

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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www.plumasfiresafe.org

Meeting Notes

Thursday June 12, 2014 - 9:00 am.

Plumas County
Planning & Building Services Conference Room
555 Main Street – Quincy, CA

Board of Directors

Mike De Lasaux, Chair (14)
Chuck Bowman, Vice Chair (15)
Mike Callaghan, Sect/Treasurer (14)
Jim Hamblin (15)
Deb Bumpus (15)
Shane Vargas (14)
Jerry Sipe (14)

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 Corp 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.”

2014 Goals:

- Implement and amend as necessary the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP),
- Increase public knowledge and awareness of wildland fire hazard and inform the public about efforts that can be made to reduce their vulnerability,
- Increase community-based involvement and develop additional Firewise Communities,
- 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 options and community chipping options.

1. Welcome & Introductions-- Mike De Lasaux
2. Review Agenda--Mike De Lasaux **Sue McCourt-motion to approve, Mike Callaghan second**
3. Review meeting notes--Mike De Lasaux **Jim Hamblin-motion to approve, Chuck Bowman second**
4. Public Comments--Mike De Lasaux
5. Discussion of potential PC FSC funding sources-Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux
Nils discusses upcoming funding opportunities:
 - ~\$10 million in state budget for fire prevention activities
 - ~\$12 million from Cap and Trade Program
 - PG&E Fire prevention program update, Nils will submit proposal to PG&E on Friday afternoon
6. UCCE Master Gardener Presentation-Cody Reed
Cody presented to the Council on the Master Gardener Program. They just graduated 22 students from the program. There is an interest for a collaborative effort where students from the program

would like to help to educate Plumas County residents on Defensible Space, Firewise gardening and appropriate plant selection. Each student must complete 55 hours of community service in order to complete the program. A joint effort could compliment both the Master Gardener group as well as the PC FSC. During the discussion the group agreed that the development of outreach materials in coordination with the FSC, UCCE, USFS, CAL FIRE would be a good start. There was also a discussion of raffling off Firesafe plants, hand tools and plant guides at community events.

7. Air Quality/Smoke Management resources and education campaign-Don Gasser

Don Gasser summarized his findings on the potential for a smoke reduction education campaign. Don visited the Regional Air Quality Resource Board and found forms that are used to specify fuel loads—Big Picture BURN DRY FUELS! FRC would like to revive their Forestry program. Don has decided to back away from a class/workshop on smoke management but would like to contribute to an info sheet to distribute locally. A discussion followed:

Claude Sanders discussed the challenges of having dry fuels during the burning window. He also discussed how pine needles need air to burn, he recommends that folks keep some coarse fuels on hand if trying to burn pine needles.

Ryab Bauer recommended that it is good to have a separate pile of pine needles that you feed onto the burn pile a little at a time. He went on to say that public education is important, that not all smoke is bad.

Cody Reed recommended that composting of biomass is an effective method that reduces air pollution, but this method requires diligent maintenance.

Mike Callaghan recommended that the PC FSC develops a grant to acquire a chipper that can travel county wide to reduce pile burning. **Ryan Bauer** said that the USFS may be able to enter into a cooperative agreement on such a venture to supply chipper and crew.

Roy Carter of Greenhorn Creek said that his community has a chipper that is available to residents and that they have a community burn pile. They would consider having a large scale chipper come to the burn pile in order to reduce the large volume of biomass that accumulates there.

8. Status update of Current Grants. (Refer to Grant Summary Sheets) – Nils Lunder

- A. PC FSC 09-1- Community HFR Planning & Project Development – These funds are used to develop new HFR projects especially by the RPF
- B. PC FSC 10-7 –Stevens 2010- In-kind, C Road– RPF is working with landowners, new contracts have been sent out, hope to treat ~7 acres in Whitehawk with remaining funds. We hope to have a prospectus out by late June.
- C. PC FSC 11-1, 11-3- PC FSC Council Coordination 2012-2013 & 2014-2015– These funds are being used to fund the coordinator position.
- D. PC FSC 11-2 –Stevens 2011– 200 acres of Soper-Wheeler lands in 3 areas – FSC is working to reinvigorate this project.
- E. PC FSC 11-4 – RAC – La Porte Rd II HFR (partial) 75 acres –These funds will be applied to the Cutler Meadows project, PC FSC hopes to have a prospectus out by the end of June.
- F. PC FSC 12-1 –Stevens 2012 – 698 acres of Soper-Wheeler, GL&W, & BNRR lands FSC is working to reinvigorate this project, NEPA is waiting on Archeology docs from Danielle Banchio. This is on the Beckworth Ranger District.
- G. PC FSC 12-2 – Cal Fire Prop 40 – La Porte Rd. II HFR- 172 Acres All thinning is complete, some burning will be done in the winter.
- H. PC FSC 12-3 – SNC Prop 84 – La Porte Rd. II HFR- 172 Acres, Mastication is under way and will be done in early July.
- I. PC FSC 13-1 - CA FSC Clearinghouse - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance These funds are being used to implement HFR work for the clients of the Sr/Disabled program
- J. PC FSC 13-2– Greenhorn CSD -Firewise Communities USA & CWPP Development Completed Community Assessment, in process of developing Firewise application, board of directors will be voting to approve the assessment in mid June.

