



 P.O. BOX 1225  
QUINCY, CA 95971

 418 N MILL CREEK RD  
QUINCY, CA 95971

 (530)927-5294  
PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

# Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 10:00 am.

50 Church Street, Quincy

## Board of Directors

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Chair</b> , John Reynolds Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Vice Chair</b> , Sally McGowan Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Mike Flanigan, Insurance (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Smailes Firewise (23)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser RPF (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Pangburn CAL FIRE (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bowman Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Tompkins UCCE (23)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Kogge Firewise (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Hall Feather River RCD (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracey Ferguson Plumas County Planning (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Hunter NSAQMD (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Bauer USFS PNF (22)

**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 – John Reynolds
2. Review Agenda – Reynolds
3. Approve January Meeting Minutes – Reynolds
- Motion: Chuck Bowman, Second: Sally McGowan**
4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: Tracey Ferguson
5. Public Comment: None
6. Board Comment: None

## New Business

1. Economics of Processing Wood Chips into Wood Fiber – Dr. Brian Jackson, NC State Raleigh  
[Dr. Brian Jackson's presentation to PCFSC.](#)
2. Firewise Community Coordination – Hannah Hepner announced that there were upcoming staff changes that will affect PCFSC capacity to coordinate Firewise community activities.  
Ms. Ferguson asked if this position could be filled with volunteer capacity or would the position need to be paid through PCFSC. Ms. Hepner answered that it would depend on the organization that chooses to take over Firewise coordination. There are no existing funds in the current PCFSC budget.  
Mr. Greef asked how grantors might respond to a proposal to fund Firewise coordination.  
Ms. Ferguson asked if Firewise coordination could be removed from PCFSC and moved to another organization. Ms. Hepner answered yes. PCFSC does not currently have the capacity to hire a new staff member for Firewise meeting coordination, Firewise assessments, etc.  
Ms. Ferguson asked if moving the Firewise coordination responsibility back to Plumas County OES would be a good fit. Mr. Reynolds answered that when Plumas County OES coordinated Firewise activities, they had a grant to do so.  
Ryan Tompkins reminded the group that PCFSC's mission statement includes Firewise programs. Ms. Hepner added that the grant that originally funded Beth Rouse's position did not include Firewise coordination. Beth took over Firewise coordination after Sue McCourt retired.  
Mr. Tompkins added that Plumas County's hazard mitigation plan includes Firewise programs. A solution might be to roll this position into wildfire recovery projects through Plumas County.  
Ms. Hepner clarified that even if PCFSC does not have capacity to coordinate Firewise, it will not change the fact the PCFSC works with Firewise communities to implement projects and conduct assessments.  
Ms. Ferguson asked if each Firewise community was supported equally through Beth Rouse's position. Ms. Rouse answered no.  
Ms. Ferguson reminded the group that Plumas County OES and the Sheriff's Department is operating on low staffing.  
Chuck Bowman added that Firewise was not originally coordinated through PCFSC. Firewise communities do a lot of this work independently.  
Mr. Reynolds added that this coordination does not have to come from PCFSC. This is a topic the Board will have to discuss further.  
Mr. Pangburn asked if there were any issues with invoicing for Beth Rouse's time via the grant she is currently working under. Ms. Hepner answered no.  
Mr. Tompkins added that it is important to examine where this position fits best. This might be an opportunity to think outside the box about how Firewise can be coordinated.  
Ryan Bauer added that USFS might be able to take on this role.  
Mr. Reynolds added that it would not be manageable for one Firewise community to coordinate all others.

## Old Business

None

## Updates

### 1. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: Steve Clement reported that burn permits are available online. Crews are working on fuels reduction and waiting for weather to improve. Jonathan Pangburn thanked those who attended the HFSZ meeting. Matt West asked if an additional meeting was scheduled. Pangburn answered no, but the deadline for comment has been extended to April 4th. Ms. Ferguson answered that Plumas County BOS will be submitting a comment letter. Don Gasser requested that CAL FIRE present on how CAL FIRE will further support Plumas. Forest Service will be covering SRA and Plumas Fire Chiefs are experiencing low staff. A presentation on CAL FIRE's plans would be appreciated.
- Feather River College: Not present
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD): Monika Richardson reported that FRRCD is hiring crews and contractors. EForT will start work in Indian Valley in March. FRRCD has received grant funding for cone harvesting and seed tree identification.
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: Ms. Hepner shared that FRSC met in January. A survey on FRSC meeting structure has been sent out to FRSC email list. Will meet again quarterly.
- Firewise Communities: Ms. Rouse shared that the Red Clover Creek Firewise community has submitted all the necessary documents to become a designated community. Next Firewise Leads meeting will be February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
- Industry – Timber: Mark Pustejovsky from Sierra Pacific Industries shared that the Dixie Fire salvage harvest is ongoing and will continue into summer 2023. Planting on the North Complex will begin next month and about 1 million seedlings will be planted. The Greenhorn Ranch project with PCFSC is on hold and a new agreement will be necessary. Hamilton Branch Clear Creek VMP will start once the weather is clear. Don Gasser asked when SPI will buy green logs. Mr. Pustejovsky answered, a few years. John Sheehan asked if SPI is interested in wood fiber. Mr. Pustejovsky responded that SPI sawmill residue feeds the market well enough. Wood fiber may be needed for new nurseries. Mr. Greef asked what SPI produces in terms of wood fiber. Mr. Pustejovsky answered that SPI burns most of the waste and other materials. SPI has a market for the sale of sawmill waste.
- Industry – Insurance: Mr. Flanigan shared that insurance is hard to come by and expensive. Flanigan-Leavitt wrote an \$11,000 policy for \$800,000 dollar home. The CA Insurance Commissioner is suggesting "climate insurance." PCFSC needs more exposure and publicity to influence decision makers.
- Industry – Utilities: Not present
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Not present
- Northern Sierra AQMD: Julie Hunter reported that the PM NAAQS proposal has published in the Federal Register and is available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/27/2023-00269/reconsideration-of-the-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-for-particulate-matter>. The public comment period is open from January 27 to March 28. Public hearings on the new proposed PM2.5 annual standard and additional information is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/public-hearing-notice-proposal-national-ambient-air-quality-standards>. Update on the certified wood stoves that were tested and do not meet NSPS (New Source Performance Standards) and have been installed in Plumas County are Jotul, Kuma and Travis

