

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Board of Directors

Chair , Don Gasser, Citizen (18)	Chuck Bowman, Firewise Community (19)
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Dan Martynn, NRCS (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, December 13th, 2018 - 9:00 am.

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

1. Welcome & Introductions – Don Gasser
2. Review Agenda – no changes
3. Approve October Meeting Minutes – **m – Reynolds, s - Callaghan**
4. Public Comment – Mike Callaghan has reviewed the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). It was last updated in June 2013. It has been over 5 years and likely requires a revision. Trina Cunningham said that she has been conversing with Debbie Franco in the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research. Mrs. Franco would like to attend an upcoming Fire Safe Council Meeting.

New Business

1. Amye Osti from 34 North walked the group through the Sacramento River Watershed Program [Data Portal](#). Watershed data for the Feather River was aggregated about a year and a half ago; the program is now working on linking watershed health, forest health, Community Wildfire Protection Plans and planning. Data includes hydrologic, water quality, monitoring, satellite, meteorological, projects, terrestrial, fire/forest health, and local data. The Sacramento River Watershed Program is seeking new funding that will allow additional counties to join the program. If funded, 34 North will integrate Plumas County into the data portal and, after three years, hand over the platform to a local partner. The proposal is for the Plumas County partner to have a domain, provide local data, and manage the data in the long-term. This effort is focused on working at the grassroots level and a local GIS consultant is encouraged. The platform is used throughout the state for natural resource management and tools created for other partners will be usable by Plumas County. The data

portal allows entities to look comprehensively at areas for prioritization, across county lines, and without duplicating efforts.

Ms. Osti was asked if private landowners are involved. She said that it depends on the landowners' relationship with the Fire Safe Council but that the idea is to include local data from private landowners. She was also asked about the plan for longevity of the platform. She said that the Sacramento Watershed River Program seeks long-term funding for the overall program, but that a local entity would be expected to host the data in the long-term (at roughly \$1,500/month).

2. Don Gasser established a mapping committee to recommend an approach for the Fire Safe Council's mapping needs. Committee members are: Dan Martynn, Dave Kinateter, John Sheehan, Jim Wilcox, and Hannah Hepner. Randy Wilson said the County can update the existing map if the data is provided.

3. Kyle Felker introduced the group to the National Infrared Operations (NIROPS) used to map fire perimeters during a wildfire event. There are two planes and two interpreters who provide a nationwide resource to support management teams. There are two sensors, one for heat and one for background, which are used in night flights to show the biggest difference in temperature. Mr. Felker processes the raw data into a form that is useful for firefighters. Anyone can download the KML files from the [NIROPS website](#) and view it in Google Earth.

4. Chuck Bowman was appointed to lead the PCFSC Directors nominating committee, with assistance from John Reynolds.

5. Resolutions for CAL FIRE Fire Prevention grant applications:

Senior Disabled Defensible Space Assistance Program,

Ayes: Reynolds, Callaghan, Bowman, Gasser, Martynn, Hamblin. Absent: Fletcher, Ruiz, Bauer

Greenhorn Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Ayes: Reynolds, Callaghan, Bowman, Gasser, Martynn, Hamblin. Absent: Fletcher, Ruiz, Bauer

Living with Fire Outreach

Ayes: Reynolds, Callaghan, Bowman, Gasser, Martynn, Hamblin. Absent: Fletcher, Ruiz, Bauer

6. Hannah Hepner requested approval of a cost-share waiver for a landowner participating in the C-Road HFR project. The landowner will contribute \$350 for a 4.1 acre treatment. The parcel is adjacent to the railroad and an ignition at the railroad could enter the community through this lot if it remains untreated. The forester has recommended the waiver. **m – Martynn, s – Callaghan; waiver approved**

Additionally, Hannah presented a cost-share waiver for the Greenhorn CSD to participate in the proposed Greenhorn HFR project. Janice Bishop, CSD president, explained that the CSD owned lots are interspersed throughout the sub-division and pose a risk to neighboring residential properties. The CSD sells water to residents and receives tax revenue to support the fire department, but has limited resources to pay a cost-share waiver. **m – Sanders, s – McCourt; waiver approved**

Old Business

1. The Prescribed Burn Committee had a meeting scheduled following the Fire Safe Council meeting. The Feather River Resource Conservation District is applying for CAL FIRE funds to provide tools and training for a Prescribed Burn Association. There will be a workshop with Lenya Quinn-Davidson from the Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association on January 15th. Phil Noia added that the State Forester for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) also supports funding for prescribed burning, not just CAL FIRE.

