

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 10, 2015 - 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-- Mike De Lasaux **Mike D suggested modifying New Business, moving items #2-#3 to the January meeting; he also recommended that the new Coordinator be introduced after public comments, a #5 was added to the agenda, then he made a motion to accept the agenda as modified; Mike McCourt seconded, the motion moved**
3. Review Meeting Minutes-- Mike De Lasaux **Mike D made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; Mike Callaghan seconded, the motion moved**
4. Public Comments—None were made

**5. Introduction of the next Council Coordinator—Mike D discussed the search for a new Coordinator to replace Nils. Interviews were conducted on December 7 and a candidate was selected by the hiring committee. Mike then introduced Bill Chapman who was in attendance at the meeting.**

#### **New Business**

1. Nominating Committee for Board of Directors whose terms are expiring –Mike De Lasaux  
**Mike D opened a discussion on the expiring terms of sitting Board members. Mike inquired with those Board members that were present regarding their intention to either remain on the board for another term, or to resign from the Board.**

- a. **Chuck Bowman stated that he intended to continue**
- b. **Deb Bumpus was not present**
- c. **Jim Hamblin stated that he intended to continue**
- d. **Don Gasser volunteered to sit on the Board**

~~2. Board of Director Nominations—This items was struck from the agenda and will be addressed during the January meeting~~

~~3. Board of Directors Officer Nominations—This items was struck from the agenda and will be addressed during the January meeting~~

4. Board resolution supporting SRA proposals—Nils had not prepared a resolution form before the meeting. Upon review of the SRA Grant Guidelines, it has been determined that a resolution from the Board is only required when entering into a grant agreement with CAL FIRE if the proposal has been approved.

5. Landowner agreement section 4.8 discussion—Nils added this item to the agenda due to internal dialogue that was occurring regarding the modification of a particular section of the contract between Landowners and the PCFSC/Plumas Corporation. Plumas Corporation is in the process of finalizing and sending out these contracts to landowners that are participating in the SRA-funded American Valley Project. The reason that this subject is a matter of discussion is because the existing PC FSC policy is that landowners must contribute \$250/acre as in-kind funds. The Council approved to waive these fees on a case by case basis depending on the funding source, thus the Plumas Corporation had to modify their Landowner contract for the American Valley Project. A subcommittee consisting of Chuck Bowman, Mike Callaghan and Mike McCourt volunteered to review the existing contract and consider potential modifications.

#### **Updates**

1. Discussion of potential PC FSC funding sources, upcoming opportunities--Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux
  - a. SRA Prioritization Discussion—Nils provided an update to the group on progress of the SRA proposals.
    - i. Mohawk Vista HFR—Nils let the group know that with a \$100K cap on proposals, that we will be able to treat ~40 acres in Mohawk Vista, thus Nils is working to incorporate either CAL FIRE Antelope Camp crews or California Conservation Corps crews to help stretch grant funds and treat more acres. Shane Vargas of CAL FIRE recommended that Nils contacts Jim Barry, Division Chief of the Antelope Camp before a proposal is submitted.
    - ii. Coordination and Education—Nils asked the group for direction regarding the development of a proposal for SRA funds for Coordination and Education. The Grant Guidelines state that funds will not be allocated to cover

**administrative costs and Nils felt that requesting funds to support the Coordinator would not be competitive. Nils did not receive a specific direction on how to proceed, so it was decided that the PC FSC would not develop a proposal for Coordination and Education for this round.**

iii. **Senior Disabled HFR—the proposal is complete and with some final edits it will be ready to submit.**

b. **Sierra Nevada Conservancy, March deadline (Plumas Eureka Estates? Boyles Ravine?)—Nils and Mike D spoke about the Prop 1 funding that is available through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The next round of requests for proposals is due in March and the PC FSC may develop proposals for fuel reduction planning and coordination.**

2. **Status update of Current Grants— Nils Lunder**

A. **252—Stevens 2010- In-kind, C Road--Work has been completed, even though the PC FSC was not able to engage with Union Pacific Rail Road on this project, a relationship has been developed with their regional vegetation manager and she hopes to become more engaged with the PC FSC.**

B. **256—Title III, PC FSC Council Coordination 2015–2016--**

C. **257A—Title II Resource Advisory Committee, Cutler Meadows—A signed Decision Memo is waiting for Nils at the Mt Hough RD, Nils will be meeting with Nick Bunch after the meeting to pick up the documents and move this project along.**

D. **257C--Sierra Nevada Conservancy, La Porte Road—Remaining piles will be burned ASAP, weather permitting (as of December 20, all piles were burned and the forester recommended that the project has been completed).**

E. **257D—La Porte Road In Kind Funds—These funds will cover cost overruns on the Cutler Meadows Project and/or the SNC 257C**

