

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Board of Directors

Acting Chair, John Reynolds, Firewise Community (19)
Secretary/Treasurer, Julie Ruiz, NSAQMD (20)
Don Gasser (20)
Dan Martynn, NRCS (20)
Trina Cunningham, California Indian Water Commission (20)

Chuck Bowman, Firewise Community (19)
Jim Hamblin, PC Fire Chiefs Assoc. (19)
Ryan Bauer, USFS (20)
Mike Callaghan, Firewise Community (20)

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, December 12th, 2019 - 9:00 am.

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

1. Welcome & Introductions – John Reynolds
2. Review Agenda – Meadow Valley landowner cost-share waiver added as item number 3 under New Business.
3. Approval of October Meeting Minutes – **m – Hamblin, s – Callaghan**
4. Public Comment – Richard Stockton clarified that the mandatory non-renewal moratorium from the insurance commissioner is only relevant for specific zip codes around fire affected areas. Plumas County is not included.
Mike Callaghan shared that 1/8th inch vent screening is available online if it can't be found a local hardware stores.

New Business

1. Report from the PCFSC Board Nominating Committee – Chuck Bowman reviewed the board election process. In addition to the three current board members who are interested in serving for another two years (Jim Hamblin, John Reynolds, and Chuck Bowman) there are six new nominees:
Tracey Ferguson – Plumas County Planning Director
Brad Graevs – Feather River Resource Conservation District, District Manager
Ron Heinbockel – Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association, Meadow Valley Fire Chief
Kathy Kogge – Gold Mountain Firewise Community, Chair
Richard Stockton – State Farm Insurance Agent
Ryan Tompkins – UC Cooperative Extension, Forestry & Natural Resources Advisor

Elections will take place at the January meeting. If all nominees are elected it will bring the board to the maximum number of fifteen directors.

2. CAL FIRE Grant Proposal Resolution – Mr. Reynolds presented the Board approved resolution to submit a proposal to CAL FIRE for \$419,132 to support the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance program.

3. Meadow Valley landowner cost-share waiver – Hannah Hepner explained that three parcels in the Meadow Valley project changed ownership. All of the new landowners are interested in continuing participation in the project. One of the landowners does not have the financial capability to pay the cost-share. Ms. Hepner pointed out that all of the layout and environmental documentation had already been done for the property. She requested a cost-share waiver for 1.8 acres, totaling \$450. Kyle Felker added that the parcel is surrounded on three sides by other project participants and treatment of the parcel will provide greater continuity.

Board members in favor of approving the cost-share waiver: Reynolds, Cunningham, Bowman, Hamblin, Callaghan. Passes with Board members present.

Old Business

1. Mapping Update – no update

Updates

1. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):** Sue McCourt provided an update on changes due to retirements at the Sheriff's Office. Mrs. McCourt said that the Planning Department has started the process of updating the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan cross-references the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. A contractor has been procured for the update. There will be public meetings to provide input.
- **CAL FIRE:** Sean Delacour said that the Unit has gone to winter staffing. All stations have been shut down except the four headquarter stations. There is a minimum of two staffed engines during the winter. The Unit usually has four. There are currently piles being burned on the Martin Ranch project where the masticator couldn't access. CAL FIRE crews are assisting with a small project on the Lake Almanor Peninsula. Two inmate camp crews have been lost due to riots. Chief Delacour introduced Mark Rotlisberger as the interim Chief filling in his position until his official retirement date. Claude Sanders asked if there is a timeline for replacing Al Klem as the Area Forester and who questions should be directed to in the meantime. Chief Delacour said that questions can be sent to Ivan Houser at the Susanville office until the position is filled.
- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction:** Will Brendecke said that the Forest has entered into an agreement with the Mule Deer Foundation for work on the Franks Valley and Tomcat projects. A portion of that work is funded with CCI grant dollars through the Fire Safe Council. 4,042 acres of the Walker Fire have been identified for rehabilitation and reforestation. Mitigation of hazardous trees along the Beckwourth Genesee Road is underway. Moonlight restoration is ongoing in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the Resource Conservation District. The Great Basin Institute has been doing marking and cruising for the Forest.
Dave Kinateder said that it has been a busy fall, utilizing a variety of treatment methods. The Little

Grass Valley and Butterfly projects had a lot of activity. He is currently working on putting the RAC agreements together for the Fire Safe Council. The Forest has a \$1.5 million PG&E grant that will allow them to purchase large equipment. Prescribed burning started again this week after an early window was missed while waiting for burn plan approval. The piles on the Bucks project are a high priority. Ron Heinbockel asked if the cause of the Walker Fire has been determined. He was told it is still under investigation.

