

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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plumasfiresafe.org

Notes

Meeting – September 11, 2002, 9:00 am.
Quincy Fire Department

OLD BUSINESS

1. Opening/Introductions- Mike De Lasaux
2. Next meeting: **October 9, 2002 AT FEATHER RIVER COLLEGE Room 101 Vocational Education Building**
3. Review/Approve minutes from 8/14/02 meeting. **No corrections, Jim Graham made a motion to approve the minutes. John Gay seconded and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote**
4. Update progress of 501 (c) 3 application process. –Jerry Hurley
 - a. **Articles of Incorporation Articles were returned to the FSC On 8/12/02 due to a minor error and were corrected and returned to the Secretary of State on 8/12/02.**
 - b. **Next Step Pending Secretary of State approval, the next step will be application to the IRS for tax-exempt status**
5. Status update of active and newly approved Grants.
 - A. **PC FSC 01— Homeowner Consultation & Education-Hurley Consultation Progress has slowed. Project Director & Coordinator met with USFS personnel to discuss future activities with funds still available. The project will extend until 12/31/02, with additional projects to include: more consultations outside of fire districts; more county-wide GPS; signing of identified evacuation sites; expansion of fire planning. Following discussion at the meeting we will also add assisting Plumas Rural services on assessing defensible space cleanup for elderly and disabled, and a survey to determine why participation was lower than projections. Dennis Miller also shared the results of how the GPS data collected to date, about 40%, interfaces with the County GIS & will help in fire pre-planning.**
 - B. **PC FSC 01– Fire Safe Council Coordination –Jerry Hurley Articles continue to be placed in the newspaper highlighting Council activities and announcing meetings. A meeting with Mike, Jerry & Ray was held to discuss expansion of the web site. Our display was used at the County Fair and will be at the REA annual picnic next week. We will continue working with Jim Pickering of BLM to refine the display. Jerry is working with John Sheehan on preparing grant request to continue working toward our Council's mission.**

- C. PC FSC FS 02-1 & 02-III-1–Hazardous Fuels Demonstration– De Lasaux **FSC submitted final grant revision on 9/9/02 and is awaiting the final award letter from the USFS. Applications for the demonstration areas close on 10/1/02, and the committee was handed the 11 applications to date, to begin the ranking process. They will then need to meet with Brian Wayland, RPF for the project, for final recommendation to the Board.**
 - D. PC FSC. 02- III-3 Countywide GIS - John Sheehan **The committee will be meeting with other counties in the State who have integrated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and then accept presentations from companies with the technology to provide the necessary service before developing a Request for Proposals (RFP).**
 - E. PC FSC. 02- BLM-1 Homeowner Consultations – Jerry Hurley **See G**
 - F. PC FSC. 02- BLM-2 HFR Strategy & Assessment – Jerry Hurley **See G**
 - G. PC FSC. 02- BLM-3 Display Material – Jerry Hurley **Sacramento Regional Foundation (SRF) has the final work plans which were submitted on 7/19. No further communications with SRF since 8/10/02. An E-mail was sent to SRF on 9/9/02 requesting our status, but they have not responded to date. At the CA FSC site we are listed as being awarded our three grant requests, but no formal notification has arrived.**
6. Pending Grant & Funding Applications – John Sheehan
 - A. 02-RAC-1 & 02-III-5 Plumas Eureka HFR – John Sheehan **John, Mike & Jerry met with USFS personnel and Plumas Eureka homeowners on 8/14/02 to determine their support for the project, per request of the Forest Supervisor. Approximately 35 folks attended and there was overwhelming support for the project. The County Board of Supervisors on 9/3/02 agreed to provide \$32,000 to help pay for the planning of the project and that funding should become available pending the 45 day public comment period. It is hopeful some of the surveys may begin occurring soon.**
 7. Update Plumas County Fair & display material for other events – Jerry Hurley **Thanks was expressed to all those who volunteered their time to staff our booth. The Council received a thank you letter for their participation in the Fair. According to some the attendance seemed down this year. Members felt the location was good, but there should be something I the future to better attract fairgoers. We will continue to work on this.**
 8. Plumas County Fire Safe Logo – Bruce Livingston **A number of logo examples we provided. The decision was to keep the logo that was used on the shirts for those who staffed the booth as our logo. It will be the standard fire safe logo with Plumas County along the bottom fitting into a triangle. Logo below is a representation of the decision**



