

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



## Board of Directors

**Chair**, Don Gasser, Citizen (18)  
**Vice Chair**, Mike Callaghan, Firewise Community (18)  
**Secretary/Treasurer**, Dan Martynn, NRCS (18)  
Chuck Bowman, Firewise Community (19)  
Jim Hamblin, PC Fire Chiefs Assoc. (19)

Julie Ruiz, NSAQMD (18)  
Ryan Bauer, USFS (18)  
John Reynolds, Firewise Community (19)  
Jan Fletcher, Plumas Association of Realtors (19)

## Mission Statement:

“To reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities.”

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 11th, 2017 - 9:00 am.

Plumas County Planning & Building Services Conference Room  
555 Main Street, Quincy, CA

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1. Welcome & Introductions – Mike Callaghan
2. Review Agenda – no changes
3. Approve Meeting Minutes – Mike Callaghan requested clarification on the chipping program budget as reported in the minutes. **m – Hamblin, s – Gasser**
4. Public Comment – none

## New Business –

1. Final Report of the Nominating Committee

Chuck Bowman and Jim Hamblin have expiring terms. Both are willing to accept a successive term. New nominees are John Reynolds from Grizzly Ranch Firewise and Jan Fletcher from Plumas Association of Realtors. Mr. Bowman made contact with insurance company representatives, but didn't find interest in participation with the Council.

2. Election and Seating of Directors of the PC FSC Board

Chuck Bowman – all ayes, passed  
Jim Hamblin – all ayes, passed  
Jan Fletcher – all ayes, passed  
John Reynolds – all ayes, passed

### 3. Election of Board Officers

Chair: Don Gasser m- Mike Callaghan, s- Mike De Lasaux, passed

Vice Chair: Mike Callaghan self-nominated, s-Dan Martynn, passed

Secretary/Treasurer: Dan Martynn, m- Mike Callaghan, s-John Reynolds, passed

### 4. Review of Council Goals for 2018 – Hannah Hepner

- Implement and amend as necessary the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP);
- Increase public knowledge and awareness of hazards associated with wildland fire and inform the public about efforts that can be made to reduce their vulnerability to wildland fire;
- Increase community-based involvement in fuels reduction and facilitate the development of additional Firewise Communities in Plumas County;
- Identify, develop and implement community hazardous fuel reduction projects;
- Develop a strategy to provide for sustainable and renewable project funding and reduce the Council's dependence on grant funding;
- Support green fuels utilization and community chipping options for all communities in the County.

Hannah Hepner suggested focusing on developing sustainable funding in 2018 and adding the PCFSC bylaw goal of “assisting local fire departments in meeting their mission and goals.” There was no motion to include the additional goal, however, Don Gasser stated that a representative from PCFSC should be present at the Plumas Fire Chiefs Association meetings. Hannah Hepner will send PCFCA meeting notifications to the PCFSC board.

Mr. Gasser said that in 2018 he would like to focus on the needs of PCFSC partners. He plans to dedicate the March meeting to reports and updates from stakeholders to identify synergies.

### 5. Chip Drop –

Hannah Hepner introduced Chip Drop ([getchipdrop.com](http://getchipdrop.com)) an app that connects woodchip producers with landowners seeking the material. The website has “expectations for service” which provide guidelines for participation. Those accepting material are not expected to pay anything, those delivering material pay \$20/drop. There are currently no participants in Plumas County. Dave Kinateder asked if we could replicate the program. However, PCFSC lacks the technical ability to develop a web-based app.

## Old Business

### 1. Community Fuel Treatment Maintenance Workshop Committee

The committee met after the last PCFSC meeting. They decided to develop a pilot workshop focused on the La Porte Road area. A subsequent effort is planned for Indian Falls. A letter was sent to all La Porte Rd PCFSC HFR participants requesting a site visit to assess maintenance needs. As of a week later, there has been no response. The committee will meet again after today’s meeting and determine next steps.

Kyle Felker asked if “maintenance” has been defined. He has found that landowners often have an unrealistic expectation of what it entails. Mike De Lasaux summarized the committee’s classification of maintenance as something that approximates the area’s 10-15 year burn cycle – work that can be accomplished with a weedwhacker or pruners (as opposed to raking or, conversely, large machinery). He noted that while the work is not critical for desired flame lengths under today’s conditions, it is necessary to reduce future costs.

Claude Sanders stated that people should be incentivized to do their own maintenance and that the PCFSC should focus on areas that need initial intervention. Mr. De Lasaux clarified that that is the intent of the program – to raise the issue of maintenance as an educational opportunity. He said it was clearly stated in the outreach letter that the PCFSC views the initial treatment as an investment and that the landowner has the responsibility to maintain it.

Mr. Kinatader asked if the second entry could be a commercial thin. John Sheehan said that on several of these projects, the initial entry was a commercial thin. Mr. De Lasaux added that that practice went to the wayside when biomass was no longer an option. However, it may now be viable again.

## Updates

### 1. Status of Current Grants – Hannah Hepner & Project Managers

**262 – Feather River Stewardship Coalition:** The group met in November. Grant applications submitted for Butterfly Twain and Little Grass Valley Reservoir. The next meeting will be held in February.

**275 – Senior/Disabled Defensible Space:** The recent fires are impacting the demand for services. Leslie Wall from Community Connections (time banking) will be at the next PCFSC meeting to discuss possibilities for connecting the two programs.