Kevin Danaher asked if there is funding to treat the 40 acres near Gansner. He was told it is under contract with Imperial Forestry.

Mike Callaghan asked if the Wolf/Grizzly and Bucks projects are complete. Mr. Kinatader said yes, but the piles still need to be burned. Before and after photos of the projects will be shared at the January meeting.

Claude Sanders asked if there are any updates about the cogen facilities. Mr. Kinatader said a small sale from the Butterfly Twain project sent material to Loyalton. There is still a lot of material on the Butterfly project to be removed and he's not sure if they will be able to afford hauling it. There was chipping done along the Butterfly Valley evacuation route – about 1,500 cubic yards were hauled to Dave Sims/Crescent Mills, which will eventually be used for the county annex building boiler. Kyle Felker added that the potential to take chips to the Loyalton facility was evaluated on the Gold Mountain project, but the costs were too high – particularly because of the need for road reconstruction to allow chip van access.

Sue McCourt asked if there were any updates from the Beckwourth Ranger District. Mr. Brendecke said that he hopes that the veg projects are delayed by the Walker Fire. The Haskell and Boot Sole projects are coming up and include fuels work. Hannah Hepner added that Phase II of the Lakes Basin service work was included in a Fire Safe Council proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

- **Natural Resource Conservation Service:** not present
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District:** not present
- **Industry Representatives:** not present
- **Tribal Representatives:** Trina Cunningham said that there is reorganization going on in the local tribal communities. The Maidu Summit Consortium has eliminated the role of Executive Director. Ms. Cunningham has accepted a position with the Hayfork Watershed Research and Training Center. She will be looking at inequities in policy and project development and implementation. She will continue to be active with the California Indian Water Commission.
- **UC Cooperative Extension:** not present
- **Feather River Stewardship Coalition:** Hannah Hepner reported that the December 5th meeting was well attended for the presentation by Brandon Collins. The next meeting is not yet scheduled.
- **Plumas Underburn Cooperative:** Matt West said that we are out of underburn prescriptions. The quarterly meeting will be held tomorrow followed by pile burning in Butterfly Valley.
- **Firewise Communities:** Chuck Bowman and Sue McCourt were recognized at the recent Plumas Fire Chiefs Association meeting for the work they've done with the Firewise communities.
- **Tree Mortality:** No update

2. Status of Current Grants –

Senior/Disabled Defensible Space: The program currently has no funding for the 2020 season. If the CAL FIRE proposal is successful, funds will be available in September.

Chipping Program: Gary Parque said the program is done for the year, but that the program went well and is within budget. It will resume in the spring.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Schedule – Mr. West said he is working on the final reports for the Wolf/Grizzly and Bucks Lake projects. He will be looking for opportunities through the winter to continue work on the Butterfly project. Contracting for Franks Valley will have to wait until conditions allow access in the spring. Ms. Hepner said that there is increasing uncertainty in the HFR project schedule as we head into winter. She said the Dixie Valley project is complete, but that a few thousand dollars in funds remain to support coordination of the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance program. The Mohawk Vista/C-Road project is nearly complete, but was delayed due to operator mechanical issues. A modification has been requested to extend the deadline to complete the work in the spring. The Gold Mountain project is complete. Environmental and archaeology surveys are complete for the Portola project. American Valley Phase II layout is underway. We are still waiting on the grant agreement for the Mohawk Valley planning project, but there is a lot of interest and the funds will be used as seed money to develop a large project.

3. Status of Grant Budgets – there were no questions about the budget sheet.

4. Status of Potential Projects/Grant Opportunities – The Fire Safe Council is waiting to hear from the Forest Service about the status of several Stevens proposals. A proposal was submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in October to fully implement the Lakes Basin project. A proposal was submitted to CAL FIRE for funding to support the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance program. The Woodbridge and Eastern Plumas Health Care District properties were incorporated into a proposal to CAL FIRE by the Gold Mountain CSD. Mike Callaghan added that Plumas County also submitted an application to CAL FIRE to support the General Plan Safety Element update.

5. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

Adjourn - Next meeting January 9th, 2020