9. Accessibility – Bruce Livingston **Bruce discussed the sites considered. Most that were accessible didn't meet the criteria to hold the number of persons, guarantee that facility each month, or provide it at no charge. John Sheehan made a motion that we try the room offered by Larry Williams at the Feather River College. Ray Nichol seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was carried by a majority vote. Our next meeting will be at FRC**
10. PRC 4291 - Bruce Livingston **The letter the Council and Chiefs sent to Sheriff Gardner was delivered by Andy. The Sheriff responded to Andy saying he would not change his position on the issue of Federal Officers enforcing State Fire Laws in Plumas County. USFS and CDF personnel said they wanted to meet with the Sheriff elect to discuss this issue. The letter sent to Mr. Gardner will be revised to address the new Sheriff, and then Mike will take it to the next County Fire Chiefs meeting for their support and signatures. It will be sent to the new Sheriff after he takes office; to show the Councils support of having USFS personnel enforce the State fire laws for public safety. David Hawks also said in Butte County a Title III grant was funded to provide seasonal CDF prevention inspectors as another option to enforcing PRC 4291.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fuel Reduction Grant Programs NRCS – Reina Rodgers **Renia as unable to attend, we'll reschedule her for next month.**
2. Plumas Rural Services Senior Connections – Emily Whitney **Emily discussed a program in PRS called Senior Connections and discussed the elderly situation in Plumas County. In a recent survey of seniors the issue of cleaning up their yards to reduce the fire hazard was one of the top issues identified. She says she receives many calls a day requesting help. Her department has allocated \$7,000 towards this venture and she has enlisted some help from some of the communities to help with the problem. She would like some assistance in helping identify what is enough cleanup, and how to better assist others. Jerry discussed a program in Nevada County, and proposed to write a RAC grant request to help the situation.**

John Sheehan made a motion for the FSC to move forward with a grant proposal for RAC funds to obtain \$50-75,000 to assist qualifying elderly and disabled citizens in Plumas County in collaboration with PRS under vision 20/20; and pursue Title III funds from the Board of Supervisors for a program coordinator. Jon Gay seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was amended to include a committee of Jerry, John Gay, John Sheehan, Bruce Livingston and Steve

Windward to look at getting funds and a coordinator for this program, including looking at other grant sources. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Jerry will also provide Emily with handout material, potential contractors and revise the current FS grant revision request to include providing defensible space assessments for clients Emily is looking to assist.

3. Grant Management- MoU with Plumas Corp to manage Grants- John Sheehan John handed out a draft MoU for Plumas Corp and the Council for Grant management. This will be discussed and voided on at the next meeting.

4. Additional Grant proposals – John Sheehan/ Jerry Hurley/ Mike De Lasaux

A. Re-submit USFS Community Assistance Grant through Title II & III John will repackage the community protection grant that was rejected by the USFS to treat approximately 750 acres. Cost determination may be difficult due to unknown timber values that may be recovered. There was also discussion on adding projects, but it was pointed out that unless the ground work that included a point person with maps and agreements from other landowners was in place, there were not ripe to carry forward to the RAC. Some discussion ensued about the use of public funds on private lands and the benefits to society. It was acknowledged in the end that projects that have a benefit to society should be funded as long as an individual landowner has complied with the law regarding State Forest Practices Act. Also, landowners who are successful will need to agree to have their lands treated to a fire safe condition where flame lengths would be less than 2-3 feet in height, certainly less than four feet.

Jim Graham made a motion that the grant requests will also be submitted as individual projects, so one isn't dependent upon another. David Hawks seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Elderly & Disabled Assistance with hazard cleanup title II & III Discussed in New Business 2.

C. Shake Roof replacement assistance. John handed out flyers describing a flyer from the Plumas County Development Commission of a program to provide loans for shake roof replacement to qualifying persons. John Sheehan made a motion for the FSC to send a letter with flyer to those residents who received a voluntary consultation and have a shake roof and encourage replacement. Jim Graham seconded. After discussion, the motion was carried by a unanimous vote. Jerry will coordinate this with the liaisons.

5. USFS update of HFQLG – John Gay John shared a map of the status of HFQLG project on the Plumas NF. He will provide a complete project overview at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12:05 PM