



 P.O. BOX 1225
QUINCY, CA 95971

 418 N MILL CREEK RD
QUINCY, CA 95971

 (530)927-5294
PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 12th, 2023 - 9:00 am.

50 Church Street, Quincy

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83771016244>

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 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 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 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.

10:00am Membership Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions – John Reynolds
2. Review Agenda – No changes
3. Approve December Meeting Minutes

Motion - Kathy Kogge; Second - Sally McGowan

4. Presentation of Certificates of Recognition to: None
5. Public Comment: Jeff Greef shared that Professor Brian Jackson from North Carolina State University will visit Plumas County to study western wood species for wood product use. Feb 15th - 18th. Professor Jackson will have a speaking engagement and present at the next PCFSC meeting.
6. Board Comment: none

New Business

1. Final Report from the Board Nomination Committee – John Reynolds, Kathy Kogge, Sally McGowan

Returning:

Don Gasser

Trina Cunningham

Ryan Bauer

Ron Heinbockle

New members:

Jonathan Pangburn

Julie Hunter

2. Election and Seating of PCFSC Board of Directors – **None opposed**

3. Election of Board Officers – Reynolds

Chuck Bowman nominates John Reynolds for Chair.

Kathy Kogge - aye

Mike Flanigan - aye

Don Gasser - aye

Sally McGowan - aye

Trina Cunningham - aye

Chuck Bowman - aye

Ryan Tompkins - aye

Michael Hall - aye

Tracey Ferguson - aye

Ryan Bauer - aye

Julie Hunter - aye

Ron Heinbockle - aye

Joe Smailes – aye

Jonathan Pangburn – not present

John Reynolds nominates Sally McGowan as Vice Chair.

Kathy Kogge - aye

Mike Flanigan - aye

Don Gasser - aye
Trina Cunningham - aye
Chuck Bowman - aye
Ryan Tompkins - aye
Michael Hall - aye
Tracey Ferguson - aye
Ryan Bauer - aye
Julie Hunter – aye
Jonathan Pangburn – not present

John Reynolds nominates Mike Flanigan as Secretary/Treasurer

Kathy Kogge - aye
Don Gasser - aye
Sally McGowan - aye
Trina Cunningham - aye
Chuck Bowman - aye
Ryan Tompkins - aye
Michael Hall - aye
Tracey Ferguson - aye
Ryan Bauer - aye
Julie Hunter – aye

Jonathan Pangburn – not present

4. Annual Summary – Hannah Hepner

- Average Attendance at PCFSC Meetings: 37 (+4 from 2021)
- Number of Employees: 8 (+3 from 2021)
- Acres Treated: 977.2 (-978.5 from 2021)
- Chipping Locations: 300 (No change)
- Cubic Yards Chipped: 3,390 (+490 from 2021)
- Defensible Space Clients: 198 (+37 from 2021)
- TREX trainees: 82 (+31 from 2021)
- PUC Burns: 20 (+9 from 2021)

Old Business

None

Updates

1. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: John Reynolds reported on behalf of Jonathan Pangburn and shared that the CAL FIRE will be hosting a Fire Hazard Severity Zone meeting for SRA on January 17th @ 6pm at the Plumas County Fairgrounds in the Mineral Building.
Captain Steve Clement shared that he will be taking over Alan Thornhill's position for the next 6 months. The Prevention Bureau is hiring 4 Defensible Space Inspectors.
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD): Michael Hall shared that through the CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grant, a site preparation crew will be hired. There are two returning crew members and 3 new crew members. This crew will be able to work throughout the county. The RCD has multiple projects in the works and the workforce to accomplish work, but is struggling to find the tools to accomplish work. The RCD is not permitted to burn and is limited to chipping, but does not own a tracked chipper. Because of this, the RCD is debating between contracted work and in-house employees and tools. The RCD attracts 10 seasonal employees via FRC programs and 2 of these employees usually choose to live in Plumas County long term. With hand thin work not being bid by contractors, a consistent in-house crew allows for work to be accomplished more quickly. The Department of Conservation is working with RCDs to secure equipment. The RCD will be purchasing a large format printer to be shared with PCFSC/Plumas Corp.
Joe Smailes asked if contractors are not responding to bids. Mr. Hall answered that contractors are not bidding on small acre hand thin work.
Jeff Greef asked why the RCD cannot burn. Mr. Hall answered that the RCD cannot take on the liability and is not equipped to burn.
Mike Callaghan asked if the RCD is involved in outreach for the Hazardous Fuels Assessment. Mr. Hall replied no, Miles Brook's projects are separate from Zeke Lunder's Hazardous Fuels Assessment.
Ron Heinbokle asked what the RCD needs to complete work. Mr. Hall replied that a tracked chipper that can take 16in diameter logs and a trailer to haul it would open a lot of doors.
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: Mr. Hall informed the group that FRSC will be meeting Wednesday 18th at 1:00pm.
- Feather River College : Jon Dvorak shared that FRC is pursuing funding for thinning and burning in FRC land and will be all student-involved. Some of these students will go on to work for the FRRCD. FRC is waiting for Bachelors Program approval. FRC is offering a new course in fire ecology and will be outdoor based.
- Firewise Communities: Beth Rouse shared that the next Firewise Leads meeting will be Jan 18th at 6:00pm.
Joe Smailes shared that Seneca Firewise will be working with Canyon Dam on Firewise projects. Mr. Reynolds asked how close Canyon Dam is to Seneca Firewise. Mr. Smailes answered 5 miles.
- Industry – Timber: Not present
- Industry – Insurance: Mike Flanigan shared that availability and affordability is slim. The DFC meeting last month was well attended and PCFSC work is valuable. Visibility and promotion of FSC work is crucial in terms of influencing the insurance industry.
- Industry – Utilities: Not present
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Ben McNally shared that the first phase of EQIP application (35) will be ranked in March. NRCS will fund those selected in April/May.

