

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2016 - 9:00 am
Plumas County
Planning & Building Services Conference Room
555 Main Street – Quincy, CA

Board of Directors

Mike De Lasaux, Chair (16)
Chuck Bowman, Vice Chair (15)
Mike Callaghan, Sect/Treasurer (16)
Jim Hamblin (15)
Deb Bumpus (15)
Shane Vargas (16)
Jerry Sipe (16)

PC FSC will comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) by making every reasonable attempt to accommodate any attendee or participant at our meetings needing special assistance beyond what is normally provided. Please contact the Plumas Corporation at 530-283-3739 at least 5 business days prior to a scheduled meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible. Please advise us at the time you call if special assistance is required to attend or participate in meetings on a regular basis.

Mission Statement:

“To reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities.”

2015 Goals:

- Implement and amend as necessary the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP);
- Increase public knowledge and awareness of hazards associated with wildland fire and inform the public about efforts that can be made to reduce their vulnerability to wildland fire;
- Increase community-based involvement in fuels reduction and facilitate the development of additional Firewise Communities in Plumas County;
- Identify, develop and implement community hazardous fuel reduction projects;
- Develop a strategy to provide for sustainable and renewable project funding and reduce the Council's dependence on grant funding;
- Explore green waste disposal and community chipping options for all communities in the County.

1. Welcome & Introductions - Mike De Lasaux
2. Review Agenda - **m-Hamblin, s-Sanders, passed.**
3. Review Meeting Minutes - **m-Callaghan, s-Hamblin, passed.**
4. Public Comments - None were made.

New Business

1. Introduction of new Council Coordinator - Bill Chapman was introduced at the December meeting.
2. Board of Directors Nominations - **Mike De Lasaux announced the candidates nominated at the December meeting: Chuck Bowman, Jim Hamblin and Don Gasser.** Deb Bumpus announced that she was resigning from the Board as she will be receiving a promotion and moving to Arizona. **She nominated her replacement, Steve Murphy, for the open Director position. Jerry Sipe moved that the entire slate be approved; Phil Nola seconded and the motion passed.**
3. Officer Nominations
 - a. Chair - **Jim Hamblin nominated Mike Callaghan. Chuck Bowman was nominated, but declined. Jerry Sipe nominated Don Gasser who declined. Mike Callaghan was approved as Chair.**
 - b. Vice Chair - **Chuck Bowman nominated Don Gasser who declined. Mike Callaghan nominated Chuck Bowman. Chuck Bowman was approved as Vice Chair.**
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer - **Mike Callaghan nominated Mike De Lasaux, who was approved.**
4. Biomass support letter - Don Gasser reported that he had written a letter regarding the sorry state of the biomass industry to the head of the Board of Forestry. He stated that he believes biomass facilities will continue to close unless new legislation provides high subsidization. Mike De Lasaux commented that Assemblyman Dahle introduced legislation to restore the biomass energy industry in the last session. It passed the Assembly, but was not voted on in the Senate. Mike will revise a letter he previously sent to Governor Brown.

Updates

1. Discussion of potential PC FSC funding sources, upcoming opportunities
 - a. Sierra Nevada Conservancy - At the January 6 meeting of the Feather River Stewardship Coalition (FRSC), Ryan Bauer presented about \$5 million in projects that were originally proposed under the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group (QLG) project that did not get done. Of the five major project areas, the Coalition supported the Buck's Lake project as its highest priority. Ryan outlined the scope of the project and stated that some application materials are already prepared. Rachael Norton indicated that she has already been working on the application. Mike De Lasaux said that applications are due on March 1, but that pre-applications are due by the end of January. It was the consensus of the Council that the application be submitted.
 - b. Title III Funds - Jerry Sipe announced that that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) had included Council coordination (\$58,300) and Senior/Disabled Defensible Space program (\$44,000) on the listing of projects. After a 45 day waiting period, the BOS will consider adoption of the projects.
 - c. State Responsibility Area fees - Scott Rosikewicz announced that \$13 million in project requests had been received, but only \$5 million in funds are available. He was not sure when the decision to fund projects will be made.
 - d. Title II (RAC) Funds - Deb Bumpus announced that some funding opportunities may be available in July. Mike De Lasaux pointed out that a notice requesting applications to the

Resources Advisory Committee had been published and encouraged Council members to apply.

- e. Greenhouse gas funds - Scott Rosikewicz mentioned that the Air Resources Board is not making a connection between fuel reduction projects and reductions in greenhouse gases.
- f. National Forest Foundation - Rachael Norton has submitted a proposal for the FRSC.
2. Status of current grants - Bill Chapman discussed the status of the grants listed in the spreadsheet hand out, and received valuable comments from many Council members. He emphasized the need to expedite those projects with 2016 ending dates.
3. Plumas County Office of Emergency Services - Sue McCourt reported that evacuation maps had been prepared for seven areas, a new website had been prepared for the Fire Chiefs Association, Chester High School had received a \$500 grant from State Farm for a project related to Wildfire Prevention Day, assessments have been completed for the Butterfly Valley and Genesee communities, and the C Road and Long Valley communities are interested in becoming Firewise USA Communities.
4. Plumas County green waste disposal - No report was given.
5. CAL FIRE - No report was given.
6. USFS hazardous fuel reduction (HFR) - Ryan Bauer said pile burning began again after the holidays, except at Mt. Hugh Ranger District which has no piles to burn. Deb Bumpus reported on the Lake Basin project indicating that they had pulled trails and land near Plumas-Eureka Park out of the project so a decision on these two items might be made more quickly. She also said insect and disease funds are being utilized in the Dixie Valley area. Nick Bunch reported that large scale projects to fill gaps in QLG projects are being planned and maintenance fires are being used in old prescribed burn projects in the Spanish Ranch area.
7. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District - No report was given.
8. Other HFR updates - No report was given.
9. Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) - Jerry Sipe suggested improvements to how CWPP are developed for local communities. While these plans are a necessary requirement for certain grant programs, some local communities want to develop them even though they do not intend to apply directly for grants. Mike De Lasaux pointed out that HFR grants are covered by the Plumas County plan, but Mike Callaghan and Sue McCourt pointed out the benefit of increased legitimacy from locally developed plans.

Upcoming events - None announced.

Adjournment - Next meeting February 11, 2016