

Central Coast Rangeland Coalition Newsletter 08 08 20

To: CCRC Members

FROM: Larry Ford for the CCRC Steering Committee

August 20, 2008

1. June 24 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes--Morris Appointed Chair (L. Ford)

The minutes of the June 24 Steering Committee meeting in San Juan Bautista are attached for your review. Thanks to Grey Hayes for taking the minutes. In addition, Rich Morris was appointed "Acting Chair" of the Steering Committee.

2. Next General Meeting October 16, 2008 (G. Hayes)

The next general meeting is planned for October 16, 2008, and thereafter on the third Thursday in April and October each year. This meeting will include presentations by researchers and land managers on current "hot" topics as well as a presentation on the CCRC Spring 2008 monitoring results. More details and a request for proposed presentations in the next newsletter...

3. Update on CCRC Spring 2008 Monitoring (L. Ford)

The CCRC Spring 2008 monitoring data has been entered into a spreadsheet, and summarized in tables and graphs. Data analysis is proceeding under the guidance of Prof. James Bartolome of UC Berkeley. We expect a report on results for the whole CCRC region (with property owners and locations not identified) by the end of September. John Warner (NRCS) is preparing the individual property reports. The files for each property are stored with confidentially protections at the NRCS office in Hollister.

4. Update on Major Grant Proposal: "Strategic Plan" (R. Morris)

At the suggestion of Lana Weeks, Director of Philanthropy for the Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT), the Steering Committee will apply for a grant to retain a "professional facilitator" to develop CCRC's objectives in the coming years, and our plan or "strategy" to accomplish them. Such a process and written strategy is something that foundations and other grant sources see as the first step to planning effective use of a major grant, for say, a term of 5 years, as we are considering. In making this recommendation, Lana offered the assistance of the BSLT in processing a grant for this strategy planning. We are on schedule for completing this application by end of August.

5. CCRC Signs the "California Rangeland Resolution" of the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (CRCC) (R. Morris)

Most of you are aware of CRCC and of its "Rangeland Resolution," which is the foundation of CRCC and has been endorsed by signature, organizational resolution of commitment or in other fashion, by more than 70 conservation organizations. This represents a distinct mutual interest in the ecological health of California rangelands, and the economic stability of one of the principal groups responsible for producing that health, namely the private ranching community and its

supporting rural infrastructure. We have met increasingly with leaders of the CRCC and they in turn are becoming regular attendees of our meetings. We are each confident that this collaboration will have benefits for both organizations. With the support CRCC has already developed in the short term of its existence within the conservation and ranching communities, its presence and influence cannot simply be dismissed by any organization or person concerned with the health of rangelands and its stewardship. (A copy of the Resolution is attached for your review.)