

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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## Meeting Notes Meeting April 9, 2003, 9:00 am. Quincy Fire Department

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Opening/Introductions- Jim Graham
2. Next meeting: **May 14, 2003**
3. Review/Approve minutes from 2/12/03 meeting. **John Sheehan made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Kielhorn seconded, and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.**
4. Update progress of 501 (c) 3 application process. –Jerry Hurley
  - a. Applications to IRS (employer ID and 501 c3) & FTB **Richard Cox has responded back to IRS with the information they requested. CA Franchise Tax Board has granted us tax-exempt status pending proof of IRS determination.**
5. Grants Management-  
Landowner Agreements & Liability Insurance – Mike De Lasaux **County BoS still need to have the final copy to vote on. John Sheehan is also looking into FSC standalone corporate insurance.**
6. Status update of Current Grants. (Refer to Grant Summary Sheet)
  - A. PC FSC 01-1— Homeowner Consultation & Education-Jerry Hurley **Jerry has prepared the draft of the final report for Mike to complete the budget section and review. Jerry has no more hours left on the project. Consultations were completed for about 20% of the targeted residents. GPS data was collected on 60% of the County rather than only the planned 7 communities.**
  - B. PC FSC 01-2– Fire Safe Council Coordination –Jerry Hurley **Jerry has about 20 hours left under this contact and will use them in preparing the final**

**project report and minutes for this meeting. There was discussion of extending the contract based on funds left in that account.**

- C. PC FSC 02-1 & 02-2 - 100 Acre HFR Demonstration– Brian Wayland **Brian reported he expects to begin work in 30-45 days depending on the County contract getting passed by the BoS. He’s working to get the necessary permits though CDF. He is looking into signing at the projects and has requested assistance from Council members on design & locations.**

**A letter was received from the Plumas NF on Program Income generated by products in this grant and others. The letter asked for an supplement to the original grant application to address merchantable products recovered value would go towards the reducing the cost per acre for that particular landowner, to allow for additional acres of treatment.**

- D. PC FSC. 02- 3 - Countywide GIS - John Sheehan **The County has received two proposals from GIS contractors. After a verbal presentation by each company on 4/23/03, the committee is expected to make the selection.**
- E. PC FSC. 02- 4 - Homeowner Consultations – Jerry Hurley **Training for 22 consultants from the 6 departments was completed on 4/8. Outreach letter have gone out to Indian Valley & C-Road with the rest expected out in the next two weeks. A Community meeting was held for C-Road on 4/8 and one is scheduled for Indian Valley on 4/10.**
- F. PC FSC. 02- 5 - HFR Strategy & Assessment – John Sheehan **The RFP for the fuel assessment validation project is about ready to go out. However, when Mike & John attended the 3/22/02 meeting in Sacramento for Fire Safe Councils of the Sierras, a 5 page outline of fire plan components was handed out as an outline for County Fire Plans. It is expected that in the future for councils to qualify for federal pre-fire mitigation funds that they will need such a plan. John is going to work with the committee members to see if we can incorporate as much of the outlined information into the Hazardous Fuel Assessment and Strategy RFP.**
- G. PC FSC. 02- 6 - Council Display Material – Sue McCourt **Sue presented a review of the committee’s work. In the latest edition of Ruralite, the REC newsletter a 2 page section was included to discuss Firewise concepts. Posters are being developed for placement at locations where “Preventing Wildfire Ignitions” video by Jack Cohen, is being made available on a free loaner basis. Locations to include video stores, libraries, and markets in small communities. Work is also being done to develop a brochure on safe debris burning. The theme is, “It just takes a spark”.**
- H. PC FSC. 02- 7 & 8 - Plumas Eureka HFR –John Gay **John wasn’t present, but others who have had discussions with the District say the project is on track and they expect to begin this summer.**

- I. PC FSC. 02- 9 – NSAQMD Chipping in lieu of burning –John Sheehan **No activity to report at this time.**
  
- 7 Grants Submitted & Planned–Sheehan/ De Lasaux/ Hurley/ Bishop
  - A. 02-BoS-6 – Outreach Delleker/Portola HFR 125 acres **Awaiting the 45 days following BoS approval on 3/18/03. Position is being advertised in the paper for an outreach person, in expectation that the funds will be following.**
  
  - B. 02-RAC-4 & 02-BoS -7 - Graeagle Fuelbreak 200 acres **Awaiting the 45 days following BoS approval on 3/18/03 for Title III funds to develop the project and THP. RAC would like a better breakdown on costs. One group of RAC has reservation about giving money to what they perceive as a large landowner.**
  
  - C. 02-RAC-5 & 02-BoS -8 - Indian Falls HFR 50 acres **Awaiting the 45 days following BoS approval on 3/18/03 for Title III funds to develop the project and THP. RAC approved funding and it is pending PNF Forest Supervisor approval.**
  
  - D. 02-RAC-6 & 02-BoS -9 - Camp Layman HFR 50 acres **Awaiting the 45 days following BoS approval on 3/18/03 for Title III funds to develop the project and THP. RAC approved funding and it is pending PNF Forest Supervisor approval.**
  
  - E. 02-RAC-7 & 02-BoS -10 - Cromberg HFR 350 acres **Awaiting the 45 days following BoS approval on 3/18/03 for Title III funds to develop the project and THP. RAC approved funding and it is pending PNF Forest Supervisor approval.**
  