F. **258--Stevens 2011– 200 acres of Soper lands (Lee Summit, East Quincy)-- Mastication is under way at Lee Summit**

G. **259—Stevens 2012, Burlington Northern, Graeagle Land and Water—**

a. **Nils reported that he facilitated a meeting with Danielle Bradfield, Jim Wilcox and Dan West to develop an action plan for the Barry Creek portion of this project. Funds will be used to pay for hauling of chips to an outlet for biomass. Also, some funds may be used to do thinning of non-merchantable timber in project area.**

b. **Soper will be masticating in East Quincy pending a signed Decision Memo**

c. **Burlington Northern Santa Fe, CAL Trans Right of Way clearance as well as some private residential properties. Nils has been in contact with BNSF and CAL TRANS. Next step will be to hire a Registered Professional Forester to develop the project and the materials required to develop a Decision Memo. Once the DM has been signed, then an encroachment permit will be issued to the PC FSC for work on the CAL TRANS ROW.**

H. **260--Stevens 2014, West Quincy Highway— Planning, mapping, and laying out will be occurring in order to complete Decision Memo.**

I. **261— Title II Resource Advisory Committee, Indian Valley—Funds have been extended until June 2016, landowners have requested assistance, new Coordinator will develop a project to expend funds before the deadline.**

- a. Landowner In Kind Funds—These will be used to cover costs associated with providing fuel treatments to landowners in the Indian Valley Area**

**J. 262—Title II Resource Advisory Committee, Feather River Stewardship Coalition—Rachael Norton provided an update on the progress of the group, at their last meeting the group adopted their charter, chose a logo. They will be assisting with the upcoming forest plan revision; developing landscape scale strategies for HFR work with all willing landowners.**

**K 263-- Title II Resource Advisory Committee, Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance—These funds are available to provide assistance to participating landowners in 2016, however, the funds are not sufficient to continue the project and additional funds will be required in order to sustain the program into the future.**

**L. 265– Title III, Greenhorn CSD -Firewise Communities USA & CWPP Development—Nils is working on final CWPP, he will be attending the CSD board meeting on December 17 to provide an update on the project and acquire a signature from their Board. The PC FSC will help the CSD to hire a RPF to file <3 ac exemption to remove trees to improve community burn pile.**

**N. 271—State Responsibility Area Fee-funded American Valley Project—Landowner contracts are being sent out, once they have been returned to the PC FSC then a bid prospectus can be developed and a pre bid tour can be arranged.**

- 3. Plumas County OES update- Ongoing collaboration with PC FSC in support of Firewise Communities/CWPPs**
- 4. Plumas County green waste disposal update-John Kolb, the pile of greenwaste at the Chester Dump has been burned. The Emergency greenwaste collection facility adjacent to the Chester Airport has been processed; materials have been spread to a depth of approximately 16” on the site. The Quincy Air Curtain Burner site has been closed for the winter. The greenwaste disposal site in Portola has been shut down and will have to be relocated; there is a site in Delleker that is being analyzed for future disposal of greenwaste.**
- 5. CAL FIRE Update-Scott Rosikewicz reported on CFIP staff, they will be hiring 5, term positions across the State. Three foresters will be stationed throughout Northern California, two will be stationed in Southern California.**
- 6. USFS Hazardous Fuel Reduction Update- Ryan Bauer reported that there has been under burning occurring in the following areas: Keddie/Empire, Jenkins, Engles, Jackson, these treatments have covered approximately 700 acres. They have burned approximately 1,200 acres of piles on the PNF. The total acres treated in 2015 are approximately 12,500. Also, the USFS PNF is conducting planning efforts in the Butterfly Twain area, Lakes Basin and Forbestown.**
- 7. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District update-Julie Ruiz reported that we are currently in a no burn situation in the Thompson and American Valleys. Additionally, she reported that her district recently was awarded \$2.4 grant from the EPA for a woodstove change out project in the Portola and Mohwak Valley area. This project is an attempt to improve air quality in those areas.**
- 8. Other HFR updates-Nils summarized updates on the his networking with important partners including Union Pacific Rail Road (“Any vegetation control work plans bordering, neighboring or existing on our ROW, Union Pacific is willing to partner on projects for fire safety. In speaking with company executives about the Governor's orders, they have informed me we can make exceptions to the insurance requirements on a case by case basis as we need to.”). Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Road (“If you have funding, we support work on our ROW, we will provide safety crews”), CAL TRANS (“As long as you follow our guidelines and**

**work with the appropriate staff, acquire encroachment permits, then we support work in the ROW”)**

9. Implementation of the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), fuel reduction projects, local Firewise Community activities, community events-**LACC CWPP with stakeholders occurred on December 1 at the LACC, final draft has been sent to stakeholders and the PC FSC board for review and comments, next step is submittal to CAL FIRE LMU for integration into Unit Plan, signature and submittal to Sacramento office. Greenhorn CWPP is in a similar state. Nils will work to gather as many signatures as possible before he leaves the Council.**

### **Upcoming events**

Adjourn, next meeting January 14, 2015