

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 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 **Jim Hamblin, motion; Don Gasser, second, approved**
3. Review Meeting Minutes-- Mike De Lasaux **Jerry Sipe, motion; Chuck Bowman, second, approved**
4. Public Comments--**None**
5. Discussion of potential PC FSC funding sources, upcoming opportunities--Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux **Discussion included talk of the SNC proposal that was submitted in late August. The proposal requested \$500,000 to implement fuel reduction work on USFS lands near Round Valley Reservoir and Lake Davis. Opportunities through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

as well as the Wildlife Conservation Board are available, but the PC FSC was not in a position to develop proposals for those funding sources due to a limited capacity and the short lead time between the release of the grant guidelines and the due date for completed proposals.

6. Status update of Current Grants– Nils Lunder

- A. PC FSC 10-7 –Stevens 2010- In-kind, C Road-- **C-Road project was held up by a lengthy landowner contract process. A pre-bid tour will occur on September 14. The project will treat approximately 9 acres.**
- B. PC FSC 11-3- PC FSC Council Coordination 2015–2016-- **This funding covers the ongoing efforts of the Council coordinator. Nils has developed a proposal for the Council in order to request additional funds to facilitate the efforts of the Council and will submit the proposal to the PC BOS as soon as final edits are made by the Board, proposals are due September 15.**
- C. PC FSC 11-2 –Stevens 2011– 200 acres of Soper-Wheeler lands in 3 areas – **Nils provided an update to the group on the Soper projects. Near Lee Summit mastication will occur when the operator will be available, the Dyer Tree Farm property (near Mt. Hough Ranger District) will be treated in 2016 as a portion of the Highway 70 project.**
- D. PC FSC 11-4 – RAC – Cutler Meadow/La Porte Rd II HFR (partial) 75 acres – **This project is awaiting a Decision Memo. Nils organized a productive meeting between members of the Council (Coordinator, Forester) and members of the USFS (District Ranger, Deputy District Ranger, and Fuels) to discuss this process and to look ahead a future projects in an attempt to identify ways of making the process more effective and efficient.**
- E. PC FSC 12-3 – SNC Prop 84 – La Porte Rd. II HFR- 172 Acres **Grant has been extended by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in order to allow for the burning of additional piles. Once piles have been burned the grant will be closed.**
- F. PC FSC 12-1 –Stevens 2012 – 698 acres of Soper-Wheeler, GL&W, & BNRRL lands Nils provided an update on Soper (East Quincy property will be masticated this fall when the operator is available); Graeagle Land and Water will possibly use the funds to chip biomass and offset the cost of hauling materials to Honey Lake Power; Nils hopes to perform outreach to landowners along the East Shore of Lake Almanor along the Burlington Northern Rail Road in October.
- G. PC FSC 14-1 – Stevens 2014 -West Quincy Highway 70 – HFR 65 acres **PC FSC Forester has met with landowners, forester is in the process of laying out the project. They will be developing NEPA materials this fall/winter and the goal is to implement in late 2016/2017.**
- H. PC FSC 13-4 – RAC – Crescent Grade II. HFR-68 acres **Project has been completed and any remaining funds will be used to develop additional projects in the Indian Valley area.**
- I. PC FSC 13-5 – RAC - Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project **The new name of the group is the Feather River Stewardship Coalition. The August meeting occurred in Quincy and the September meeting occurred in Portola. A mission, Vision and charter are being finalized. The group submitted a proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The funds would be used to implement previously planned fuel reduction projects on public lands in Plumas County.**
- J. PC FSC 13-3 – RAC - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance **The first round of projects as been completed, the contract with High Sierra Fire has been extended in order to accommodate any latecomers to the process. 48 properties were treated in 2015 and approximately 2/3 of those were repeat clients; approximately \$55,000 remains for future treatments.**
- K. PC FSC 13-2– Greenhorn CSD -Firewise Communities USA & CWPP Development Nils has scheduled a meeting with members of the community, with the fire chief and other

partners to discuss next steps for this process. That meeting will take place on September 10th.