- K. PC FSC 13-3 – RAC - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance—Used for treatment costs for the Sr/Disabled program (McCourt/Gimbel)
- L. PC FSC 13-4 – RAC – Crescent Grade II. HFR-68 acres Field tour with contractors was held on May 19. Bids received last week.
- M. PC FSC 13-5 – RAC - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project Funds to develop a proposal for a county-wide forest restoration plan, FSC has facilitated two meetings with leadership from the PNF, next meeting is scheduled for June 24.
- N. PC FSC 13-6 – Title III - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance —Used for coordination of the Sr/Disabled program (McCourt/Gimbel)
- O. PC FSC 14-1 – Stevens 2014 -West Quincy Highway 70 – HFR 75 acres—More outreach to landowners is needed, PC FSC will develop a targeted mailing to residents on Blackhawk Road, West Chandler Road.

Updates

1. Plumas County OES activities-Sue McCourt/Jerry Sipe Sue McCourt presented on the progress of the County effort to purchase an Air Curtain Destroyer. The Board of Supervisors approved the proposal and now the Planning Department is analyzing the project. There will be a 30 day comment period. The current proposed site is on the Feather River Disposal property near the Fair Grounds. Money for this purchase will come through the Department of Public Works. It is a temporary solution to the current air quality/PRC 4291 dilemma that residents are facing.

Meadow Valley Drill: One of the major accomplishments was the reverse 911 system which contacted 151 homes in two hours. Approximately half of the homes in Meadow Valley did not have a land line. There were some difficulties with the exercise including communications between participants. There were approximately 170 participants, 13 fire departments participated. There will be a follow up meeting on Thursday June 19 at 7pm in Meadow Valley.

2. Implementation of the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and update of local Firewise Community activities – Nils Lunder, Sue McCourt, Mike Callahan, Chuck Bowman **Chuck Bowman** has put together a 2 page article on Defensible Space that will be featured in the Graeagle Property Owners Association Newsletter. The Graeagle Fire District will be hosting a Firewise day on Saturday June 21 from 0900-1200. They will be working on the homes of two widows in their community.

Mike Callaghan reported that Gold Mountain will be having a Firewise day on June 28. During this event Deer Creek Resources will be presenting on their community fire modeling project. The public is invited to attend this event.

Nils Lunder presented on the Grizzly Ranch Firewise educational event, he also announced that Indian Falls is interested in increased engagement with the PC FSC and perhaps Firewise. Greenhorn is making progress on their Firewise efforts. Bailey Creek is also interested in learning more about becoming a Firewise Community.

3. CAL FIRE Lassen, Modoc, Plumas Fire Plan Update; Plumas County update-Shane Vargas, CAL FIRE Shane did not attend the meeting, **Nils Lunder** shared with the group about the Indian Valley CAL FIRE inspection meeting that he attended. **Claude Sanders** shared with the group about the Sloat CAL FIRE inspection meeting. At both meetings there were some angry citizens that Shane was able to reassure that CAL FIRE was not going to issue citations. Some residents were concerned that if they did not allow inspectors onto their property, then CAL FIRE would not respond to a fire on that property. Shane reassured that this was not the case.
4. CalFire SRA Fee update– Mike Callaghan PC FSC does not support the SRA, but if \$ is being collected in Plumas County, then we need to ensure that these funds are used in the County of Origin. The PC FSC will work to ensure that projects are included in the LMU Fire Plan. State legislators passed this fee; CAL FIRE did not request the fee but are following orders to implement the SRA fee.

John Rowden said: The state must make changes with consideration of how state operations actually work.

Mike DeLasaux: Since Plumas and Sierra Counties are different from other Counties in California (considerable lack of CAL FIRE presence) we need to build a healthy relationship with the new unit chief that will replace Jeff Young (July1). He went on to share two different scenarios.

1. All SRA \$ is sent to the CAL FIRE Unit where it was collected and that unit allocates those funds (this requires a thorough and updated Unit Plan)
2. All SRA \$ is sent to the County of Origin, and the county allocates the funds to local groups that are working to serve the needs of the residents in that county.

Mike Callaghan: The Board of Forestry cannot issue grants according to the state treasurer.

Claude Sanders: “How do we identify a group that will give us answers?”

The discussion ended with John Rowden offering to help the PC FSC navigate within the state buracracy. Mike Callaghan will supply John Rowden with relevant materials.

5. Senior/Disabled Program Update-Mike McCourt/Rob Gimbel Mike McCourt is now the official coordinator of this program. By the end of June there will be 6 groups of clients that have been served. 67 acres will have been treated by that time. Approximately \$20,000 remains in the CA FSC grant, ~\$34,500 has been spent, ~\$7,500 in co-pays have been collected. We will need to come up with ~\$11,000 in matching funds in order to meet our obligations to the CA FSC. The PC FSC still needs to determine if we will be treating annual clients. The SPI mill will not accept pine needles. If \$ from the RAC comes, then we will need to re-visit our criteria for the program (annual clients, \$1,500 cap, compliance with PRC 4291. Rob Gimbel served as the coordinator of this program for many years and has been training Mike McCourt for the past month.
6. PC FSC GIS Presentation-Nils Lunder Nils had to postpone this presentation until the July meeting due to technical difficulties.
7. Next Meeting July 10, 2014