

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



P.O. Box 1225 - Quincy, CA 95971
530 283-0829
www.plumasfiresafe.org

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 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 **Don Gasser-motion to approve the agenda, Jim Hamblin second, unanimous approval**
3. Review Meeting Minutes--Mike De Lasaux **Don Gasser-motion to approve the meeting minutes, Ray Nichol second, unanimous approval**
4. Public Comments--Mike De Lasaux **David Arsenault, Executive Director of the Plumas Audubon Society provided an update on his work in the development of the Genesee Valley Fire Plan. His organization and others have been working on the development of this plan which has included public meetings, field trips and the development of a fire plan for the area.**

David stated that the plan will be completed by the end of March. He directed attendees to the Genesee Fire Plan website (Nils will send a link to the site to the email list). David presented during the public comment period because he was not able to stay at the meeting.

5. Discussion of potential PC FSC funding sources--Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux

- **Update on SRA and GHG proposal submissions Nils let the Council know that they had been invited to develop both of their GHG Concept Proposals. The Grizzly Creek Ranch proposal will not be developed because the landowner has chosen not to proceed with the project. The other proposal would be developed with Soper Wheeler, at this time, it is unclear if there is a need to develop that proposal. Nils also let the Council know that all but one of the SRA proposals have been rejected. The one proposal that was funded will focus on the American Valley. The FSC will receive \$318,000 to provide HFR work in Galleppi Ranch, East Quincy and perhaps a portion of Boyles Ravine.**
- **Sierra Nevada Conservancy—Proposition 1 Nils and Mike discussed the potential for new funds to come into the region to improve forest health. A discussion ensued that included a conversation regarding the connection between forest density and water infiltration.**

6. Status update of Current Grants– Nils Lunder **Nils provided a brief update on the active grants that the Council is managing at this time.**

7. Plumas County HFR Roundtable Overview and CWPP Update Process—Nils Lunder, Mike Delasaux **Nils provided background on the purpose for the HFR roundtable meeting and the importance for people to know what types of HFR had been completed recently in Plumas County and where projects were being planned for the future.**

8. Presentations

PC FSC –

- 1) **CFLR Interactive Map Demonstration Rachel provided a tour of the CFLR map**
- 2) **2014 Completed HFR Projects Nils shared maps of projects that have been completed by the PC FSC within the past year (those maps are available for those who were not able to attend the meeting)**
- 3) **2015 Active/Planned HFR Projects Nils showed the group maps of projects that are either in development or that are in the concept phase at this time.**
- 4) **Firewise Community HFR Projects**
 - a. **West Shore Nils showed a Google Earth image of a HFR project that the LAW community is implementing near their community at this time.**
 - b. **LACC Nils showed a map of project areas that need treatment at this time near the communities of LACC, Bailey Creek and Hamilton Branch**
 - c. **Gold Mountain Cary Curtis, Chair of the Gold Mountain Firewise Committee discussed some of the projects that her community is working to facilitate. There will be a meeting on March 22 where they will introduce a “Roadmap” to ensure that the community is more fire safe by 2018. Sara Taddo Jones is consulting the community on this project. They are working to provide assistance to home owners that need help, to better educate homeowners on the importance of fuels reduction work on their properties, this effort is being driven by the CC&Rs of the community, many of which have not been enforced by the GM HOA. She also discussed some of the changes that are presently occurring there**
- A. **Soper-Wheeler Nils showed maps of projects that Soper is working on in Plumas County, they provided Nils with the data to create the maps, two of the projects have some funding support via Stevens Funds that the PC FSC holds, Nils is working to move these projects forward**