- L. **PC FSC 13-6 – Title III - Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance –Coordinator These funds are nearly expended. The Council will be developing a proposal to the Title III funds that will be available this fall. The goal is to seek sufficient funds to run the program for 2 years. Nils and Mike McCourt worked together to complete the application.**
- M. **PC FSC 13-7—SRA funded American Valley Project—~100 acres have been assessed, the RPF will develop a phase 1 that will be implemented in 2016. All other interested landowners will be placed into the phase 2 of the project and will received treatment in late 2016/spring 2017. This fall the RPF will work to develop the Negative Declaration documents in order to complete CEQA for the entire project.**

New Business

- 1. **Discussion and action regarding the PC FSC policy on the prioritization check list for future HFR projects in the region—Mike De Lasaux The group reviewed the updated list and then decided to table the discussion until Mike Callaghan returned.**
- 2. **Discussion and action regarding landowner implementation of HFR work on their lands; developing a policy to allow landowners to perform their own HFR work and get compensated to do so—Nils Lunder, Mike De Lasaux Plumas Corporation has no interest in allowing landowners to perform work on their own land using grant funds, the liability and tax implications of such activities expose them to risk. CAL FIRE does not have a favorable feeling about this either. Claude Sanders recommended that if this were a path that the PC FSC chose to pursue, that the CAL FIRE CFIP program could provide the group with a working template on how to do so. Only one landowner in the American Valley Project is a Licensed Timber Operator, if that person chooses to place a bid on the entire project, and if he is awarded the contract, then he can be paid to treat his land. If this is a barrier to his involvement in the project, then perhaps the NRCS is a better option for that landowner.**

Updates

- 1. **Plumas County OES update- Sue McCourt and the OES have finished their map book that contains 17 maps for Plumas County communities. A total of 75 of these have been distributed thus far. All maps are available on line and are also available with Avenza PDF maps. Sue has participated in an open house hosted by the C-Road community and the Eastern Plumas Fire District. She also has been working with Butterfly Valley where they are developing evacuation maps and plans, the community is pursuing becoming Firewise and a Firewise assessment is being planned for mid-October.**
- 2. **Plumas County green waste disposal update-Plumas County is encouraging residents to bring non woody greenwaste to the Feather River Disposal transfer station in East Quincy. They are subsidizing disposal there and on Tuesdays and Saturdays users can dispose of appropriate greenwaste for ½ price (\$5/yard).**
- 3. **CAL FIRE Update-Greenhouse Gas Proposals are still being reviewed in Sacramento. Funds for the program for the 2015/2016 have been pulled from the budget. SRA funds will be available for projects and proposals will be accepted in January.**

4. **USFS Hazardous Fuel Reduction Update- This year the PNF has treated 9,606 acres of fuels. The total number of treated acres is lower than usual and that is partially due to deferred timber sales that were planned but not sold during the fiscal year, those sales will occur in 2016. Also the PNF has entered into a collaborative agreement with the Feather River Land Trust to do more under burning on public and private lands there as conditions permit.**
5. **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District update-Julie Ruiz was not present to provide updates.**
6. **Other HFR updates-The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reported that there is a landowner in the Hamilton Branch area that will be receiving assistance with fuel reduction. The NRCS would like to keep options open to have the PC FSC tie that property into a larger community fuel break along the north side of the Hamilton Branch community.**
7. **Implementation of the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), fuel reduction projects, local Firewise Community activities, community events-**
 - **Grizzly Ranch had their first Firewise activity day on September 5. 25 homeowners participated, zero landowners participated. The Beckwourth Fire District presented; the lot by lot analysis performed by Deer Creek Resources was reviewed, an a group of volunteers removed ladder fuels and other forest biomass on property owned by the Grizzly Ranch Golf Course.**
 - **Plumas Eureka Estates also had a Firewise activity day on September 5.**
 - **Whitehawk Ranch is planning an event on October 16 where volunteers will be clearing vegetation at the entrance of their community. CAL TRANS has been very supportive of the effort and have been able to issue an encroachment permit necessary to perform the work.**
 - **The Lake Almanor Country Club Firewise Committee has been working with the PC FSC and PC OES to begin to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for their community.**
 - **The American Valley project is rapidly developing, the requests for assistance continue to come in and there will be more acres requested then funds available to treat those acres.**
 - **Greenhorn Firewise Committee will be meeting with PC FSC and PC OES to begin the development of their Community Wildfire Protection Plan.**
 - **Residents in Genesee Woods are eager to have Firewise consultations; a Firewise Assessment is currently being developed by the PC FSC following a field visit there in late August.**

Upcoming events

Adjourn, next meeting October 8, 2015