

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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www.plumasfiresafe.org

Meeting Note Guide

Thursday July 10, 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; **Approved by Claude Sanders, 2nd Sue McCourt**
3. Review meeting notes--Mike De Lasaux; **Approved by Jim Hamblin, 2nd Mike Callaghan**
4. Public Comments--Mike De Lasaux; **Ed Harrison brought his concern over Cedars are dying, yellowing. Mike D shared a paper by Danny Kluk from the LNF, Nils sent this out to our emailing list. Claude Sanders recommends that landowners give the cedars time to recover, he has observed cedars bounce back from drought stress in the past.**
5. Discussion of potential PC FSC funding sources-Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux
Nils and Mike D attended a meeting in Chico with FSC from N. Cal, CAL FIRE and CA FSC in order to push to ensure that the State supports FSC coordination. At that meeting Dave Shew of CAL FIRE announced: a one-time appropriation of \$10 million of SRA \$ will be available for

projects within the SRA only. Of this, no \$ will be available for salaries, most \$ will be available through the CA FSC grants clearing house.

--Cap/Trade-\$42 million will be available in 2014-2015 in support of Firesafe programs, projects (C-sequestration, healthy forests, HFR, etc). These projects will be grant funded with established criteria with certain restrictions. They will need well documented success stories to share with decision makers-politicians.

--PG&E Fire prevention program-Nils has applied for funding for three projects, he is hopeful that all three will get funding. If so, two of the Council's existing projects will receive additional funding, this will allow us to treat additional acres in the Cutler Meadows area and the Indian Valley.

--2015 WUI Grants Program-Nils submitted a proposal for this funding source. The proposal includes money for street and house signs for local fire districts; funding for outreach materials and a fire safe landscape program; and funding for extensive roadside thinning along county roads.

--AB 2766-The Regional Air Quality Management Board has a funding source that may be available for a community chipping program. This funding is designed to incentivize a reduction in miles travelled by folks who are trying to dispose of green waste materials.

--Title III-Plumas County BOS announced that they would be accepting proposals for another round of Title III funding. The PC FSC developed and submitted a proposal that would fund the coordinator to continue to work to engage communities and landowners by educating them about the importance of fuel reduction work and steps that can be taken to reduce the potential for property loss resulting from wildfires.

6. UCCE Master Gardner Program-Nils Lunder--We are working on the development of a program that integrates MG and FSC, most recently we included this in a proposal for the 2015 Western Region WUI Grant Program.

7. Greenwaste Disposal Update-Nils Lunder—**AIR CURTAIN UPDATE:**

The Special Use Permit hearing was approved by the Zoning Administrator on July 2nd.

The Air curtain burner should be here mid July.

The air quality permit has been obtained from the NSAQMD.

An amended SWPPP was submitted to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The County is developing an MOU with Feather River disposal, the attendant job description and the fee nexus.

8. Status update of Current Grants– 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 July.**
- 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 July.**
- F. PC FSC 12-1 –Stevens 2012 – 698 acres of Soper-Wheeler, GL&W, & BNRRL lands -- **FSC is working to reinvigorate this project, NEPA is waiting on Archeology docs from Danielle Banchio and she is working on getting them submitted by mid July. 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 completed in 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, Nils will represent the Council at their Firewise Day on July 26.**
- K. PC FSC 13-3 – RAC - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance—**Recently received notice from the USFS that additional funds will be allocated to support this program, in the process of modifying our agreement.**
- L. PC FSC 13-4 – RAC – Crescent Grade II. HFR-68 acres—**Hand work began in late June, a small crew is working on properties along High View Drive, mastication is set to begin in September**
- M. PC FSC 13-5 – RAC - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project—**PC FSC will be advertising for a coordinator for this project soon, will be developing a new website that will be featured on the FSC web space, community meetings will take place in the fall. Additional funds were allocated to this project recently.**
- N. PC FSC 13-6 – Title III - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance –**Used for coordination of the Sr/Disabled program**
- O. PC FSC 14-1 – Stevens 2014 -West Quincy Highway 70 – HFR 60+acres—**Paper work has been submitted to USFS, outreach to landowners along Blackhawk Road and other adjoining properties.**

