

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 11th, 2021 - 9:00 am.

Via Zoom

Mission Statement: "To reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities."

Board of Directors

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair , John Reynolds Firewise Community (21)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair , Kathy Kogge Firewise Community (21)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary/Treasurer Dan Martynn, Retired (22)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lindsay Wood Plumas Audubon Society(22)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser RPF (22)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham (22) Madiu Summit Consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Callaghan Firewise Community (22)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bowman Firewise Community (21)
<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Hamblin Citizen (21)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Bauer USFS PNF (22)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Graevs Feather River RCD (21)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Stockton State Farm (21)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Tompkins UCCE (21)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracey Ferguson Plumas County Planning (21)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (21)	

1. Welcome & Introductions – John Reynolds
2. Review Agenda – New Certificate of Recognition design added to agenda
3. Approval of January Meeting Minutes – **m** - Ryan Bauer motions, **s**- Brad Graevs
4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition Program - Mr. Reynolds presented certificate to March's nominee:
 - John Sheehan
5. Public Comment: Mike de Lasaux thanked Fire Safe Council for developing the Certificate of Recognition program.

John Sheehan commended the Fire Safe Council for general activities, inter-agency partnerships, overall Chipping Program success, use of prescribed fire in partnership with Maidu communities and successful Firewise program framework.

6. Board Comment: Mr. Reynolds asked for comment on new Certificate of Recognition. No board comment.

New Business - none

Old Business - none

Updates

- **CAL FIRE:** Glen Schall, CALFIRE – continuing to burn piles in Hamilton Branch on existing fuel break project. HFR work will start in Hamilton Branch this spring. Clear Creek HFR will begin this spring. Captain Shane Vargas, CALFIRE – Fire Prevention and Forest Health grant programs opened March 10th with 130 million and a deadline May 19th. Pilot program for Defensible Space Inspections is being overseen by State Fire Marshall and may be revitalized this spring. State Fire Marshal is working on posting a page dedicated to grant funding/fire prevention on CALFIRE website. Governor’s Office of Planning and Research is updating the Wildfire Tactical Planning Advice Series and is going through the legal process and will be on the Governor’s desk soon.
Tracey Ferguson – Will there be planning funds in the new grants or just for fuels reduction? Captain Vargas – planning is included.
Mike Callahan clarified that there are two grant programs funded by the California Climate Investment Fund that close on May 19th. Forest Health Grant and Fire Prevention Grant. Are they separate?
Captain Vargas – yes they are separate.
Ryan Bauer pointed out that this year Forest Health grants have a request cap, but Fire Prevention Grants do not.
Kristy Hoffman asked if GHG calculations will be undertaken through CAL FIRE. Captain Vargas looked into it and reported that GHG calculations will be done by CALFIRE.
- **Feather River RCD:** Brad Graevs – applying for planning and fuels projects. Working with Cal-Trans on right-of-way work to open up highways. Will be starting on cutting soon. Helping with TREX. Starting to get a more functioning, local hand thinning crew and will be expanding.
- **Feather River Stewardship Coalition:** Mr. Bauer – Planning Spring field trip to North Complex.
- **Firewise Communities:** Mr. Reynolds – Firewise received a grant for a tool trailer with \$10,000 to purchase tools.
Beth Rouse – deadline to purchase tools for the trailer is March 19th. Three new proposed Firewise Communities in Greenville, Crescent Mills and Indian Falls. Crescent Mills and Indian Falls will do a joint assessment the week of April 12th. PCFSC has new donation envelopes with an option to donate to a specific Firewise community. Next Firewise Leads zoom meeting will be March 17th at 6pm.
Mr. Stockton – Quincy Firewise will be a recognized Firewise Community in a few days. 2,200 residences are included. Anyone living in Quincy area can participate. The minimum funding requirement is \$56,000 to receive certificate. Please watch Plumas News and social media for Quincy Firewise introduction.
- **Timber:** not present
- **Insurance:** Mr. Stockton – State Farm is the largest home owner’s insurance provider in California. State Farm announced this week to start working with a company called Wildfire Defense Systems. State Farm will send in crews to pre-harden homes as active fire approaches. How can these private companies work with incident command agencies?

Mr. Bauer – This has been happening for years now, we've come up with a good process to work together.

Barbara MacAuthur – discovered through USAA insurance that there is a form you can send to your insurance provider to inform them about home hardening improvements in an effort to secure insurance. Do all insurance companies have a method like this?

