

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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Meeting Notes Meeting – February 12, 2003, 9:00 am. Quincy Fire Department

OLD BUSINESS

1. Opening/Introductions- Mike De Lasaux
2. Next meeting: **March 12, 2003 At Quincy Fire Station #1.**
3. Review/Approve minutes from 1/8/03 meeting. **Chuck Thayer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. John Gay seconded, and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.**
4. Update progress of 501 (c) 3 application process. –Jerry Hurley
 - a. Applications to IRS (employer ID and 501 c3) & FTB **Awaiting Response from IRS.**
5. Grants Management-
 - A. Product Value recovered in HFR grant funded projects – Mike De Lasaux
Extensive discussion on the content of the “Guiding Principal Statement” with regards to how much a landowner should contribute towards a HFR project if they have sufficient merchantable material to generate revenue and still be encouraged to treat their lands to the desired standard. The first motion dealt with whether or not to have landowner contributions separate for the planning, harvesting and cleanup steps of the operation, or have a cost share for the whole operation. Richard Cox made a motion to keep the cost sharing separate. Chuck Thayer seconded the motion. After discussion, it carried by a unanimous vote.

Discussion then centered on the wording on page 2, lines 1-32. Changes were suggested, discussed, made and finally agreed to. Generally the Council expects landowners who have a commercial product on their lands to pay out of any revenues generated; 1) 50% of the RPF’s cost, 2) the cost of harvesting, and 3) up to 50% of the residue treatment

to meet PC FSC's standard, of flame lengths less than 3-4 feet, which is beyond what is required by California Forest Practice Rules. Following the revised wording David Hawks made a motion to accept the "Guiding Principal Statement" for HFR cost sharing and Commercial Timber value, as amended. Richard Cox seconded, and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mike Then presented examples of maximum cost-share rates for HFR work on private lands. His information contained rates used by Yuba and Sierra Counties, NRCS and CDF. Jim Graham made a motion to adopt Sierra County's maximum cost per acre rates for treatments, with no minimum landowner contribution, and that they be subject to revision as we learn more about the cost of performing HFR in Plumas County. Dennis Miller seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Landowner Agreements & Liability Insurance – Mike De Lasaux
Mike, John Sheehan, Brian Wayland and Barbara Snelling, PC Deputy County Counsel, met on 2/11/03 to develop an agreement between Plumas County and the Landowner for funding HFR projects on private lands to protect the County and the Landowner. They will report back next month. The Council's desire is to provide assistance to landowners in the planning and accomplishment of HFR.

6. Status update of Current Grants. (Refer to Grant Summary Sheet)

A. PC FSC 01-1— Homeowner Consultation & Education-Jerry Hurley
This project is finishing up, work on the final report and compiling of the collected data is in progress. Additional GPS data is being collected in the County. Wildfire Evacuation Assembly Area signs are being ordered for posting at the sites identified in the community evacuation plans.

B. PC FSC 01-2– Fire Safe Council Coordination –Jerry Hurley
Progress is continuing. A number of grant proposals/applications were prepared last month, along with quarterly accomplishment report. Work is continuing on the display board. A Firewise workshop is scheduled in Graeagle on 3/20/03.

C. PC FSC 02-1 & 02-2 - 100 Acre HFR Demonstration– Brian Wayland
No change in parcel selections. Brian is obtaining a list of available contractors that the Plumas NF uses for these types of projects. He is also working with other on the landowner agreement (Item 5. B.). When the agreement is complete, he will work with the respective landowners.

D. PC FSC. 02- 3 - Countywide GIS – Dennis Miller

Members of the Council and the participating County departments attended a presentation by representatives of Calveras and Amador Counties, on how they developed their countywide GIS. John McMorrow requested a copy of Calveras County's Request for Proposals, will tailor it to Plumas County and solicit bids.

- E. PC FSC. 02- 4 - Homeowner Consultations – Jerry Hurley
Consultation training for the new departments is scheduled for 3/1/03. Parcel maps have been developed to identify where consultations will be offered, so outreach letters can be sent out. Still awaiting a change of fiscal sponsors from Plumas County to Plumas Corporation, so contracts can be let.
- F. PC FSC. 02- 5 - HFR Strategy & Assessment – John Sheehan
John, Craig Carter, Mike and Jerry have developed the project description and scope of work. John should be sending the Requests for Proposals out within the next two weeks.
- G. PC FSC. 02- 6 - Council Display Material – Sue McCourt
John Gay handed out an action plan developed by the publications and display committee. They intend to design a progressive education campaign to prevent wildfires by targeting home clearances and safe debris burning. The committee is targeting both local residents and absentee property owners. They have plans for brochures, posters, PSA's, press releases, nursery displays and video distributions.