- B. Graeagle Land & Water Co. Nils showed a map of the Barry Creek project that is currently underway near Whitehawk Ranch, this project also has funds available via Stevens, Nils is working to find ways to utilize these funds to support their work
- C. Sierra Pacific Industries Nils showed two maps on behalf of SPI, one of which was just north of the Greenhorn community, the other showed extensive work that is underway and planned near the communities of Clear Creek, Chester, Bailey Creek and on their lands west, north and east of Lake Almanor
- D. Feather River Land Trust/ Feather River RCD Nils showed a map of work that has occurred on the Heart K Ranch in Genesee Valley. Approximately 100 acres of private forest lands have been thinned by the Greenville Indian Rancheria. This project has been supported by a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy that has been administered by the Feather River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD). The FRRCD also developed a SRA proposal to treat an additional 150 acres of private lands in Genesee Valley, that proposal was not funded, a map from that proposal was also shown. During this portion of the presentation, the partnerships with the PNF and cross boundary under burns in the Genesee Valley were highlighted.
- E. PNF - Mt. Hough RD The new Fuels Specialist from the Mt. Hough RD presented on the following projects:
- Keddie Project:** The Mooretown Indian Rancheria has a contract to perform work on Keddie Ridge and near Round Valley Reservoir, hand pile, and mastication work will be done.
- Maidu Stewardship:** Pile burning along Highway 89
- American Valley:** Pile burning near town including First Street
- Cooridor:** Pile Burning between FRC and Snake Lake
- Green Flat Underburn:** Nearly completed treatment near Mt. Jura, very few piles remain
- Ridge Underburn:** HFQLG project near Snake Lake
- Meadow Valley Underburn:** HFQLG
- Empire Underburn:** HFQLG
- Spanish Ranch: Re-entry underburn**
- Other notes:**
- The Mt. Hough RD will change the way that they manage for Owl PACS, they will not be excluding these PACS from future underburn operations.
 - Also they are working on integrating projects that accomplish numerous objectives: ex. Virgilia and Twain underburns with Owl PACs.
 - Are burning grapple piles in the Chips Fire footprint
 - Preparing the Greenhorn Re-Offer timber sale.
 - The PC FSC has maps of all of these projects and will be working to make that information more accessible.
- F. PNF - Beckwourth RD District Ranger (and PC FSC Board member) Deb Bumpus presented on the following projects:
- Big Hill:** Highway 70/Lee Summit-Timber Sale is under contract, operations will being soon.
- Jackson:** Thinning and grapple piles
- Lakes Basin:** Outyear project, stewardship project, expecting a Decision in 2016
- Plumas Eureka:** From Graeagle to Sierraville Ranger District, large HFR project that ties together many other smaller HFR projects
- East Side Underburn:** Ongoing effort to maintain fuel breaks throughout the Beckwourth Ranger District

Engles/ Turner Ridge

Griz Project

Dotta Project

--Other notes:

- Collaborative burn with private landowner (Scott Tompson) in Dixie Valley
 - Currently burning 2000-3000 acres per year on their district, outside of the region 5, many National Forests are burning 8,000-10,000 acres per year; the Beckwourth has a very limited burn window, largely due to air quality concerns.
 - Focus on the program is areas within the WUI
 - Working on reducing the basal area to 80
- G. LNF - Almanor RD Eric Croner presented on behalf of the Almanor Ranger District
Peacock Point: Hazard tree removal, fuels reduction
Swain: Timber sale, underburn
Fox Farm: Underburn (~70 acres)
Chips Fire: Have been burning grapple piles (~1,000)
- H. NRCS

Updates

1. Plumas County OES activities- **Jerry Sipe announced that there is an Incident Command training coming up March 20-22.**
2. Plumas County green waste disposal update- **Jerry Sipe announced the Almanor Basin emergency disposal site is remaining open April 13 and that there is incredible demand for an outlet for greenwaste; additionally the air curtain burner in American Valley is operational. Call the Plumas County Department of Public works for more details: 283-6268**

1166 Industrial Way, Quincy Ca

Fridays-3-5PM

Saturdays-9-4PM

Sundays-9-4PM

3. Implementation of the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), fuel reduction projects, local Firewise Community activities, community events –**The LACC Firewise day will be held on May 24, on April 30; there will be an Introduction to Firewise Communities event in Indian Valley; the Plumas Eureka CSD has voted to work to become recognized as a Firewise community! They will be supported by Sue and Nils.**
4. CAL FIRE Update-**They are trying to hire D-Space inspectors for 2015, are finding that a challenging task. Also the agency is ramping up fire suppression capacity nearly 1 month ahead of schedule due to dry conditions.**
5. Adjournment, next meeting April 9, 2015