Mr. Stockton – all insurance companies are different. Insurance Industry assumes homeowners are home hardening already. The more home hardening you do, the safer you will be in terms of home insurance.

Mr. Reynolds - USAA has been progressive with this. This information should be shared with Firewise communities.

- **Utilities:** not present
- **NRCS:** Dan Martynn – NRCS plans on the position being filled in April.
- **NSAQMD:** Julie Ruiz – March 16th residential opening burning opens for Thompson and American Valleys. Air pollution permits are required for nonresidential burning. EPA does a public outreach campaign for Air Quality Awareness each year and will be targeted at Eastern Plumas this year.
- **Audubon Society:** not present
- **Plumas Fire Chiefs Association:** not present
- **Office of Emergency Services:** Don Gasser – do we have an update on when this position will be filled?
Mr. Reynolds – check in at next meeting.
- **Plumas County Planning Department:** Ms. Ferguson – FRRCD approached Plumas County about projects on County owned parcels. This is the first time where Plumas County has partnered with a NGO to complete HFR work. Portions of Radio Hill, Fairgrounds property and Plumas County Annex will receive HFR work. Mr. Danaher asked about the Community Garden for Transitional Youth and commented that it could be a good outlet for getting youth involved on Fire Safe Council work.
- **Plumas Underburn Cooperative:** Matt West – TREX event registration open now. In-person pre-fire training at the end of March. TREX participants will be on-call depending on burn windows. Basic 32 in Chester going on now. Basic 32 in mid-May for Quincy.
Mr. Graevs – working to get more funding for Matt's position.
- **Tree Mortality Update:** No comments
- **Tribal:** Trina Cunningham – working on what we want to do on Maidu landscapes and developing long term goals. In escrow for PGE land around Almanor, 265 acres. Escrow will be closed on March 24th. Would like CAL FIRE support on how to proceed on private property.
- **UC Cooperative Extension:** not present
- **USFS:** Mr. Bauer – The region announced selected Stevens Projects for non-federal land grants. Mohawk Valley HFR has full funding. MAPES project is nearing the end of planning phase. Claremont project is continuing. Feather River District is working on salvage planning for North Complex. Pile burning is continuing in Butterfly and Genesee. Pile burning season will come to an end soon. Looking forward to underburning season starting soon. Looking at burning in Meadow Valley, Lee Summit and possibly in Graeagle area. Concluding hiring effort for the year and will have staffed fire engines this year. Those crews will be on in April/May.
- **State Parks:** not present

- **Sierra Nevada Conservancy:** Kristy Hoffman - Anticipating \$25m for fire prevention projects. All money needs to be allocated by June 30th. After July 1st, \$50m will be available for fire prevention.

1. Status of Current Grants

- **Senior/Disabled Defensible Space** - Mike McCourt - will be back in the office in next two weeks to put together program. Contractors ready to get back to work. Will have as many properties as last year.
- **Chipping:** Gary Parque – the Fire Safe Council will be utilizing chipping software developed by other chipping programs in California.
- **HFR Project Schedule:** Mr. West – most public land HFR projects are in high elevation and we will wait for snow to melt to begin work. Most areas in public lands are pile burning. Mastication projects will continue on American Valley East projects. A forester for Greenhorn has been re-contracted. A Forester Request for Proposals for the Plumas Disadvantaged Communities has been issued and bids are due March 26th.

2. **Status of Grant Budgets:** Mike Callahan – we are in third year of Chipping grant with CAL FIRE. \$89,000 left for this season. Might be looking for shortfall in grant funding. Chipping Program should go right to the top of the list for new CAL FIRE grants.

Mr. Parque – we are covered through end of August.

Don Gasser – Cost center 292 expires in a few days with money left in the account. SNC end date is March 31st with \$500,000.

Mr. Martynn – money for 292 has been spent, but has not shown up on records yet. Extension for SNC is pending and we are confident it will be awarded.

3. **Status of Potential Projects/Grant Opportunities:** Mr. West – Mohawk Valley Hazardous Fuel Reduction project was awarded \$440,470 in Stevens funds to treat 500 acres. PCFSC will be applying for Almanor Peninsula for the Fire Prevention Program through CAL FIRE as well as a large east county project that includes public lands for Forest Health projects.

4. **Other Updates & Upcoming Events:** Mr. West - March 27th 11am -2pm Post Fire Nature Journaling, see PCFSC website. For TREX event details contact Matt West.

Adjourn. Next meeting: April 8th at 9am.