(Make). Please contact Julie for additional information on models. The Serious Nonattainment SIP for Portola is underway, no significant updates at this time, the ultimate goal is still to identify wood stoves that need to be replaced to assist in emission reductions. The District has initiated an outreach campaign for the wood stove changeout program. More information can be found here: <https://myairdistrict.com/index.php/portola-woodstove-change-out-program>. There is also a YouTube video you can find here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVreQF5MM0M>. This change out program is crucial for the Portola area.

- Plumas Corp: Scott Corey shared that Plumas Corp staff are currently working on monitoring and grant writing.
- Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association: Ron Heinbockle shared that Plumas Fire Chiefs will be meeting on March 11th. Five to six Chiefs are retiring. Mr. Heinbockle will be looking for replacement representation for PCFSC meetings. Mr. Flanigan asked if the meeting to rezone fire districts was well received. John Reynolds answered yes. There will be a series of follow up meetings and there is a website available for more information.
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): Not Present
- Plumas County Planning Department: Ms. Ferguson shared that Plumas County's long-term recovery plan is available for the public across 5 categories: economic development, infrastructure, natural and cultural resources, health and social services, and housing and commercial rebuilding. A group of 30-50 projects are being developed. There are meetings scheduled for April and March. Long-term recovery plan meeting schedule:  
February 21<sup>st</sup> - 6:00 – 7:30pm Chester Memorial Hall, 225 Gay Street, Chester  
February 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6:00 – 7:30pm Quincy Veteran's Hall, 274 Lawrence Street, Quincy  
February 27<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 – 7:30pm Sierra Valley Grange, 92203 Highway 70, Vinton  
All of this information can be found on Plumas County's Wildfire Recovery Homepage.
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Kristy Hoffman share that the March 1st Watershed Improvement Program summit will take place in Sacramento. There will be a few Plumas County folks on the agenda. The SNC Board Meeting is scheduled for June 1st and 2nd in Plumas County. This meeting will include project tours. A new grant cycle will be released in April for Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience. Concept papers will be due in mid-June.
- Tree Mortality Update: Mr. Tompkins share that the USFS released a tree mortality update. Fir mortality is high.
- Tribal Representatives: Not present
- UC Cooperative Extension: Mr. Tompkins shared that the Wildfire Preparedness survey developed for Plumas County has been made into a statewide survey. The CFLA annual meeting will be on March 1st. This meeting will discuss forest products and rethinking forest practice rules.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Mr. Bauer shared that PNF is planning a PODs workshop on March 21st and 22nd in Quincy. It is possible there will be a second workshop in Nevada City. Pile burning has been ongoing. 60 acres of pile burning has been completed on the Feather River District. Weather is a factor in the pile burning progress. The Viper List is open for prescribed fire. The Community Protect project is top priority and drafts will be released for

public comment in late February or March. This project was selected for a National Priority Landscape Project. The Sierra Institute is a project partner and will be covering half of the burned landscape.

## 2. Status of PCFSC Programs

- Public Lands Projects – Matt West: No update
- Private Lands Projects - Rachel Wehrman is developing the C-rd prospectus.
- County Coordination – Liam Galleher: No update
- Outreach – Ms. Rouse shared that the 2022 Annual Report is finished and will be printed soon.
- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich: No update
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Logan Krahenbuhl: Plumas TREX registration closes tomorrow. PUC purchased new PPE to burn with USFS. The pile burn at Buffalo Ranch went well and 30 piles were burned. The FRRCD's CEQA for Butterfly and American Valley has gone through. Mr. Krahenbuhl has been working with the FRRCD to prepare burn units in Genesee. PUC shirts and other items are coming soon. PUC will be hosting a pile burn workshop with Ryan Tompkins.
- Chipping Program – Gary Parque: Will return to work in March.

## 3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

Adjourn - Next meeting March 9th, 2023