Logan Krahenbuhl asked how many EQIP projects are completed per year. Mr. McNally replied that it depends on the size of projects.

- Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District: Julie Hunter shared that Portola has been re-designated from moderate nonattainment to serious nonattainment. A state implementation plan (SIP) will be written. Two actions went into effect immediately: wood stove curtailment period through April instead of March and the curtailment will be called at a threshold for 20 micrograms per cubic meter of PM 2.5 instead of 30 micrograms. The rule will be effective January 30th 2023. July 30th 2024 is the deadline for the Serious SIP to be completed. NSQAMD will add additional control measures that will be approved by CARB and the EPA. The EPA proposed new PM standards for 9 or 10 micrograms per meter cubed. There are 62 counties that will not meet the standard of 9 micrograms. The EPA hosted a call to discuss wood stove curtailment certification. The EPA improperly certified stoves that went into circulation that were not approved to meet air quality standards. Public comment will be available.

Gary Parque asked what the brand names of the stoves that were improperly approved. Ms. Hunter replied that she will follow up.

Matt West asked if the new rules for Portola's Serious Nonattainment will only affect Portola boundaries. Ms. Hunter replied yes. Quincy may not have met the standard either. More to come.

- Plumas Corp: Scott Corey shared that Plumas Corp interviewing for a new Project Manager on the watershed side. Regarding the \$1.3 million in the PCFSC budget, these funds have not been accrued, but in cash terms, the money is in the account.
- Plumas Audubon Society: Not present
- Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association: Mr. Heinbockle shared that he has recently retired as Meadow Valley Fire Chief. This council needs to have a Plumas Fire Chief representative. The Association is looking for someone to take Ron's place. The desire to be a fire chief is low. Not many people are interested. Association meeting to come.
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): Pam Courtright shared that 100% of debris removal in Greenville is done. Toxic material clean up is done for the season and will wait for dry weather to continue. Zonehaven has been implemented and will be advertised soon. The Zonehaven system is ready to be used and is compatible with CodeRED. Zonehaven will offer consistent information. Plumas County OES is keeping a close eye on the Dixie Fire Burn scar in terms of flooding. Nothing has met the threshold for emergency levels. 41 counties have declared a disaster due to flooding. Lori Beatly from Public Health was sent to Sacramento EOC to help with Response, Recovery, and Planning. PCFSC presented at the Dixie Fire Collaborative meeting alongside Mike Flanigan and Richard Stockton. Greenville has been interested in becoming a Firewise community. Plumas County OES is revamping the disaster service program for workers to receive additional training. Working with Public Health to bring back the amateur radio program in case of emergencies. Public Health AFM program has created a committee that has recruited experts to represent vulnerable populations in case of disasters.
- Plumas County Planning Department: Tracey Ferguson shared that pertinent information regarding the CAL FIRE FHSZ meeting is posted on the County's planning homepage. Plumas has 437,000 acres in the SRA. An additional 2,625 acres were added to the SRA. Overall, 81% of Plumas County's

acreage is in the Very High category. California State Insurance Commissioner rolled out the Safer From Wildfire program and more information is to come.

John Sheehan asked which state agency would allocate funds for home hardening incentives. Ms. Hepner replied that currently FEMA and State OES have funds. There are pilot projects beginning in other counties.

- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Not present
- Tree Mortality Update: None
- Tribal Representatives: Trina Cunningham shared that MSC is looking at workforce development for recovery work and thinning projects. MSC is continuing logging with SPI on Maidu Lands and logs are still valuable. MSC expresses thanks for being included on the PCFSC board. MSC will be hiring for tribal project monitoring. A three person crew is available now for project monitoring.
- UC Cooperative Extension: Ryan Tompkins shared that a free webinar on pile burning will be available later this month and a field day will follow. Plumas Sierra UCCE has hired a new staff research assistant and will introduce them at the next PCFSC meeting.

Mr. Greef asked what the Post Fire Resilience grant will cover. Mr. Tompkins answered that UCCE received a USFS grant to do education and outreach to landowners across the state who have been impacted by wildfire. Thanks to FRRCD for leading the EFRT pilot project. There are similar programs available for the Caldor Fire and the Tamarack Fire. Part of these pilot project's goals are to develop a staff of researchers to look at the effects of ecological, economic, and social impacts wildfire has had on non-industrial private lands.

- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Ryan Bauer shared that funding for fuels and forest health work was approved by Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation and the inflation reduction act is ready to be implemented. A formal announcement will come soon. Awards to come at the end of this month. This funding will primarily surround the Community Protect Projects. PNF is planning public meetings for each project and public comment will be available by the end of February. PNF is currently pursuing an emergency situation determination to move a part of the project forward without an objection period. This will accelerate the progress of the project around critical areas. PNF will not be hiring fuels crews. However, a major fuels crew contract has been awarded to support prescribed fire. Plumas will schedule a PODs workshop for mid-March in conjunction with the Tahoe National Forest. These workshops will be introductory.

2. Status of PCFSC Programs

- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich shared that he has passed the Certified Wildfire Mitigation Exam. This certification will be useful in the S/D program. This program gave a broad perspective on mitigation practices from various levels and what communities can do to prepare for wildfire. The Chipping Program and S/D Program may begin on Labor Day weekend. Tommy will be attending the WIRES conference with Liam and hopes to gain more information on funding for home hardening incentive programs throughout the state.
- Chipping Program – Gary Parque shared that big wind events will create a lot of chipping work this summer. Program will start in spring, possibly Labor Day weekend.

- Public Lands Projects – Mr. West shared that the SNC Boyle Ravine project has dropped PNF land, but will include CSD land. Will hear back in March if funding is approved.
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative - Logan Krahenbuhl shared that weather has delayed burning. New PUC equipment has been purchased including radios, chainsaws, weed wackers, etc. Fire Adapted Communities HEPA filter grant has been awarded to purchase living room sized air purifiers and one larger air purifier in coordination with NSAQMD. Small filters will be given out to residents during prescribed fires and in summer during wildfires. TREX has been scheduled for February 24th-26th and March 24th-26th and will require a \$25 dollar registration. The on-call burn window is TBD. No qualifications needed to attend TREX. Logan applied for cultural fire management training Feb 4th-10th. PUC membership is \$50 for life. PUC will meet next Thursday and will focus on burn plans. Logan is looking for funding for an in-house prescribed burning crew. Pile burning workshop to come in partnership with UCCE.

Mr. Smailes asked how the air purifiers would be used. Mr. Krahenbuhl answered that air purifiers will be available for check out by residents during either prescribed fire or wildfire.

- Private Lands Projects – Ms. Hepner shared updates on behalf of Rachel Wehrman. The Mohawk project has almost all landowner agreements. An operator has been contracted and is waiting for weather to clear up. The Hamilton Branch Clear Creek VMP is waiting for layout. Eastern Plumas WPP needs archeology surveys. Implementation might be contracted in phases. The C-Rd landowner agreements have been sent out and most have been received. The Plumas Disadvantaged Communities project (American Valley and parts of Chester) also needs archeology surveys. The Almanor Peninsula is waiting on the agreement and a forester will be contracted ASAP. The East Shore project will hopefully receive funding through Hazardous Fuels Assessment funds.

A member asked if the Mohawk Valley project was likely to contract additional operators. Ms. Hepner replied that a decision has not yet been made.

- County Coordination – Liam Galleher will be attending the WIRES conference next month and will be speaking about the use of Fire Aside software for home site visits. PCFSC is the first non-profit organization to use the Fire Aside software for these consultations. Liam has been working with the Ventura FSC to utilize the Fire Aside software. The online research library on the PCFSC website will launch soon. PCFSC is working with Spanish Peak Productions on a mini docu-series to explain PCFSC's programs and work.
- Biomass/Firewood Facility – No updates.
- Outreach - Ms. Rouse shared that the Living With Fire update is finished, but needs funding for printing. The PCFSC Annual Report is being designed and will be finished by the end of the month.

Adjourn - Next meeting February 9th at 10:00am.