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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 13th, 2023 - 9:00 am.
50 Church Street, Quincy

Board of Directors

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair , John Reynolds Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair , Sally McGowan Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary/Treasurer Mike Flanigan, Insurance (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Smailes Firewise (23)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser RPF (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Pangburn CAL FIRE (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bowman Firewise (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Tompkins UCCE (23)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Kogge Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Hall Feather River RCD (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tracey Ferguson Plumas County Planning (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Hunter NSAQMD (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Bauer USFS PNF (22)

Mission Statement: “To reduce the loss of natural resources and human values caused by wildfire through Firewise community programs and pre-fire activities.”

5-Year Strategic Plan

Program Strategy: Expand existing programs and establish additional projects:

1. Leverage and expand partnerships
2. Sustainably increase staffing
3. Establish robust monitoring systems & metrics
4. Increase public engagement
5. Develop County-wide community fuels and threat mapping assessment

Funding Strategy: Target sustainable annual budget increase of 20%:

1. Continue to produce competitive grant proposals that are based on funder’s objectives.
2. Pursue approaches for non-competitive funding which reduce administration while increasing long term benefits.
3. Leverage charitable donations to increase public outreach, education, and participation.
4. Continue to pursue potential revenue-generating activities utilizing woody material.

Leadership Strategy: Ensure strong and functional systems are in place to facilitate ongoing organizational capacity:

1. Maintain a Board of Directors with strategically recruited membership.
2. Continue partnership with Plumas Corporation as fiscal agent.

9:00am Board Meeting

Roll Call

Approve Agenda

Motion: Jonathan Pangburn, Second: Chuck Bowman

June Consent Agenda

1. May Financials

Mike Flanigan provided an update. The finance team wrote up a plan to invest the PGE money. It is Mr. Flanigan's opinion that PCFSC is in a healthy financial position. The financials have not changed very much since last month.

2. Status of Grant Budgets

There are no new updates.

3. Status of Potential Projects & Grant Opportunities

The QWIP project was approved by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Ryan Bauer included that the Forest Service executed the Lakes Basin modification.

4. June Board Meeting Minutes

No comments on the June Board Meeting Minutes.

Approve consent agenda

Motion: Mike Flannigan, Second: Sally McGowan

New Business

1. Review and Approve: FY23/24 Annual Budget

Hannah Hepner provided an update, explaining last years' budget predictions vs. outcomes. Personnel was almost exactly as predicted. Operational costs were not as exact because there are more mutable variables in those expenses. In total, PCFSC spent about 30% of what was initially anticipated for the entire budget. Ms. Hepner provided financial updates on each large project, explaining funds that were not spent and funds that will be moved to this years' budget.

The PGE funds being actively spent are reflected in the presented budget, but not the investment strategy.

Don Gasser asked if PCFSC needs to be advertising to more foresters and contractors. Ms. Hepner responded, explaining that not all foresters/operators have the capacity for PCFSC's type of projects. Jon Reynolds asked if grant timelines are jeopardized because of a lack of forester/operator assistance. Ms. Hepner explained that this is possible, but PCFSC employees are working to avoid this.

Don Gasser asked if it would be beneficial to the PCFSC to hire a registered professional forester as a staff member. Ms. Hepner responded by affirming this is a valuable option and explained that PCFSC currently has one employee who is close to receiving their registered professional forester license.

Jonathan Pangburn asked if the 10 million in expenses are allocated from current grants that will be spent in the next fiscal year, including the catch-up from the projects that were not fully implemented last year. Ms. Hepner confirmed that this is true.

Motion: Ryan Bauer, Second: Trina Cunningham

Roll Call Vote

John Reynolds – aye

Mike Flannigan - aye

Don Gasser – aye

Ron Heinbockel - aye

Jonathan Pangburn – abstain

Michael Hall - aye

Sally McGowan – aye

Joe Smailes – aye

Chuck Bowman – aye

Kathy Kogge – aye

Ryan Bauer – aye

Trina Cunningham – aye

Program Updates

1. Home Site Visits & CaFSC Updates – Liam Galleher

- Compared to all counties in California, Plumas is in the **91st** percentile of wildfire risk to homes and the **95th** percentile of wildfire likelihood. This demonstrates the need for personal consultation and outreach in Plumas County.
- Mr. Galleher shared the story of Joy and Hugh Brown, whose property survived the Dixie Fire in Greenville. They had been doing wildfire mitigation on their property for years prior to the fire, and stand as an example of the power of personal responsibility.
- PCFSC partners with the software company, Fire Aside to run the Fire Safe Home Visit program.
 - Easy, interactive, personalized reports to help residents prioritize hazard mitigation
 - Consistent updates
 - Active, face-to-face education
- Home visits are conducted by trained Fire Safe Council staff and volunteer Plumas County residents. These consultations are considered “Peer-to-Peer” to uphold a spirit of open, fire-safe communication between Plumas residents; in no way is this program meant to “inspect” or “assess” homes.
- Mr. Galleher provided some examples of the “resident report,” an online interactive report of potential hazards identified on one’s property.
- Within 4 months of conducting this program last year:
 - 694 Unique Discoveries
 - 117 Residents received personal, face to face education
 - 71 Unique Home Visits
 - 2 Community-Wide events led with the DSI software

- 9 Other Fire Safe Councils are adopting PCFSC's Home Hardening/Defensible Space home visit protocol.
- Notable statistics out of homes visited in Plumas County:
 - 77% of homes had vegetation in zone zero
 - 72% of homes had trees overhanging structures
 - 71% of homes had exposed space underneath their deck
 - 71% of homes had trees that required limbing
 - 68% of homes had unenclosed eaves
 - 57% of homes required additional spacing between their trees
- To sign up for a fire safe home visit, visit the PCFSC website, or contact Liam at Liam@plumasfiresafe.org or 530-927-5339.

Adjourned