

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 9:00 am.

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

**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

<b>Chair,</b> John Reynolds Firewise Community (21)	<b>Vice Chair,</b> Kathy Kogge Firewise Community (21)	<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Don Gasser, RPF (20)	Julie Ruiz NSAQMD (20)
Dan Martynn NRCS (20)	Trina Cunningham (20) Watershed Research Center	Mike Callaghan Firewise Community (20)	Chuck Bowman Firewise Community (21)
Jim Hamblin Citizen (21)	Ryan Bauer USFS PNF (20)	Brad Graevs Feather River RCD (21)	Richard Stockton State Farm (21)
Ryan Tompkins UCCE (21)	Tracey Ferguson Plumas County Planning (21)	Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (21)	

1. Welcome & Introductions – John Reynolds
2. Review Agenda – Postponed item #5 under new business, Presentation on the Wolf/Grizzly and Bucks Lake projects, until the February meeting.
3. Approval of December Meeting Minutes – **m – Hamblin, s – Levy-Mickelson**
4. Public Comment – Kevin Danaher suggested that the Fire Safe Council make a plan for youth outreach and long-term participation.
5. Board Comment – Chuck Bowman explained that this newly added standing item on the agenda is a time for Board business that would not otherwise have space on the agenda.

### New Business

1. Final Report from the PCFSC Board Nominating Committee – Chuck Bowman reviewed the board election process and listed the board members up for election. If all nominees are elected it will bring the board to the maximum number of fifteen directors.
2. Election and Seating of PCFSC Board Directors - John Reynolds conducted votes for each nominee:  
Tracey Ferguson – all ayes  
Brad Graevs – all ayes

Ron Heinbockel – all ayes  
Kathy Kogge – all ayes  
Richard Stockton – all ayes  
Ryan Tompkins – all ayes  
Jim Hamblin – all ayes  
John Reynolds – all ayes  
Chuck Bowman – all ayes

3. Election of Board Officers - Mr. Reynolds conducted votes for each officer nomination:

John Reynolds for Chair (nominated by Mr. Bowman) – Board voted all ayes

Kathy Kogge for Vice Chair (nominated by Mr. Reynolds) – Board voted all ayes

Don Gasser for Secretary/Treasurer (volunteered) – Board voted all ayes

Voting members of the Board present were: Reynolds, Martynn, Hamblin, Cunningham, Gasser, Callaghan, Bowman

4. Annual Goals Report and Update – Hannah Hepner provided a summary of the Fire Safe Council’s 2019 activities as they relate to the Council’s annual goals. Regarding “enhancing suppression capabilities and public safety” she said there had been no action. Don Gasser pointed out that the Fire Safe Council’s coordination of the Plumas Underburn Cooperative addressed this goal. Ms. Hepner also provided meeting attendance information. The PCFSC voted unanimously to adopt the 2019 annual goals, with no changes, for 2020.

## Old Business

1. Mapping Update – no update

## Updates

1. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **CAL FIRE** – not present
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD) – Brad Graevs reported that the Plumas Underburn Cooperative had a working meeting the day before, burning approximately one acre of piles on a member’s property. He said that he and Ms. Hepner will be representing PUC at a state Prescribed Burn Association meeting in Hopland next week. The RCD is currently working on environmental compliance for several organizations’ fuel reduction projects. The RCD is also starting work with Plumas County, the UC Cooperative Extension, and the PCFSC on a programmatic planning document to streamline environmental compliance for fuel reduction activities.
- **Feather River Stewardship Coalition** – Ms. Hepner said that slides from Brandon Collin’s presentation at the December meeting are available on the [website](#).
- **Firewise Communities** – Kathy Kogge from Gold Mountain Firewise announced that she is organizing a Plumas County Firewise exposition at the Plumas County Fairgrounds. She said that the Fair Manager suggested hosting the event in conjunction with the Children’s Fair on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Reynolds pointed out that the NFPA Community Preparedness Day is the week before, so the timing is ideal. Ryan Tompkins added that the NFPA and State Farm are offering \$500 awards for Community Preparedness Day. Mike Callaghan pointed out that including youth in proposals for these awards is a strong point. Paul Mrowizynski said that he is in conversation with Frank Carey, the school district Safety Officer,

about doing fire safety awareness assemblies in the schools. Mr. Mrowizynski would like to dovetail the school visits with evening presentations in the communities.

Sue McCourt announced that Meadow Valley has been recently recognized as a Firewise site.