Updates

1. Plumas County OES activities-Sue McCourt/Jerry Sipe-**Sue McCourt is working closely with the community of Mohawk Vista to develop an evacuation plan. She has coordinated an educational event to be held in Portola on the 29th of July. Sue discussed the Service Agreements that are being drawn up between landowners in Mohawk Vista and the Graeagle Fire Protection District. She also discussed an event to be held at the Graeagle Fire Station that addresses the concept of Stand and Protect, vs. Cut and Run.**
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 **Greenhorn-Community Assessment has been completed and will be submitted to the Greenhorn CSD board for review. The CSD board of directors is also the Greenhorn Firewise Committee. Now they will submit a Firewise application to the Ca Fire Safe Council. They are planning a Firewise Day on the 26th of July.**
Gold Mountain-Firewise Day was held on June 28 in conjunction with annual Home Owners meeting. Deer Creek Resources presented on their hazardous fuels assessment. They presented a map that showed all parcels in the community, the map also prioritized each parcel for fuel reduction work. The community is working on a project to treat approximately 13 acres that are owned by the community. Mike Callagahan commented on how that Firewise gains traction over time, that it is a process that slowly changes the mentality of the community.
Graeagle Fire Protection District-This Firewise community consists of 6 different communities. They recently received a Firewise Communities USA sign recognizing 5 years of excellent work. The Graeagle Property Association is interested in developing a hazardous fuel reduction project. USAA Insurance recently dropped rates for some residents in the region from (\$2200 down to \$600).

Mohawk Meadows-5 inspections were made by members of the Graeagle Fire Department Valley Ranch-May contract with Deer Creek Resources to analyze fuels within their community.

Whitehawk- A recent house fire here illustrated the importance of maintenance within the Home Ignition Zone. The neighboring property had recently performed yard maintenance and as a result the home was not destroyed by the fire. There was a Firewise demonstration day there from 0900-1200, two demonstration projects were completed and approximately 35 volunteers pitched in.

Nils is scheduled to present to the Plumas County BOS on progress that is being made Countywide by the PC FSC.

Sue is working on a project to help Mohawk Vista to take steps towards becoming Firewise. Nils and Sue are working with Grizzly Ranch to schedule a Community Assessment.

3. CalFire Lassen, Modoc, Plumas Fire Plan Update; Plumas County update-Shane Vargas, CalFire
4. SRA Fire Prevention Benefit Funds for Plumas County update– Mike Callaghan

There will be a one-time grant process funded by the SRA \$.

\$48 Million is being held in a fund in anticipation of a major lawsuit with the Howard Jarvis Tax Payers Foundation.

\$50 Million has been infused to the Ca. Board of Forestry to make up for money that was not allocated from the general fund.

\$4.5 Million has been allocated to the CCC

5. Senior/Disabled Program Update-Mike McCourt-**The program has treated 37 home owners and there are approximately 3 additional properties that are ready for treatment. Mike presented to the PC Fire Chiefs Association and has been active with his outreach efforts. He has received positive feedback on the work that Firestorm has been doing.**
6. Fire District Updates-Charles Plopper, Fred Salvato—**This citizen based project has been completed. Reports have been submitted to OES and the Plumas County BOS. There is a list of all parcels in the county and which parcels are covered by which fire protection district. Approximately 19.8% of all parcels in the county are not in fire protection districts.**
7. PC FSC GIS Presentation-Nils Lunder did a brief presentation on **Geographic Information Systems and how he is using GIS as a tool for the coordination of the PC FSC**
8. Next Meeting August 14, 2014
9. Adjournment