**278 – Chipping Program:** Program will resume in early spring.

**259 – Final report is ready to be submitted**

**Barry Creek:** Project is complete with 59.4 acres (of a planned 555) treated.

**East Quincy:** Project is complete with 92 acres treated.

**East Shore:** Project is complete with 9.8 acres treated.

**C-Road:** Layout complete - 43 acres identified for treatment.

**273- Dixie Valley:** Bid tour was held December 20<sup>th</sup>. There were four operators in attendance. Proposals are due January 15<sup>th</sup>. Decision Memo from Beckwourth RD is expected by the end of the month.

**277- Wolf/Grizzly:** Imperial have halted operations until spring.

**280 - Bucks Lake:** The contract packet is nearly complete. The Forest Service is using 8A to contract with Imperial.

**279 - Mohawk Vista:** Layout is underway. C-Road implementation will be incorporated into this project.

**281 – Gold Mountain:** Layout is underway.

### 2 & 3. Status of Potential Projects/Grant Opportunities – Hannah Hepner

CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Forest Health grant information has been released. Concept proposals are due February 21<sup>st</sup>. \$200 million is available, with no match requirement. They are prioritizing large collaborative projects that have completed planning documents. Projects have a 22-month implementation period. Potential projects include:

**Genesee Wildfire Restoration** - Roughly 800 combined acres of private residential (Red Clover Creek and Genesee Woods), Feather River Land Trust, and Forest Service land has been identified for thinning, underburning, or both. Plumas Audubon is working on CEQA/NEPA for hand-thin and burn on a portion of the proposed project.

Motion to recommend project to Feather River Stewardship Coalition for concept proposal development. m – Mike Callaghan, s – John Reynolds.

**Meadow Valley** – 189.8 acres of Soper Wheeler property in Spanish Ranch have been proposed for underburning. An additional 232.1 acres of adjacent Forest Service property have been identified for potential treatment. Outreach to residential landowners has been developed to include additional HFR treatment in the project. A community meeting will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Meadow Valley Fire Department.

Motion to recommend project to Feather River Stewardship Coalition for concept proposal development. m – Dan Martynn, s – Mike Callaghan.

**USFS Stevens funds – submitted April 14**

C Road - 90 acres, \$180,570

Grizzly Ranch – 130 acres, \$270,275

American Valley Phase II – 100 acres, \$285,970

Genesee Woods/Red Clover – 100 acres, \$178,970 (2019 Stevens funds)

**SNC Prop 1 – submitted November 1<sup>st</sup>**

Little Grass Valley Reservoir Watershed Protection Project – 480 acres, \$500,000

Butterfly Twain Fuels and Forest Health Project – 455 acres, \$500,000

**NFPA Wildfire Community Preparedness Day grants** – due March 2<sup>nd</sup>

\$500 grants available for community projects taking place on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Webinar taking place on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Information at: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>

4. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF):** no update
- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):** Sue McCourt - Senator Ricardo Lara introduced the Wildfire Safety and Recovery Act to promote fire prevention efforts and ensure Californians can continue to obtain insurance after a record-setting storm of wildfires. The California Insurance Commissioner put out a report this week that includes potential changes in law, computer modeling, and proposed solutions. The State is also considering development of a state-wide Code Red. Mrs. McCourt said she is working with six potential Firewise communities in the county. Jan Fletcher added that insurance premiums have been responsible for termination of many escrows. She said that it is easier to get insurance in Quincy because of the fire department.
- **CAL FIRE:** Sean Delacour – The Lassen-Modoc Unit has gone through captain and engineering hiring over the past two weeks, and is considering year-round staffing. They have added seven engineers.

They hope to have a Unit Chief hired by the end of April. The Unit has been keeping fuels crews doing project work. Currently they are in west Almanor chipping piles.  
Shane Vargas announced that he is starting a new job in Regional Land Use Planning out of the Redding office. The incoming Captain is Mark Hillskotter.

- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction:** Dave Kinateder – Forest Service has been taking advantage of the weather hand have been logging and burning on the Wildcat project by Antelope Lake. The Forest Service is soliciting comments for their NEPA revision process. Information can be found at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-01-03/pdf/2017-28298.pdf>
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District:** no update
- **Firewise Communities:**
  - Grizzly Ranch** – John Reynolds - Will be reevaluating planning next month to address enforcement issues. Of 20 high hazard parcels that required work, about half have been done.
  - Graeagle** – Chuck Bowman – Whitehawk is working with Danielle Bradfield to update the development’s assessment. They are also in the initial phase of a thinning project.
  - Sloat/Cromberg/Camp Layman** – no update
  - Gold Mountain** – Mike Callaghan – Gold Mountain started with 240 non-compliant lots. There are now 31 left, ten of which have plans. They hope to have the project finished by June.
  - Chester** – Karen Lichti, PIO for Chester Public Utility District and Fire Department, is starting efforts to develop Chester into a Fire Adapted Community – starting with Firewise recognition. She attended a workshop in Maryland on Fire Adapted Communities and shared some of the principles of a “FAC” that go beyond mitigation: education, planning new development, evacuation planning, and recovery.
  - LACC** – not present
  - Lake Almanor West** – not present
  - Plumas Eureka** – not present
  - Gallepii** – not present
  - Portola**- not present
- **Industry Representatives** – not present
- **Tribal Representatives** – not present

#### 6. Other Updates & Upcoming Events:

Adjourned - Next meeting February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017