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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 14th, 2023 - 10:00 am.
50 Church Street, Quincy

Board of Directors

<input type="checkbox"/> Chair , John Reynolds Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair , Sally McGowan Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary/Treasurer Mike Flanigan, Insurance (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Smailes Firewise (23)
<input type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser RPF (24)		<input type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jake Blaufuss AFRC (26)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Tompkins UCCE (23)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Kogge Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Hall Feather River RCD (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Pini Office of Emergency Services (26)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Hunter NSAQMD (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Bauer USFS PNF (24)

Mission Statement: "To reduce the loss of natural resources and human values caused by wildfire through Firewise community programs and pre-fire activities."

5-Year Strategic Plan –

Program Strategy: Expand existing programs and establish additional projects:

1. Leverage and expand partnerships
2. Sustainably increase staffing
3. Establish robust monitoring systems & metrics
4. Increase public engagement
5. Develop County-wide community fuels and threat mapping assessment

Funding Strategy: Target sustainable annual budget increase of 20%:

1. Continue to produce competitive grant proposals that are based on funder’s objectives.
2. Pursue approaches for non-competitive funding which reduce administration while increasing long term benefits.
3. Leverage charitable donations to increase public outreach, education, and participation.
4. Continue to pursue potential revenue-generating activities utilizing woody material.

Leadership Strategy: Ensure strong and functional systems are in place to facilitate ongoing organizational capacity:

1. Maintain a Board of Directors with strategically recruited membership.
2. Continue partnership with Plumas Corporation as fiscal agent.

10:00am Membership Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions – Sally McGowan
2. Review Agenda – McGowan
3. Approve February Meeting Minutes
Motion: Mike Flanigan, Second: Michael Hall
Approved: All yes, none opposed
4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: None
5. Public Comment:

Jeff Greef provided an update. Mr. Greef will be presenting his wood utilization project to Quincy Firewise on Wednesday, March 27th at the West End Theater.

6. Board Comment: None

New Business - Plumas National Forest, Fuels Planner – Dave Kinatader

Dave Kinatader presented two videos to PCFSC members, depicting fuels reduction implementation on Plumas National Forest

Old Business – None

Updates

- Public Lands Projects – Matt West:
 - Processing invoices
 - Things will ramp up as the snow starts melting – for lakes Basin and Boyles Ravine, everything should be complete this Summer
- Private Lands Projects – Katie Quinn & Rachel Wehrman:
 - Plumas Disadvantaged communities
 - 886 acres
 - Eastern Plumas Project
 - 5,000 acres total
 - Actively working landowner agreements for the commercial components of these projects
 - EFoRT
 - Herbicide has been sprayed on projects and will continue to be monitored
 - Mohawk
 - Currently working in Valley Ranch
 - About 85% is complete
 - Not operating currently because of weather
 - PCFSC will be finding a new operator to complete the work
 - PCFSC has replaced the forester who was previously on the project
 - Almanor Peninsula
 - Two parcels need archeological surveys
 - Getting in touch with Collins pine and Mason Bruce to come up with an agreement – we need to understand their THP since their projects run adjacent to ours
 - Hamilton Branch Clear Creek Vegetation Management
 - They just finished 146 acres of mastication, which means the whole project is nearly done.
 - All of the mastication and hand thin work is done – people will be returning to the site to map things that still need work
 - Rachel and Katie applied for the wildfire prevention grant.
- County Coordination – Liam Galleher:

- FSHV Insurance Calculations
 - The goal is to streamline access to insurance discounts based on location, Firewise status, and condition
- Applied for \$156,000 to fully fund the County Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator
- FRSC workshopping meeting weekly.
- Designing first meeting for FRSC - goal is to meet in May before the field season gets too busy
- Analyzing the FRSC Survey and the Wildfire Mitigation Census to structure meetings
- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich:
 - Sign-ups are in full swing for the 2024 season
 - Initial bid list will be consolidated by the end of the month
 - Chipping sign-ups are active for the 2024 season
 - The FEMA proposal for a Home Hardening Incentive program is still active, and matching funds have been secured
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Logan Krahenbuhl:
 - Coordinating TREX with many partners
 - In February, PUC had a potluck / pile burning gathering
 - Attended outreach events to get community members interested in joining PUC
 - Burn ban is lifting in American Valley and Thompson Valley over the next couple of days, but be warned that the next couple of days are high-wind
 - PUC meeting tonight at the PCFSC offices
- Firewood Processing Facility – Darrel Webster
 - CAL FIRE workforce development grant has been submitted – 1.7 million ask.
 - We are currently looking at \$492,000 costs with an income of \$497,000.
 - Site development and review is currently being written up
 - On March 26th, the CEO of Airburner will be coming to Plumas County, and giving a run down of how their products will operate on PCFSC's landscape.
- Outreach Coordination – Amber Hughes
 - Recipients of round-up at the register at the Feather River Food Co-Op's Portola location.
 - Received \$1,000 from the Common Good Foundation.
 - Delivered a presentation for Chester Firewise
 - Attended the FRC Job Fair
 - Wildfire Preparedness month is this May – Wildfire Preparedness Fair is May 11th.

2. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: Alan Thornhill and Dustin Osborne provided an update.
 - Units are getting ready to get back into Fire Season – in the middle of hiring new positions and training employees
 - Hired 4/6 positions
 - Concentrating on inspecting the communities that have never been inspected
- Feather River College: Not present.
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD): Michael Hall provided an update.
 - Continuing work in Seneca with Joe Smiles and the Seneca Firewise community

- Field crews are fully staffed to do restoration monitoring
- 5-person crew will be fully dedicated to hand-thinning
- Hired a new contracting forester, and full-time staff member
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: Liam Galleher provided an update.
 - Meeting weekly with Zach Browning of Sierra institute to coordinate the revival of FRSC
 - First meeting should be sometime in May before field season gets too busy
- Firewise Communities:
 - Valley Ranch
 - HFR in Mohawk/Valley ranch is 85% done, and community members are satisfied with the treatment.
 - 70% participation from landowners in the community
 - Quincy
 - March 24th Quincy Firewise Meeting at West End Theater
 - Whitehawk Ranch
 - HFR work is almost done in their area
 - Currently brainstorming for how to treat 200 acres on the old fish hatchery property
 - Meadow Valley
 - Engaged with multiple landowners to sign up for the HFR project – hundreds of acres worth of treatment
- Industry – Timber: Ann Anderson provided an update.
 - SPI continues to be interested in any high-impact projects put out by PCFSC.
- Industry – Insurance: Mike Flanigan provided an update.
 - There will soon be a vote on HR 6861, which will substantially impact the insurance industry.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Not present
- Northern Sierra AQMD: Julie Hunter and Mikki Brown provided an update.
 - On March 15th, the season restrictions will be lifted
 - The workshop reviewing rule 318 will be held at the Quincy library on this upcoming Monday
 - NSAQMD will host a Wood Stove workshop on May 18th at the veteran’s hall from 12 – 4 PM
 - NSAQMD will be hosting a booth at the wildfire preparedness fair
- Plumas Corp: Scott Corey provided an update.
 - Mountain Meadows – more re-vegetation is coming this year
 - Implementation funds are on the way for projects in the Southern Sierra
 - Partner meeting on the 8th in the Sequoia area
 - Staff is curating a data portal to hold information from all active partners.
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): Lori Pini provided an update.
 - Tracking damages that happened in the most recent storm – Portola was hit hard with snow and power outages
 - 9 People in Portola reported damages, 1 in Quincy and 1 in La Porte
 - Most of these damages were fallen trees
- Plumas County Planning Department: No update.

- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Kristy Hoffman / Trinity Sterling provided an update.
 - Recently awarded 2 grants in Plumas County
 - Mule Deer Foundation
 - Taylorsville Firewise / Sierra Institute
- Tree Mortality Update: No update.
- Plumas department of agriculture: Not present.
- Tribal Representatives: Not present.
- University of California, Cooperative Extension: Not present.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Dave Kinatader provided an update.
 - The mass funds USDA received last year is currently going towards National Forest landscapes surrounding Graeagle.
 - Close to a decision on North Quincy.
 - Recovery Projects and Tributaries projects are still active
- Terra Fuego – Bill Jacks provided an update.
 - Getting ready to burn in McLeod
- Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association – Ron Heinbockel provided an update.
 - Ron Heinbockel is handing over his position to a new representative from the Fire Chiefs Association, but will still continue to stay on the PCFSC board.
- Sierra Institute – Zach Browning provided an update.
 - Working with Liam Galleher to revive the Feather River Stewardship Coalition
 - Reach out to Zach Browning or Liam Galleher to get on the FRSC contact sheet.
- Mule Deer Foundation: No update.

3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events – None

Adjourn - Next meeting April 11th, 2024