

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 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-- Mike De Lasaux **MOTION, CLAUDE SANDERS, SECOND JIM HAMBLIN, MOTION MOVED UNANIMOUSLY**
3. Review Meeting Minutes-- Mike De Lasaux **MOTION, CLAUDE SANDERS, SECOND MIKE CALLAGAHAN, MOTION MOVED UNANIMOUSLY**
4. Public Comments--**NONE**
5. Discussion of potential PC FSC funding sources, upcoming opportunities--Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux **NILS SUMMARIZED THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 1**

OPPORTUNITY AND MENTIONED THAT THE FEATHER RIVER STEWARDSHIP COALITION GROUP MAY BE PURSUING FUNDS FROM THAT SOURCE.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL INQUIRED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER PG&E GRANT PROGRAM THIS YEAR. NILS WILL INQUIRE WITH HIS CONTACTS AT PG&E REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM THAT SOURCE. A COMMUNITY CHIPPING PROGRAM IS GREATLY NEEDED.

NILS ALSO DISCUSSED THE WESTERN WUI GRANT PROGRAM WHICH HAS A CALL FOR PROPOSALS OPEN NOW, THAT OPPORTUNITY WILL CLOSE ON JULY 31. SCOTT ROSKIEWIEZ FROM CAL FIRE RECENTLY SENT AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO NILS REGARDING THIS. THE PC FSC APPLIED FOR FUNDS IN 2014 AND HAS NOT HEARD IF THEY WERE AWARDED, SCOTT WILL INQUIRE WITHIN HIS ORGANIZATION. MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED THAT THE PC FSC UPDATES THEIR 2014 APPLICATION AND RESUBMITTS BEFORE THE DEADLINE.

SCOTT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT CAL FIRE WILL BE AWARDING ~\$5 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS SUPPORTED BY THE SRA FEE THIS YEAR. ALSO, THE FUELS REDUCTION PORTION OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS FUNDS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR, THE STATE LEGISLATURE IS REVIEWING THE PROGRAM AND FUNDS HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOCATED IN THE STATE GENERAL FUND.

6. Status update of Current Grants– Nils Lunder

- A. PC FSC 10-7 –Stevens 2010- In-kind, C Road, Whitehawk–WHITEHAWK IS COMPLETED, SARA RECOMMENDS THAT THE PC FSC PURCHASES A SIGN TO INSTALL ALONG HIGHWAY 89 TO SHOWCASE THE EFFORT. PROSPECTUS FOR C ROAD WILL BE SENT OUT ONCE ALL LANDOWNER CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. MIKE D RECOMMENDS THAT WE SET A FINAL DATE IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE PROJECT TO MOVE FORWARD.**
- B. PC FSC 11-3- PC FSC Council Coordination 2014-2015–ON GOING**
- C. PC FSC 11-2 –Stevens 2011– 200 acres of Soper-Wheeler lands in 3 areas – THE PC FSC HAS MET WITH SOPER AND ARE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE USFS TO CLARIFY PROJECT DETAILS. PROJECT SHOULD BE APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY SEPTEMBER**
- D. PC FSC 11-4 – RAC – Cutler Meadow/La Porte Rd II HFR (partial) 75 acres –AWAITING DECISION MEMO, PCFSC HAS SENT INFO TO USFS; USFS HAS RECENTLY ASKED FOR SPATIAL DATA**
- E. PC FSC 12-3 – SNC Prop 84 – La Porte Rd. II HFR- 172 Acres, GRANT HAS BEEN EXTENDED IN ORDER TO BURN REMAINING PILES THIS FALL/WINTER, THEN THE GRANT WILL BE COMPLETED**
- F. PC FSC 12-1 –Stevens 2012 – 698 acres of Soper-Wheeler, GL&W, & BNRR lands PC FSC HAS MET WITH LANDOWNERS AND IS AWAITING CLARIFICATION FROM THE USFS BEFORE WE MOVE FORWARD**
 - a. REGARDING THE EAST QUINCY PROJECT, A PROJECT INITIATION NOTIFICATION WILL BE AWARDED, NO NEW DECISION MEMO WILL BE NEEDED ON THAT PROJECT**
- G. PC FSC 14-1 – Stevens 2014 -West Quincy Highway 70 – HFR 65 acres RPF HAS SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH LANDOWNERS, IS IN THE PROCESS OF LAYING OUT THE PROJECT. ONCE THE PROJECT IS LAID OUT, THEN THE**

RPF WILL DEVELOP INFORMATION FOR THE DECISION MEMO AND WILL SUBMIT TO THE MT. HOUGH RANGER DISTRICT

- H. PC FSC 13-4 – RAC – Crescent Grade II. HFR-68 acres PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, WILL ROLL REMAINING FUNDS INTO THE NEXT PROJECT IN THE INDIAN VALLEY**
- I. PC FSC 13-5 – RAC - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project FIELD TRIP TO LAKES BASIN AREA WAS HELD ON JUNE 27, ALMOST READY TO VOTE ON MISSION, VISION AND NAME. NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CHESTER ON JULY 23RD AT THE ALMANOR RECREATION CENTER**
- J. PC FSC 13-3 – RAC - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance FIRST ROUND OF PROJECTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, SOME MORE MAY OCCUR THIS SEASON DEPENDING ON THE NEED AND INTEREST FROM LANDOWNERS**
- K. PC FSC 13-2– Greenhorn CSD -Firewise Communities USA & CWPP Development NILS WILL BE COORDINATING WITH GREENHORN RESIDENTS TO MEET AND BEGIN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A CWPP**
- L. PC FSC 13-6 – Title III - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance –Coordinator MIKE MCCOURT--We have completed 44 properties from the original contract. We have another 2 to complete; those are for people that signed up after the contract was awarded to High Sierra Fire. The 2 properties should be done within a week. Mike will be extending the contract ending date until August 31, 2015 to take care of any other people that contact us needing assistance. Last year we had several people needing assistance after our contract expired and we were unable to get anyone with the proper credentials to do the work. This was partly due to a busy fire season and partly due to the requirements to be licensed and insured. Mike thinks that this is a good way to handle this as the original expiration date will get the original properties finished in a timely manner and this will give extra time for the “late comers” to be taken care of. High Sierra Fire has agreed to this extension and should be able to do the work for a few more that may be requesting assistance.**
- M. PC FSC 13-7—SRA funded American Valley Project—Landowners are interested, PCFSC is compiling names and property owners and will be coordinating initial site visits with the RPF in July/August**

