

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



P.O. Box 1225 - Quincy, CA 95971

530 283-0829

www.plumasfiresafe.org

Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 14, 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 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.”

2014 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,
- Increase community-based involvement in fuels reduction and develop 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 options and community chipping options.

1. Welcome & Introductions--Mike De Lasaux
2. Review Agenda--Mike De Lasaux **Nils proposed adding a discussion of the Sierra County Resolution to the agenda, it was added to 1. in Updates. Motion to approve-Jim Hamblin, Second Claude Sanders**
3. Review meeting notes--Mike De Lasaux **Motion to approve-Jim Hamblin, Second Claude Sanders**
4. Public Comments--Mike De Lasaux

Rob Gimbel commented that he is tired of seeing the NO TRESPASSING, KEEP OUT signs around the county and that he hopes that some SRA \$ will come into the county in order to reduce the anger of residents about this fee. He inquired about \$ from SRA fees that may be coming into the county soon.

Jerry Hurley spoke to recognize the efforts of the members of the Council that have been so committed to the work of the Council during his time as the Coordinator (since 1998), he said that their efforts helped the group to achieve their goals.

Claude Sanders shared that he had heard that there are reports of major declines in Bark Beetle populations in Nevada, he wanted to hear if any other people had heard this statistic. There was also an inquiry in the timeline for implementation of the new Air Curtain Burner.

5. Discussion of potential PC FSC funding sources--Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux Cap/Trade, SRA \$, Lumber Tax, PG&E Fire prevention program, 2015 WUI Grants Program Nils shared with the group that the Council had been asked if they would act as a fiscal sponsor for an Aerial Survey effort in the north state. A discussion followed: It was recommended that the Council gets existing contracts from CAL FIRE/USFS/ Private Industrial Landowners to use as a template for our contract. It was agreed that this type of project is in alignment with the mission of the Council. A motion was made by **Don Gasser** to develop this contract process, **Jim Hamblin** seconded the motion. The council voted on this and all were in approval except for one abstention (**Claude Sanders**).

John Rowden brought up the FEMA HGBP program and discussed the potential for the Council to apply for the Hazard Mitigation Program.

Nils Lunder provided an update on the Title III situation with the County BOS. Nils attended the BOS meeting on Tuesday August 12 and answered questions about the work of the Council and how it ties in with the focus of the Title III funds. Total applications for the Title III funds exceeded available funding by over \$100,000. Since the Council currently has funding for the next few years and because we were asking for funding for future years, the BOS allocated funding to the other applicants. However, there is approximately \$70,000 in un-spent funds that will be most likely allocated to the Council in the future. Nils will work with the BOS to follow up on this process and will keep the Council posted as this process unfolds.

6. Green waste Disposal Update—Nils Lunder

A discussion on Green waste Disposal occurred. The Loyalton Biomass plant has been pursued by Plumas Rural Sevices (PRS) for a number of years, recently an outside group has taken on this project and PRS may receive a percentage of revenue from operations in the future.

The County hopes to have the Air Curtain Burner functional by mid September.

Nils updated the Council on the PG&E fuels reduction/fire prevention chipping program. This will be a resource for landowners who want to dispose of their yard waste.

7. Status update of Current Grants– Nils Lunder

- A. PC FSC 09-1- Community HFR Planning & Project Development -
- B. PC FSC 10-7 –Stevens 2010- In-kind, C Road–
- C. PC FSC 11-1, 11-3- PC FSC Council Coordination 2012-2013 & 2014-2015–
- D. PC FSC 11-2 –Stevens 2011– 200 acres of Soper-Wheeler lands in 3 areas –
- E. PC FSC 11-4 – RAC – La Porte Rd II HFR (partial) 75 acres –
- F. PC FSC 12-1 –Stevens 2012 – 698 acres of Soper-Wheeler, GL&W, & BNRR lands
- G. PC FSC 12-2 – Cal Fire Prop 40 – La Porte Rd. II HFR- 172 Acres
- H. PC FSC 12-3 – SNC Prop 84 – La Porte Rd. II HFR- 172 Acres
- I. PC FSC 13-1 - CA FSC Clearinghouse - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance
- J. PC FSC 13-2– Greenhorn CSD -Firewise Communities USA & CWPP Development
- K. PC FSC 13-3 – RAC - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance
- L. PC FSC 13-4 – RAC – Crescent Grade II. HFR-68 acres

- M. PC FSC 13-5 – RAC - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project
- N. PC FSC 13-6 – Title III - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance –Coordinator
- O. PC FSC 14-1 – Stevens 2014 -West Quincy Highway 70 – HFR 75 acres

Updates

1. Plumas County OES activities with drought and wildfire- Jerry Sipe
Jerry Sipe provided updates regarding the status of drought activities: surface water curtailment (affecting springs, post 1914 water rights). Lake Davis water is increasingly unavailable for Portola, this is causing a local emergency because their domestic water wells are high in Arsenic and they have already lost access to their spring water source and have used their allocation from the State Water Project.
Jerry also said that the drought is making less water available to communities and that some communities are not keeping their water tanks full, this may cause issues with their ability to respond to fire.
Nils Lunder briefed the group on the Sierra County BOS resolution regarding the condition of our forests. Nils had sent the document to all Board members. Nils read the resolutions to the Council and a discussion followed. Paul Roen had asked Nils to seek a letter of support from the Council. Jerry Hurley recommended that a reference to public health be included in the language of the resolution. Mike DeLasaux made a motion to approve a letter of support for Sierra County. Jerry Sipe seconded the motion. The Council voted in support of this motion, except for Claude Sanders who abstained. Nils will develop a draft letter of support and will send it to the Council for edits and approval before it is sent to the Sierra County BOS.
2. Implementation of the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and update of local Firewise Community activities – Nils Lunder, Mike Callahan, Chuck Bowman, Roy Carter
Nils Lunder reported to the group that he and Sue McCourt had met with board members of the Grizzly Ranch HOA and had toured the community. Nils is working to schedule a community assessment with Grizzly Ranch with OES, CAL FIRE, the USFS and local Fire Departments for early September. Nils also told the group that a similar community assessment with Mohawk Visa is scheduled for September 4.
Chuck Bowman has been working to conduct Home Ignition Zone consultations throughout the Graeagle Fire Protection District; he attended an ember awareness event with Plumas County OES on behalf of the Council in Portola that was poorly attended.
Mike Callaghan reported that Gold Mountain received a final report from Deer Creek Resources that included a community fuels assessment, a prioritization of properties that need treatments and fire modeling imagery. Gold Mountain is in the process of developing fuels management criteria for their community.
Roy Carter updated the Council on Firewise activities in Greenhorn Ranch; he thanked Nils Lunder, Sue McCourt and Mike McCourt for speaking at their annual Firewise BBQ. The HOA will be voting to approve their community assessment at their August meeting and then will be submitting their Firewise application to the CA Fire Safe Council.
3. CAL FIRE Lassen, Modoc, Plumas Fire Plan Update; Plumas County update-Shane Vargas, CAL FIRE
Shane did not attend the meeting, Dave Junette was there. He urged us to ensure that the LMU plan keeps up to date and that it reflects the updates made to our CWPP.
4. SRA Fire Prevention Benefit Funds for Plumas County update– Mike Callaghan
5. Landscape scale fire and fuels analysis of the Mt. Hough Ranger District and planned fuels reduction projects-David Kinader, Fire Ecologist