  - F. 02-RAC-8 & 02-BoS -11 – Quincy HFR 17 Acres **Awaiting the 45 days following BoS approval on 3/18/03 for Title III funds to develop the project. RAC would like a better contribution of costs. Quincy CSD will add \$3,000 more dollars. Resubmitted to RAC for their review on 4/11/03.**
  
  - G. 02-RAC-9 & 02-BoS -12 - Elderly/Disabled Defensible Space Grant **Awaiting the 45 days following BoS approval on 3/18/03 for Title III funds to develop the project and THP. RAC approved funding and it is pending PNF Forest Supervisor approval. Position is being advertised in the paper for an outreach person, in expectation that the funds will be following.**
  
  - H. 03-FS-1 - 350 Hazardous Fuel Reduction – FS Community Protection Program **PNF advised this project will not be forwarded for approval.**
  
  - I. 03 FS-2 & 03 BoS-1 - FSC Coordination, and Project Development – FS EAP CY03 **PNF requested this project be reduced in scope and eliminate funding for the**

**FSC coordinator. They agreed to carry a revised package forward to the region for HFR project development. The revised package was given to the Forest on 4/10/03.**

- J. 03 SRF-1 - FSC Coordination – FS Backup CY03. Sacramento Regional Foundation (SRF) has acknowledged receiving the application & will let us know when a decision is made.**
  - K. 03 SRF-2 – Fire Safe IRA. Sacramento Regional Foundation (SRF) has acknowledged receiving the application & will let us know when a decision is made.**
  - L. 03 SRF-3 - FSC Coordination CY04. Sacramento Regional Foundation (SRF) has acknowledged receiving the application & will let us know when a decision is made.**
- 8. HFQLG –HFR project overview/relation to communities Opportunities - John Gay. Project mapping integration involving US FS, CDF and Fire Safe Council. John wasn't present to make a report.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. PC Fair – Bruce Livingston There are no window displays available to put up our display board for the Fair. CDF will not be having a booth. Bruce will work with PNF on possibly incorporating our display into their area. Andy Anderson also advised the group he was approached by Soroptomist asking if we want space at the County Picnic in June. Bruce will contact them on the specifics.**
- 2. Cutting Trees on Private Property – Mary Huggins Mary discussed the issue of cutting trees on private lands and which if any exemption “permit” would be necessary. She provided a handout that included PRC 4527. She said that cutting trees for commercial purposes including selling, bartering, trading, or exchanging products requires a permit from CDF. Additionally, cutting trees to convert land for residential purposes (home driveway or infrastructure features) requires a conversion permit, even if the material is not going to be sold, bartered, traded, or exchanged.**

**Property owners can remove trees within 150 feet of an established residence for hazard abatement. Landowners can also cut any trees on their property for non-commercial purposes (not selling, bartering, trading, or exchanging the wood or converting) and no CDF exemption “permit” is required.**

**Usually when an exemption to cut trees is obtained from CDF, a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) who will perform the work is required to sign the permit. In the case of a Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption or Timber**

**Harvesting Plan, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and LTO need to sign the forms.**

**If no commercial product is being removed (wood is not being sold bartered exchanged or traded), or timberland is not being converted, no permit is necessary, then a LTO is not required to cut trees. However, depending on a landowners timber falling experience it may be prudent from a personal safety and liability insurance standpoint to hire a LTO. Hiring a LTO also requires the LTO to remove the slash and therefore legally relieves the landowner from this burden.**

**There is currently no flow chart or FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) fact sheet available to assist landowners with this issue. She explained that each situation is unique and it would be best for individual landowners to call her directly in order to avoid pitfalls and misinterpretations of the convoluted rules. She will notify the Forest Practice Coordinator and CDF website Coordinator to get a FAQ or flowchart on the CDF website. Currently the website site has some information regarding this at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)**

3. **Wildfire Awareness Week 5/5-9/2003 Jim Graham will take the lead to get a banner(s) up announcing Wildfire Awareness week and put the theme “Defensible Space is your responsibility” and our website on it.**
4. **Report on the meeting of FSC’s in Northern California in Sacramento on 3/22/03 – Frank Stewart Frank was no present to discuss this. John Sheehan briefly discussed the meeting.**
5. **CA FSC Summit 5/13-15 + Workshop Bruce Livingston volunteered to attend this summit, provided he could get reimbursed from Council funds for the registration. He will work with John Sheehan on it. Jerry submitted a synopsis of our Council’s activities to the summit coordinator.**
6. **Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Nat Academy of Public Administration Workshop in Sac 6/2-3 Jerry shared information of an upcoming workshop in June in Sacramento. The workshop is being conducted as part of a study for the National Academy of Public Administration, as part of a wildland fire study. One of the products will be draft legislation for a two-part Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Incentive program. They are seeking input from local fire safe councils.**
7. **Letter from Gold Mtn Homeowners Association Requesting HFR funding Assistance- George Sipel. George Sipel, president of Gold Mtn Homeowners Association made a request of the Council for assistance in obtaining funding to treat hazardous fuels adjacent to their community on lands owned by Graeagle Land & Water, who they have been working with.**

8. Small parcel fuel reduction demonstration Project – Mike De Lasaux- **The group was reminded of the small parcel fuel reduction project on Friday 4/11/03, in Cromberg. There will be two demonstrations one at 10Am and one at 2PM. A flyer was sent to FSC members earlier.**

**The meeting concluded at 11:55 AM**