment and delivery to watercourse channels?
 - (2a) minimizing management-related sediment delivery from forest management activities to watercourse channels at the watershed and sub-watershed level in managed watersheds?
- EMC members discussed whether the wording in the RFP discouraged project proposals that did not address the priority research questions; the majority of members who spoke did not think this was the case.

10. Strategic Plan 2025 Update – Dr. Wolf, *Board staff*

Meeting Materials:

- [10. 2025 EMC Strategic Plan DRAFT Nov 2024 - TC](#)
- [10. 2025 EMC Strategic Plan Revised DRAFT Feb 2025 - Clean](#)
- [10. 2025 EMC Strategic Plan Revised DRAFT Feb 2025 - TC](#)

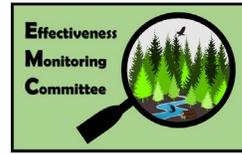
Dr. Wolf reported:

An updated Strategic Plan was presented at the November 2024 meeting which has undergone additional edits. Dr. Wolf reviewed additional changes made to the Strategic Plan (SP):

- Clarifications made to recusal process and criteria for EMC members when reviewing proposal for which they may have a Conflict of Interest
- Clarifications made regarding ability of PIs to speak during proposal reviews (they won't be allowed to).
- Changed the term "Ranking" to "Evaluation Metric" in the context of proposal reviews.
- Clarified evaluation metrics and other factors utilized when a project is considered for funding
- Organizational values added to the SP.

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- Minor, non-substantive changes made to grammar and wording throughout to improve readability.

VOTE RECORD:

- **Motion:** Recommendation to move this draft of the 2025 Strategic Plan to the Board as is.
- **Motioned:** Member Waitman
- **Seconded:** Member Russo
- **Discussion (if any):** none

Member	Vote (Aye, Nay, Abstain, Absent)
Ben Waitman	Aye
Givonne Law	Aye
Jonathan Meurer	Aye
Marjan Ghotbizadeh	Aye
Clarence Hostler	Aye
Bill Short	Aye
Clesi Bennett	Aye
Stacy Drury	Absent
Matt O'Connor	Aye
Sal Chinnici	Aye
Mathew Nannizzi	Aye
Leander Anderegg	Absent
Michael Jones	Aye
Co-chair Drew Coe	Absent at time of vote
Co-chair Liz Forsburg-Pardi	Absent
Izaak Russo	Aye

The motion passed unanimously. The final draft will be forwarded to the Board for its review at the next Board meeting.

11. 2024 Annual Report and Workplan – Dr. Wolf, Board staff

Meeting Materials:

- [11. EMC 2024 Annual Report and Workplan Revised DRAFT 2025-02-11](#)
- [11. EMC 2024 Annual Report and Workplan DRAFT - TC 2024-12-27](#)

Dr. Wolf reported:

- Substantial edits are still needed for the annual report, specifically focusing on project updates. As such, Dr. Wolf does not think this should be advanced to the Board after today's meeting.
- Dr. Wolf would like EMC members to provide her with project updates as soon as possible so that the 2024 Annual Report can be advanced to the Board after the EMC's next meeting.

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12. 2025 Field Tour Planning – Dr. Wolf, *Board staff*

Dr. Wolf reported:

- Travel approvals for the state have resumed. The EMC should brainstorm ideas for the 2025 Field Tour. The Field Tour does not need to be help in conjunction with an EMC meeting.

Co-Chair Coe stated:

- May 22nd, 2025 is the date of the field tour associated with the Casper Creek Annual Meeting. This could be a good opportunity for EMC members to learn about this paired watershed study.

Member Chinnici:

- A meeting in Humboldt redwood timberlands could be beneficial. This visit would include results from projects EMC 2024-001 and EMC 2024-004.

Member Nannizzi:

- Visiting the Class II-L post-harvest study is an option.

Member Meurer:

- Has spoke with Nadia Hamey about EMC 2022-003; visiting this project is also a possibility. Member Meurer is not sure what the length of this site visit would be.

13. Future Meeting Locations, Dates, and Agenda Items

- The Board of Forestry has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 15th. Ideally, this means that the EMC would meet no later than May 1st.
- The EMC will meet Monday, April 28th, tentatively in Santa Cruz. A field tour may occur in the afternoon on the 28th.

14. Announcements: Scientific Conference, Symposiums, and Workshops

Member Law announced:

- The California Forest Science Symposium in Sacramento is March 24th-25th.

Co-chair Coe announced:

- The annual Caspar Creek Watershed Study meeting is May 20th-21st. The field tour is on May 22nd.

Dr. Wolf announced:

- There is a Range Management Advisory Committee on March 26th.

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15. Public Forum

- There were no public comments.

16. Adjourn