

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 9, 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

The motion to approve the agenda was put forth by Jim Hamblin, Mike McCourt Second, and unanimous approval.

3. Review Meeting Minutes--Mike De Lasaux
Deb Bumpus motioned to approve the minutes, Shane Vargas second, unanimous vote to approve.
4. Public Comments--Mike De Lasaux

Don Gasser mentioned the \$2.6 mil Biomass proposal which was denied support by the FSC, and expressed an eagerness to discuss the letter addressing support of biomass projects that is on the agenda.

5. Discussion of potential PC FSC funding sources—Rachael Norton, Mike De Lasaux

- Update on SRA and GHG proposals

Rachael mentioned the SRA grant awarded for American Valley in need of a resolution to accept the grant award. Mike De Lasaux informed the group that no Greenhouse Gas proposals were accepted, and no other funding sources were currently known. Deb Bumpus mentioned hearing talk of RAC funds coming back around. Mike concurred and added hearing talk that the next iteration may be Title I funds only.

6. Status update of Current Grants– Rachael Norton

Rachael gave a brief overview of the status of grants and projects. Mike McCourt gave an update on the Sr/Disabled Assistance Program, mentioning revising the contract used for this program to remove unnecessary insurance constraints. A discussion ensued regarding other issues with the contract including no definition of the class code for workers compensation. Mike De Lasaux recommended the contract be reviewed by the board and assist Mike McCourt in the revisions, requiring a special meeting to accomplish the task before the next meeting.

A. PC FSC 10-7 –Stevens 2010- In-kind, C Road–

B. PC FSC 11-3- PC FSC Council Coordination 2014-2015–

C. PC FSC 11-2 –Stevens 2011– 200 acres of Soper-Wheeler lands in 3 areas –

Update from Mike De Lasaux: Soper Wheeler working around Lee Summit and will not be needing these funds.

D. PC FSC 11-4 – RAC – Cutler Meadow/La Porte Rd II HFR (partial) 75 acres –

E. PC FSC 12-3 – SNC Prop 84 – La Porte Rd. II HFR- 172 Acres

F. PC FSC 12-1 –Stevens 2012 – 698 acres of Soper-Wheeler, GL&W, & BNRRL lands

G. PC FSC 14-1 – Stevens 2014 -West Quincy Highway 70 – HFR 65 acres

H. PC FSC 13-4 – RAC – Crescent Grade II. HFR-68 acres

I. PC FSC 13-5 – RAC - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project

J. PC FSC 13-3 – RAC - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance

K. PC FSC 13-2– Greenhorn CSD -Firewise Communities USA & CWPP Development

L. PC FSC 13-6 – Title III - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance –Coordinator

Agenda Item 3 under new business was discussed at this time as initiated by Bob Kelley who inquired as to who was awarded White Hawk Ranch contract.

Sara Taddo Jones answered that not all landowners had signed up yet so the contract can't be awarded. A land owner dispute is also holding things up on 8.6 acres. The entire project consists of 13 acres of mechanical treatment, and 3 acres of hand thinning for a total of 16 acres. One land owner is paying for 6 of the 8 acres and the other is not contributing at all. The land owners are requesting a waiver for the remaining in kind contributions totaling \$625 so the project can move forward. 90% of landowners are participating. 8 contractors have already bid the project, Sara to review bids with Jim Wilcox, Kyle Felker and Chuck Bowman. Chuck Bowman explained that one landowner is paying more than his share towards the 8.6 acres while the other land owner refuses to pay anything. Deb Bumpus commented that we should have some parameters on why we approve waivers, as this will set a precedence. Kyle Felker related that a waiver was used on the Crescent Grade project, due to obvious economic hardship, and not treating the land would have left a weak link in the fire resiliency of the area. Chuck Bowman mentioned that the landowner who isn't paying has had other financial hardship. The location is integral to the project. Sara agreed that the acreage is in a highly visible location, and could be a demonstration area for FSC. Kyle Felker further iterated the

importance of the land since treatments have occurred right up to it across the hwy. Mike De Lasaux motioned to approve waiver. Mike McCourt Seconded the motion. The motion passed with 1 opposed, and 2 abstained votes. Sara volunteered to get Whitehawk to put a sign up for the FSC on this project. Mike De Lasaux further iterated that the FSC on this project is left over funding from C Rd, which included in kind contributions, as well as some profit from materials.