New Business

1. Discussion and action regarding the PC FSC policy on the prioritization of future HFR projects in the region— Mike De Lasaux **THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED HOW A PROJECT PRIORITIZATION SYSTEM COULD BE USED TO RANK FUTURE PROJECTS IN THE COUNTY. RATHER THAN READING THROUGH THE LIST THAT WAS GENERATED DURING THE JUNE COUNCIL MEETING, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE GROUP SHOULD PERSONALLY REVIEW THE LIST, REFINE THE ITEMS AND RANK THEM.**

THERE WAS CONCERN AMONG THE COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT IF A PROCESS IS DEVELOPED TO PRIORITIZE PROJECTS, THAT IT COULD LIMIT THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS IN THE COUNTY. MIKE CALLAHAN EXPLAINED WHY HE INTITATED THE PROCESS AND TOOK RESPONSIBILTY FOR MOVING THE PROCESS FORWARD. THE COUNCIL WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS TOPIC AT THE AUGUST MEETING.

Updates

1. Plumas County OES update-**Sue has been developing Evacuation maps for the following communities: Warner Valley, Butterfly Valley, C-Road, Red Dirt Road and Johnsville.**
2. Plumas County green waste disposal update-**The County will be working to separate woody and non woody waste. In Q, non woody will go to transfer station; woody will be burned in air curtain burner. In Chester, all will be accepted at transfer station and will be sorted there; woody will be burned on site, although the NSAQMD may have some input on this concept. At the Chester Transfer station burning may occur in a trench burner, however, the use of electric fans and other technologies will be considered to ensure more complete combustion.**
3. CAL FIRE Update-**Scott R. Cap and Trade funds are under review by the state legislature, ~\$5 million will be available for the 2016 SRA grant program (1/2 of the amount awarded in 2015)**
4. USFS Hazardous Fuel Reduction Update-**Weather has been cooperating and allowing work to be completed on the Forest. \$1.3 million has been awarded to projects on the Beckwourth RD that will fund service contracts. Funds have also been allocated to do both stewardship and timber sales on the Keddie Project. Also at Bucks Lake, a stewardship project is close to being implemented, the project will continue for a number of years.**
5. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District update-**Some residents have been approaching Julie and the NSAQMD about funding to provide health and safety upgrades to their homes.**
6. Other HFR updates-**PC FSC is working with the Maidu Cultural Development Group (MCDG) to do outreach to landowners in the Williams/Pecks area in Indian Valley. Public meeting occurred on Tuesday July 7 at the Roundhouse Council in Greenville.**
7. Implementation of the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), fuel reduction projects, local Firewise Community activities, community events-**THE COUNCIL IS FACILITATING FORWARD PROGRESS ON THE SOPER EAST QUINCY PROJECT WHICH TIES IN WITH THE SRA FUNDED AMERICAN VALLEY PROJECT; HIGHWAY 70 IS BEING DEVELOPD BY THE RPF; THE COUNCIL HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM THE MOHAWK VISTA AREA AND WILL BE DEVELOPING A PROJECT PROPOSAL THERE; WILL ALSO BE WORKING WITH GREENHORN TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN CWP.**

GOLD MOUNTAIN--WORK IS CONTINUING TO THIN HIGH PRIORITY PROPERTIES (ESPECIALLY IN HIGH RISK AREAS). THEIR HOA HAS BEEN ENFORCING THEIR NEW FUELS REDUCTION ORDINANCE AND ARE HAVING GOOD SUCCESS WITH LANDOWNER PARTICIPATION. THEY HAD A FIREWISE DAY ON JULY 6 THAT FOCUSED ON SURVIVING WILDFIRE AND WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS, SUE MCCOURT WAS A PRESENTER DURING THE EVENT. TO DATE THEY HAVE COMPLETED 15 ACRES OF HAND THIN AND CHIPPING, 75 ACRES OF MASTICATION, AND THEY WILL COMPLETE 4 ROUNDS OF THEIR CURB SIDE CHIPPING PROGRAM IN 2015.

Upcoming events

CFLR MEETING ON JULY 23 IN CHESTER.

DELIVERABLES FOR NILS:

- ENSURE THAT PROJECT SUMMARIES ARE developed FOR ALL PROJECTS AND THAT THEY ARE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE
- INQUIRE WITH PG&E ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR 2015
- RE-PACKAGE WESTERN STATES WUI PROPOSAL AND RE-SUBMIT
- UPDATE GRANT SPREADSHEET TO INCLUDE DATE OF LAST UPDATE AND EXPIRATION OF/AWARD DATE OF THE FUNDING SOURCE

Adjourn, next meeting August 13, 2015