

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 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 **Normal cast of participants, two new attendees from Greenhorn: Guy and Debbie Center**
2. Review Agenda--Mike De Lasaux **Motion Jim Hambin, Second Brian West, no opposition**
3. Review Meeting Minutes--Mike De Lasaux **Motion Claude Saunders, Second Jim Hamblin, no opposition**
4. Public Comments--Mike De Lasaux
 - **Lori Simpson, District Four Supervisor made comments regarding the current controversy regarding the biomass fueled boiler project planned for the Plumas County Health and**

Human Services building and the Feather River College Dormitories. She asked for members of the Council and the general public to consider attending the BOS meeting next Tuesday to show their support for this project.

- **Mike De Lasaux asked Lori about the Title III funds that the BOS decided not to award to the PC FSC to support the coordination activities of the Council. Lori announced that she would check with her colleagues and report back to the group.**
- **Phil Noia announced that PG&E will be using a helicopter to survey power transmission lines in Plumas County and that residents should be aware of this project.**

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

- **Secure Rural Schools has been extended by Congress for two years, there is the potential for the development of a new Resources Advisory Committee and corresponding Title II?**
- **Nils will inquire with PG&E to see if they will be funding fuels reduction projects similar to 2014?**
- **Nils discussed the potential for the Western States WUI Grant to be funded, mentioned that awards will occur in August.**
- **Nils also informed the Council that the FR RCD is still developing a project proposal to the CAL FIRE Greenhouse Gas Reduction program. This proposal will seek funds to acquire machinery to develop a County Greenwaste Collection and processing facility.**

6. Status update of Current Grants-- Nils Lunder

- PC FSC 10-7 --Stevens 2010- In-kind, C Road, Whitehawk--Contracts have been awarded to implement the Whitehawk Ranch project, completion in mid/late June; C-Road Narrows project prospectus is being developed and will be sent to prospective contractors next week.**
- PC FSC 11-3- PC FSC Council Coordination 2014-2015--
- PC FSC 11-2 --Stevens 2011-- 200 acres of Soper-Wheeler lands in 3 areas --
- PC FSC 11-4 -- RAC -- Cutler Meadow/La Porte Rd II HFR (partial) 75 acres -- Decision Memo is holding up the project, we have the landowners and are ready to fly a prospectus on the project**
- PC FSC 12-3 -- SNC Prop 84 -- La Porte Rd. II HFR- 172 Acres--Funding expires in late June, 172 acres have been treated, approximately 18 acres of piles have to be burned and this will not occur until next winter, Council will work to extend grant deadline to accommodate for pile burning**
- PC FSC 12-1 --Stevens 2012 -- 698 acres of Soper-Wheeler, GL&W, & BNRRL lands
- PC FSC 14-1 -- Stevens 2014 -West Quincy Highway 70 -- HFR 65 acres--Forester will begin meeting with landowners to develop projects and landowner contracts in Late May, early June**
- PC FSC 13-4 -- RAC -- Crescent Grade II. HFR-68 acres--**Project has been completed**
- PC FSC 13-5 -- RAC - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project--**Rachael Norton? Public meetings and Field Trips are scheduled**
- PC FSC 13-3 -- RAC - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance--**Mike McCourt, approximately 45 landowners are awaiting treatment, bids are coming in to do the work**
- PC FSC 13-2-- Greenhorn CSD -Firewise Communities USA & CWPP Development--Nils has been coordinating with the CSD to begin to develop the CWPP**
- PC FSC 13-6 -- Title III - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance --Coordinator

New Business

1. Discussion of IRWM MOU; should the PC FSC develop a resolution to become signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Feather River Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan? Discussion and possible action—Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux
During the discussion, the prevailing sentiment was to wait and see how things unfold with the IRWM process and then see if the Council feels that signing the MoU in the future is necessary.
2. Discussion of in-kind matching fund requirement for SRA funded American Valley Project—Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux
During the discussion the group sentiment was that the SRA funded grants should not require the \$250/acre in-kind contribution due to the nature of the funding source. Nils Lunder and Chuck Bowman will draft a policy on this and will present it to the Council for a discussion and a vote during the June meeting.
3. Discussion of if the PC FSC should share By-Laws, Policies and Procedures with the fledgling Lower Scott River Fire Safe Council—Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux
The Council recommended that the interested parties visit our website where they will find these documents which are available to the public.

Updates

1. Plumas County OES update-
Sue McCourt reported on her recent activities with OES: They have recently completed extensive revisions to evacuation brochures for six communities in the County: Greenhorn, Gold Mountain, Lake Davis Highlands, Whitehawk, Bucks Lake, and Mohawk Vista. These are being distributed within the communities and will serve as a resource to educate residents on current evacuation information. A total of 15 evacuation maps have now been prepared and these are on the Plumas County Office of Emergency Services website:
<http://www.countyofplumas.com/index.aspx?NID=2414>
2. Plumas County green waste disposal update-**BOS is wavering on approving the CEQA Exemption, this could force the return of \$2.6 mil to the Cal Energy Commission, may want to have some PC FSC folks at BOS meeting to offer support for the proposed biomass fired boiler at the Courthouse Annex/FRC**
3. CAL FIRE Update :
Shane Vargas was not present at the meeting, but he emailed Nils Lunder with the following update: 4 Inspectors (CAL FIRE firefighters from Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit) will begin training this week (May 11-15) and they will begin property inspections Thursday May 14. They will be working 3-4 days per week for 5 weeks and they will begin in Meadow Valley and in Greenhorn.
Scott Roskiewtz from CAL FIRE also announced that CAL FIRE will be administering both Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction projects as well as State Responsibility Area (SRA) funded project again this year.
4. USFS Hazardous Fuel Reduction Update-
Deb Bumpus, District Ranger from the Beckwourth Ranger District presented on activities that have occurred there this winter:
Her crews completed the under burning of 900 acres; they have complete 1,200 acres of pile burning; their Hayden project has been signed and will include 700 acres of mastication at Jackson and 300 acres of mastication near Lake Davis; fire lookouts are in place at numerous locations throughout the forest, although numerous lookouts were damaged during severe

winds during the winter. The Thompson Peak lookout was extensively damaged and is currently out of commission.

Fire season has begun and there have been numerous suspicious ignitions thus far. The USFS has recently developed a graphic display that illustrates the 2014 fire season, that image will be available on the PC FSC website.

5. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District update-
No update was available from the NSAQMD
6. Other HFR updates-**PC FSC will be working to begin work throughout the American Valley to develop landowner contracts and to treat 200+ acres during the next two years.**
7. Implementation of the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), fuel reduction projects, local Firewise Community activities, community events-
 - **Plumas Eureka Firewise is happening, Assessment performed on May 12;**
 - **IV Firewise effort is underway, community meeting scheduled for next Monday in Indian Valley regarding overview of Firewise program;**
 - **Lake Almanor West has completed a 16 acre fuel break with assistance from the California Department of Corrections and they are hoping to develop recreational trails within the project area as an educational tool;**
 - **LACC and Bailey Creek are planning Firewise events in July**
 - **Gold Mountain has approved Hazardous Fuel Reduction guidelines and have enacted mandatory compliance for all landowners, letters were sent out to landowners last week (May 4-8); they are also working to develop a community HFR project.**

Upcoming events

- Indian Valley Firewise Community Meeting on May 18, 6pm, Greenville Town Hall
- CFLR Community meeting in Portola on May 20th, 6 pm, Portola Library
- Wildfire Training, May 30, Chester
- California Resource Conservation District Forest Stewardship Committee field trip to Genesee Valley, June 18

Adjourn, next meeting June 11, 2015