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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

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

Board of Directors

<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bowman Firewise (23)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracey Ferguson Plumas County Planning (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Hunter NSAQMD (24)	<input 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: Ryan Tompkins, Second: Michael Hall

Consent Agenda

1. January Financials

Mike Flanigan has formed a financial committee to work on improving the Fire Safe Council's detailed financials. The committee is dedicated to identifying financial anomalies in the PCFSC budget by developing a new protocol for monitoring expenses. He said that the committee is also exploring the most productive avenues for investing PCFSC PG&E funds, aiming to make a 3-million-dollar investment. They also propose hiring a new staff member with these funds. Overall, this committee is hoping to bring brevity to the presentation of the financials.

John Breaux started a conversation about the rules regarding the treatment of investment income. Mr. Breaux does the accounting for PCFSC and Plumas Corp. He mentioned that PCFSC would not have any trouble utilizing those funds to hire another staff member, but other investments may be tricky because we should not have any residuals – tax considerations make this nonoptimal.

Mr. Flanigan mentioned that at the committee has discussed these concerns, and their goal is to be within the rules but maximize return.

Hannah Hepner drew attention to the proposed recommendations for the PG&E funding, stating that PCFSC will realistically be investing substantially less than \$3 million depending on how those funds are utilized in the short term.

John Breaux spoke on behalf of the Breaux Group, which does the accounting for PCFSC. He acknowledged concerns that the Breaux Group is a private foundation, and stated that this indicates no risk to PCFSC or Plumas Corp. Scott Corey clarified the relationship between Plumas Corp and PCFSC. Plumas Corp is not contracted by PCFSC – Plumas Corp is the fiscal agent of PCFSC. Mr. Breaux stated the details of this relationship are disclosed during accounting protocols.

3. Status of Grant Budgets

Ms. Hepner explained the difference between the PCFSC tracking sheet and the financials sheet. The grant tracking sheet contains timelines, grant cycles, and expiration dates, unlike PCFSC financial documents. Ms. Hepner asked the board how the sheet can be improved and what would be most useful.

Mr. Flanigan asked about leftover funds after a grant is over, and how that might be reflected on the grant sheet. Ms. Hepner explained that, depending on the grantor, PCFSC has 30-90 days to submit the final invoices after a grant period is over. If the grant tracking sheet shows funds after the grant period is over, it is likely that the financial processing hasn't caught up to the expenditures. However, if there are leftover funds that were unable to be used by the end of a given grant period, PCFSC no longer has access to those funds.

3. Status of Potential Projects & Grant Opportunities

Ms. Hepner went through the list of potential projects and provided updates. The Community Wildfire Defense Grant awardees had yet to be announced – the Hazardous Fuels Assessment will have more substantial updates once PCFSC hears word on that grant. Matt West submitted a project to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, which is pending approval from their board – the final vote will be in June. The

Woods Product Infrastructure Proposal was submitted for Phase 1 of the planned firewood processing facility. Word on the status of the Phase 1 proposal should come soon.

4. February Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Jonathan Pangburn, Second: Chuck Bowman

Don Gasser – aye
Jonathan Pangburn – aye
Michael Hall - aye
Sally McGowan – aye
Mike Flanigan – aye
Joe Smailes – aye
Chuck Bowman – aye
Ron Heimbockle – aye
Kathy Kogge – aye
Tracey Ferguson – aye

Abstain: Ryan Tompkins

Absent: Julie Hunter, Trina Cunningham, John Reynolds, Ryan Bauer

New Business

No new business to cover this month.

Project Updates

Tommy Brenzovich, the Mitigation Assistance Program manager for PCFSC, gave an update on the potential Home Hardening Incentive Program.

Mr. Brenzovich began his presentation by explaining the goals of PCFSC. He explained each assistance opportunity and how they reinforce the PCFSC mission. A Home Hardening Incentive Program is a vital assistance opportunity that is currently missing. “Home hardening addresses the most vulnerable components of your house with building materials and installation techniques that increase resistance to heat, flames, and embers.” In 2020, Plumas County revised the Plumas County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which will be helpful while coordinating the Home Hardening Incentive Program. The overall goal is to outreach, educate, provide technical assistance, and provide financial assistance for home hardening.

Phase 1: outreach, education, and technical expertise.

Phase 1 will consist of developing technical expertise in HIZ assessment and home hardening best practices, designing programs in collaboration with the PCFSC County Coordinator, engaging partners (PCFSC, local fire departments, planning/building department, Plumas County OES, UC Cooperative Extension, and other Fire Safe Councils), and developing/distributing outreach materials. Phase 1 will also consist of site visits with homeowners, photo monitoring, and the development of individual homeowner plans. Based on the findings in Phase 1, PCFSC will develop a short list of enhancements available during the pilot phase with a larger list to be implemented later.

Phase 2: Retrofit Pilot Program

Phase 2 will consist of developing a home hardening implementation pilot, developing contract templates and prospectus, determining costs share thresholds, executing contracts, overseeing contractor operations, and inspecting work & post-treatment photo monitoring. Phase 2 will ultimately leverage the success of the pilot program to secure funding so the program can include complex modifications, such as replacing combustible siding, replacing roofs, or installing double-paned windows with tempered glass.

In order to participate in the program, participants must agree to maintain any modifications. This program is intended to target homeowners who already exhibit a sincere interest in wildfire preparedness and fire safety. Another audience to consider for this program would be those residents that would be considered disadvantaged due to age, disability, income, or lack of transportation. Local contractors and vendors should be used, when possible, for services and supplies.

After Mr. Brenzovich's presentation, Ryan Tompkins proposes organizing a workshop for the local professionals who would be doing this home-hardening work. Mr. Tompkins insists that these contractors are going to be the front lines of home hardening outreach, and organizing a workshop for the local workforce would demonstrate PCFSC support.

Tracey Ferguson comments on the long-term recovery plan process that is being conducted in Plumas County. A home hardening incentive program is one option for funds that the county is looking into. As of now, there is a notice of interest from California OES for the HMGP: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This would entail some sort of home-hardening assistance. The NOI's are out now and due May 10th. Ms. Ferguson asked if PCFSC could create a proposal by then, or if they should plan for a future HMGP.

Jonathan Pangburn expressed concerns about liability. Mr. Pangburn recommended substantial training for those individuals who will be enacting the Home Hardening Incentive program. Mr. Pangburn also suggested hiring an attorney to look at the Home Hardening Incentive program once it is finalized.

Mr. Pangburn commented on utilizing PCFSC PG&E funds. He stated that if PCFSC were to invest a bulk of those funds, the interest from that investment would allow the creation of multiple programs in perpetuity, rather than spending all the money at once on one or two programs.

Future Agenda Topics

April – Logan will be sharing potential prescribed fire module updates.

May – Rachel will be reviewing the Hazardous Fuel Reduction process.

June – Liam will be discussing Home Site Visits, as well as an update from the California Fire Safe Council.

July – Matt will be talking about the QWIP project and PCFSC's involvement in the Forest Service Protect Project.

Adjourned