- **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)** – Dan Martynn said that he has done outreach to private landowners along Mohawk Chapman road and has interest from 5-6 landowners. Work in this area will tie in with work being done by the Forest Service.
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District** – Melissa Klundby said that community burn piles have been burned in some places. So far there have been no air quality issues associated with them.
- **Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association** – Ron Heinbockel said that the PCFCA meets quarterly. Volunteer fire departments are lacking younger participants and numbers are down in general. He would like to see some of the CAL FIRE funds directed towards volunteer departments. He is soliciting Plumas County Board of Supervisor participation in meetings.
- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES)** – Sue McCourt reported that she is working with Becky Osborne at the Planning Department on an updated interactive Firewise map that shows the boundaries of each Firewise community. She said it will be helpful for residents to provide to insurance companies. Mrs. McCourt said that there is a new Sheriff, Todd Johns. She is working with Carson Wingfield in OES. They are planning to develop evacuation maps for Little Grass Valley and Hamilton Branch/East Shore.
- **Plumas County Planning Department** – Tracey Ferguson said that the County applied for a CAL FIRE Fire Prevention grant to support the General Plan Public Health and Safety update. She also announced that the Local Hazard Mitigation plan will be updated. It will be a collaborative effort between the Planning Department and OES. There has been a consultant hired to do the update. A planning committee meeting will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4:00pm. It will be followed by a public meeting from 5:30-7:00pm. There will be at least five planning committee meetings and three public meetings. Ms. Ferguson added that fire safe regulations for the state have been updated as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Shane Vargas from CAL FIRE will be at the February Fire Safe Council meeting to provide details about the changes.
- **Industry Representatives** – Cade Mohler said that SPI is working on a fuel break west of Chester. They are currently skidding, logging, and chipping. He said that they may have a Governor's project this year near Hamilton Branch. He announced that SPI has hired someone for a vegetation management role, who will likely be attending the Fire Safe Council meetings in the future.  
Richard Stockton said that the state insurance commissioner put pressure on the California FAIR plan to expand coverage. The FAIR plan is now suing the state. Mike Callaghan added that there is legislation currently under consideration that will require home seller to ensure the structure has defensible space.  
It was requested that industry updates from timber, insurance, and utilities be separately listed on future agendas.
- **Plumas Underburn Cooperative** – see RCD report above
- **Tree Mortality Update** – Ryan Tompkins said that there has been white fir and incense cedar mortality. The Forest Service will do their areal detection flights in August. Data from the 2019 flights is being aggregated and should be available soon.
- **Tribal Representatives** – Trina Cunningham shared that the Yurok tribe is hosting a cultural TREX training with target dates Feb 8 – 15<sup>th</sup>. Anyone that is a fire resource is welcome to participate. The deadline for applications is January 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be an excellent opportunity to look at the differences

between cultural burning and prescribed fire. Ms. Cunningham added that she is continually impressed with the work that is being accomplished at a local level in Plumas County. She also said that youth engagement is a statewide issue.

- **UC Cooperative Extension** – Ryan Tompkins attended an NFPA home ignition zone training in December. He is organizing a local training, led by Steve Quarles, in Graeagle the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>. In conjunction, he is considering holding an evening workshop focused on technical information for contractors. Mr. Tompkins is attending the state Prescribed Burn Association meeting. He is working on programmatic planning with the Feather River RCD. He is planning a stakeholders' exchange and is in the process of a needs assessment for Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra counties. Mr. Tompkins said that in December House Bill 5334 was introduced and should be of interest to the Council.
- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction** – Dan Patterson said that Mt. Hough has been burned about 80 acres in Butterfly this week. So far this season they have burned about 170 acres, including around Antelope Lake and along Silver Lake road. They are continuing grapple piling in Butterfly as long as soil conditions allow.

## 2. Status of Current Grants –

**Senior/Disabled Defensible Space:** Mike McCourt said the program will resume in the spring if there is funding. Applications are still slowly coming in.

**Chipping Program:** Gary Parque said the program is done for the year. Ms. Hepner provided a summary of the 2019 chipping program. She said that chipping was done at 326 locations. Participants contributed 2,316 hours and paid \$10,630 in preparation for chipping. Fifty five percent of participants reported that they otherwise would have burned the material. For about 20% of participants, the program incentivized fuel reduction work that otherwise would not have been done.

**Hazardous Fuel Reduction Schedule** – there were no questions about the schedule.

3. Status of Grant Budgets – Ms. Hepner pointed out some of the grant details included on the spreadsheet, including grant expiration date. She said that several completed projects are closing and that one project required a modification for extension.

4. Status of Potential Projects/Grant Opportunities – Ms. Hepner said that she submitted SPI lands from the Greenhorn project to CAL FIRE for consideration as Governor's project. In addition she submitted the Betterton project, a 213 acre Forest Service project near Mohawk Vista.

5. Other Updates & Upcoming Events - none

Adjourn - Next meeting February 13th, 2020