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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 8th, 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 type="checkbox"/> Secretary/Treasurer Mike Flanigan, Insurance (23)	<input 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 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 checked="" 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

June Consent Agenda

1. April Financials
The PCFSC board will approve the annual budget in the July meeting.

2. Status of Grant Budgets

There are no significant 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. May Board Meeting Minutes

Approve consent agenda

Motion: Jonathan Pangburn, Second: Joe Smailes

New Business

1. Board Member Handbook

The new Board Member Handbook outlines PCFSC structure, history, and the relationship between PCFSC and Plumas Corp.

John Reynolds led a conversation about conflict of interest for PCFSC board members. The previous conflict of interest statement indicated a board member could not do work for PCFSC, but the new policy states board members can do work for PCFSC, but there are certain steps that must be approved by the board.

Joe Smailes requested that the new Board Member Handbook becomes published on the PCFSC website. Review the PCFSC Board Member Handbook [online](#) for more information.

PG&E Settlement Strategy

John Reynolds reviewed the new PG&E Settlement Strategy. Mr. Reynolds explained that intent is for funds to be secure and insured.

- \$250,000 – In 3-month (or less) products with the highest return. To be reinvested every 3 months until advised by the Board or Program Director.
- \$3,829,285 – In 12-month (or less) products with the highest return. To be reinvested every 12 months until advised by the Board or Program Director.
- \$315,000 – Remains at Plumas Bank for immediate use on the startup of the firewood processing plant.
- \$500,000 – Remains at Plumas Bank for a future Professional Services Reserve Fund.
- \$105,715 – The amount already spent on projects such as the Wisewood study, last year's chipping program, and the Living with Fire handout.

Motion: Chuck Bowman, Second: Sally McGowan

Roll Call Vote

John Reynolds - aye

Don Gasser – aye

Jonathan Pangburn – aye

Michael Hall - aye

Sally McGowan – aye

Joe Smailes – aye

Chuck Bowman – aye

Kathy Kogge – aye

Tracey Ferguson – aye

Julie Hunter – aye

Ryan Bauer – aye

Mike Flanigan – absent

Ryan Tompkins – absent

Trina Cunningham – absent

Ron Heinbockel - absent

Program Updates

1. HFR Process and Cost Share – Hannah Hepner/Rachel Wehrman

There are multiple steps and long processes for the Hazardous Fuel Reduction (HFR) program. The intent of this presentation is to give the HFR protocol clarity.

Once applications are received, PCFSC can either add them to an existing application or begin planning a new project.

When PCFSC has a project, the first step is hiring an RPF to do layout and the necessary surveys. These timelines are long because of the sheer amount of people in these projects, but PCFSC sends updates throughout the process. Ms. Hepner shared that is a goal to send more updates.

In general, PCFSC develops project budgets before any bids are received. Budgets are based off the participants' total parcel size. When using a low bid process, the result can be longer timelines.

Once surveys are complete a planning document is required.

The more acreage a landowner has, the lower cost share per acre. The raw initial amount is \$250 for one acre, but as acreage increases, price decreases to \$125 per acre.

Michael Hall suggests utilizing the state's VMP (Vegetation Management Program) to make the use of prescribed fire on post-HFR landscapes more accessible.

Sally McGowan suggested that the Cost Share process be added to the new Board Member Handbook.

Don Gasser inquired about landowner preferences; are landowners able to voice preferences such as species composition or treatment type? Ms. Hepner responded that the primary treatments are typically mastication, chipping, or removal, but in some cases burn piles are constructed due to factors such as accessibility or slope. Landowners can communicate preferences, but it is the RPF's determination what treatment is most appropriate.

For more information on the HFR program, review the planning documents [online](#).

Adjourned