A discussion ensued on the concern with terminology of Survivable versus Defensible. Defensible is the term that FSC's have been using and to change to survivable is a matter of semantics that won't matter to homeowners' education. The focus of the material will be on the structure, and encourage homeowners to make their homes survive the passing of a wildfire. There is no intent to send a message that residents should attempt to stay and survive themselves in their homes.

- H. PC FSC. 02- 7 & 8 - Plumas Eureka HFR –John Gay
Beckwourth District Ranger Angie Dillingham, has scheduled archeological and wildlife surveys to begin occurring, so treatment can be accomplished by late summer.
- I. PC FSC. 02- 9 – NSAQMD Chipping in lieu of burning –Jerry Hurley
Jerry was contacted by George Ozanich, NSAQMD in Quincy, regarding the use of these funds for a landowner to chip slash on his parcel. There are currently no plans for PC FSC to have a countywide chipping program. When the Council agreed to request the funds in December the intent was to apply them towards HFR projects where chipping could be applied in lieu of burning, or to help support community chipping projects. Jim Graham made a motion to put the dollars towards existing demonstration

and future HFR projects. Richard Cox seconded, and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

- 7 Grants Submitted & Planned– John Sheehan/Mike De Lasaux/Jerry Hurley/Max Bishop
All the grant requests listed below have been sent off to the respective grantors for consideration. For more information, consult the *Grant Summaries*.
- A. 02-BoS-6 – Outreach Delleker/Portola HFR 125 acres
 - B. 02-RAC-4 & 02-BoS -7 - Graeagle Fuelbreak 200 acres
 - C. 02-RAC-5 & 02-BoS -8 - Indian Falls HFR 50 acres
 - D. 02-RAC-6 & 02-BoS -9 - Camp Layman HFR 50 acres
 - E. 02-RAC-7 & 02-BoS -10 - Cromberg HFR 350 acres
 - F. 02-RAC-8 & 02-BoS -11 – Quincy HFR 17 Acres
 - G. 02-RAC-9 & 02-BoS -12 - Elderly/Disabled Defensible Space Grant
 - H. 03-FS-1 - 350 Hazardous Fuel Reduction – FS Community Protection Program
 - I. 03 FS-2 & 03 BoS-1 - FSC Coordination, and Project Development – FS EAP CY03
 - J. 03 SRF-1 - FSC Coordination – FS Backup CY03
 - K. 03 SRF-2 - Localized ROGEN
 - L. 03 SRF-3 - FSC Coordination CY04
8. HFQLG –HFR project overview/relation to communities Opportunities - John Gay.
Project mapping integration involving US FS, CDF and Fire Safe Council. Establish a standing committee?
A subcommittee of Mike, Brian Wayland, Dennis Miller, David Hawks, Jim Crane, will get together to insure compatibility of GIS information that is being developed by the Council, County and Plumas NF.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CY 2003 Council Goals- David Hawks
David asked that the Council review their goals for 2003. Richard Cox made a motion we keep our 2002 goals as our 2003 goals as they are still appropriate. Chuck Thayer seconded the motion, and after discussion it was carried by a unanimous vote.

2003 Annual Goals:

- Increase public knowledge and awareness of the wildland fire hazard and efforts they can make to reduce their threat,
- Develop more community-based involvement,
- Implement community hazardous fuel reduction demonstration projects,
- Develop guidelines for selection criteria for hazardous fuel treatment projects,
- Complete Community Defense Zone mapping and program planning – public& private (industrial & nonindustrial),
- Continue to pursue grant funds,

2. Plumas Co Portion of Butte RU Fire Plan – David Hawks

David will work with Jerry to update Plumas County's portion of the Butte Ranger Unit Fire Plan

3. Fuel Reduction Grants Natural Resources Conservation Service – Dan Martine
Dan was not able to attend. Drop from Agenda.
4. Letter to Representatives regarding National Fire Plan funding - Frank. Stewart -
Frank was not able to attend. Drop from Agenda.
5. John Radke, UC Berkeley course to provide assistance with County Hazardous Fuel Assessment and Strategy Project (tentative) - **Frank was not able to attend. Drop from Agenda.**

The meeting concluded at 12:05 pm.