New Business

1. PC FSC Resolution re: American Valley HFR project funded by CAL FIRE SRA Grant Program—Mike De Lasaux (Discussion and Action)
Of the 6 concepts proposed, 5 were developed, and 1 was approved, the American Valley HFR. Mike read the resolution letter. One comment was made by Rob Gimbel that this project represented only 1/10th of the fee base coming back to the County. He expressed that the fee money should come back to the County. A motion to approve the resolution was put forth by Jerry Sipes, Don Gasser Second. Board Members voted for it unanimously. The document will be sent out today to meet the April 15th deadline.
2. Approval of support letter to Assemblyman Dahle for AB590- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (Dahle)—Mike De Lasaux (Discussion and Action)
Claude Sanders asked if this letter would be from the FSC to the Assemblyman. He recommended rewording a sentence. Jerry Sipes recommended cc'ing the letter to the Board of Supervisors. Jerry then made a motion to approve changes and approve the letter. Don Gasser seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Council vote on in-kind reduction for landowner in Whitehawk Ranch, economic hardship—Sara Taddo Jones (Discussion and Action)
This item was discussed after the grant summary.

Updates

1. Plumas County OES update- **Sue is continuing Firewise Community work. Jerry is work on developing training with Almanor Fire Department?**
2. Plumas County green waste disposal update-
Jerry informed the group that the Chester greenwaste center is closing Monday. The county is working with Collins Pines Co. to take materials that have been screened and processed. The American Valley site is still struggling with the quality and moisture of incoming debris. Bob Kelley inquired if there has been any talk on composting. Jerry answered that the California State regulations on composting are stringent. Sue McCourt asked Sean Delacour if the SRA funded any biomass projects in the county. He replied that no other projects were funded through the SRA in Plumas County
3. CAL FIRE Update-
Shane Vargas reported that Cal Fire has a large 4x8 sign for fire readiness, if anyone had suggestions on where to place it. Mike De Lasaux asked about progress with the inspection program. Shane replied that no inspectors had been hired yet. In addition to inspectors, Cal Fire may use some firefighters to perform inspections.
4. USFS Hazardous Fuel Reduction Update-

Deb Bumpus reported 3,500 acres of piles burned, 825 acres of prescribed burning accomplished forest wide so far for this year. Work is still being completed and the recent moisture helps. Bret Miller has a class coming out next Thurs the 16th to see underburning with his forestry class. Nick Bunch from the Mount Hough RD inventoried 925 acres of machine piles on the Chips fire area, and 131 acres of prescribed fire on Empire, with 2 additional underburn units planned. Also planned are 33 acres above Snake Lake, 30 acres above Deans, and others for a total of 282 acres.

Jen Hensel from The Lassen NF listed 1000 acres of piles burned in the Chips Fire area, 100 acres of underburning planned under the Bobcat Burn. A Letter to the Fox Farm DFPZ along Hwy 89 West of Prattville is underway (a letter meaning reopening an old project NEPA and updating it) for underburning. 50 acres of prescribed burning planned above Chester. Most work on the Lassen NF is focusing on Storrey funds. Site prep using a spider machine coming up in Storrey area. Mike mentioned having a Spider on La Porte Rd, limited to 6-8" DBH, supported a masticating head. Other projects on the Lassen NF include Soda Ridge, contract for hazardous tree removal on trails within the Storrey footprint. An Aspen enhancement is planned in Big Springs, Southwest of Lemm ranch.

Mike De Lasaux asked Deb Bumpus for an update on current planned projects. Deb informed the group that Hayden had been delayed on a decision while waiting on mitigation measures for the Yellow Legged Frog. Lakes Basin public meeting is in July, that project required a 2 year survey for certain species, no purpose and need for the Lakes Basin has been developed yet.

5. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District update-
Julie Ruiz reported on the Workshop March 19th in Portola, Sue McCourt represented the FSC at that meeting. 50 people came, great presentations were included, and the effort displaced some fears from the public about removing wood stoves. John Crouch gave a presentation on burning efficiency. In other updates, Graeagle Land and Water is commencing with broadcast burning the next few days.
6. Other HFR updates-
None were made.
7. Implementation of the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), fuel reduction projects, local Firewise Community activities, community events-
Sue updated the group on the Grizzly Ranch completing their Firewise Assessment and they will have a Firewise Day this summer. Mohawk Visa hasn't moved forward much. Lake Almanor County Club is having a pancake breakfast soon to benefit their Firewise Community. Lake Almanor West completed maintenance on 12 acres from a previous Firewise project from 2006. Cal Fire performed the maintenance and it looks great. Chuck Bowman added that Graeagle Firewise Community is pretty quiet. The Whitehawk HOA and golf course are preparing to do some work this summer, spending around \$60,000. Chuck reiterated that the current project planned closer to the Highway will help this effort. Sue also added that the Plumas Eureka Firewise Assessment is next month. Greenhorn Ranch is a Firewise Community, but no CWPP has been developed. Nils has reached out to them but no response yet.
8. Adjourn, next meeting May 14, 2015
Meeting was adjourned at 10:30.