Updates

1. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):** Sue McCourt said that OES opened two Camp Fire evacuation centers. Five county engines and 2 OES engines supported the fire suppression efforts. Mrs. McCourt said that Taylorsville is interested in becoming a Firewise community. She reported on the October California Nevada Hawaii Forest Fire Council meeting in Truckee in and the recent Wildfire Safety Summit in Chico. The summit emphasized the importance of the home ignition zone and the value of local Fire Safe/Firewise communities. She also shared that a biochar plant is coming to Oroville.
- **CAL FIRE:** Not present. Don Gasser talked about the need to not only inspect for defensible space, but to enforce actions. The Pine Hill Motel structure fire spread to the hillside behind the building due to lack of defensible space.
- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction:** Ryan Tompkins said that the Feather River Ranger District is going through post fire assessments of the Camp Fire to determine salvage and reforestation needs. Mt. Hough Ranger District is burning in various locations. Beckwourth Ranger District has submitted a million dollar grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for projects around Mohawk Valley communities. A lot of work has been completed on the Fire Safe Council's existing SNC Bucks and Wolf/Grizzly projects.
John Sheehan asked about the Concow DFPZ project that had NEPA approval in 2011. Mr. Tompkins said that it was a QLG project that burned in the Butte Lightning Complex fire in 2008. The District turned it into a salvage project. There were 1,500 acres of fuel reduction treatments around Concow and in some areas it moderated fire behavior.
Dave Kinatader added that the Butte County Fire Safe Council had a field trip around Paradise and Magalia and that fuels treatments, even small ones, provided a benefit.
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service:** Dan Martynn said that he is working with the Fire Safe Council and the Feather River Stewardship Coalition to undertake a burning project, probably in Butterfly Valley, that will be funded by the NRCS.
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District:** Not present. Don Gasser voiced concerns over the burn shut down from Nov 15th – March 15th in American Valley. He stated that calendar dates don't reflect actual conditions. Further, piles that could be burned safely in early winter conditions instead will be wet, produce more smoke, and be burned when weather trends are drying.
- **Industry Representatives:** Steve DeBonis said that SPI is currently working on a fuel break on the north side of Chester. They hope to have the biomass done by January and follow-up with mastication in the spring. They are also wrapping up the Butterfly Valley fuel break with a masticator. Next spring they will look at the north side of the Chester Martin Ranch fuel break for maintenance. SPI is working with CAL FIRE to incorporate prescribed fire. In conjunction with the Forest Service, they have submitted a major amendment to a THP for the Fells Flat project. They are also planning a fuel break in Greenhorn and around Sierra Estates.

- **Tribal Representatives:** Trina Cunningham said that she is working on partnerships and leveraging efforts.
 - **Feather River Stewardship Coalition:** The Feather River Stewardship Coalition's next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 23rd at 2:30pm.
 - **Plumas Eureka State Park:** Rich Adams has been at Plumas Eureka State Park since 1996. He is a burn boss and started prescribed burning in the state park in '96. He is seeing the beginning of a bark beetle outbreak in white fir. There are a record number of hazard trees in the campground this year. There may be an opportunity to do a cooperative prescribed burn with the Forest Service using natural boundaries. He is looking at doing a fuels reduction treatment on the east side of Medora Lake.
 - **Firewise Communities:**
 - Grizzly Ranch** – John Reynolds said that the community re-qualified for Firewise recognition in October. They are getting ready to hold meetings in January and February.
 - Graeagle** – Chuck Bowman said that the community exceeded their large financial responsibility for Firewise recertification. Whitehawk has just completed a project on the golf property. The Graeagle burn pile is being hauled to the Loyalton biomass facility instead of being burned. Mr. Bowman has seen more interest in Firewise activities as a result of the Camp Fire. The Mohawk Valley HFR project, which includes Graeagle Firewise communities and Clio, is gaining momentum.
 - Chester** – Karen Lichti said that they are working on fuel breaks with SPI and PG&E. They are also scheduling winter and spring community meetings.
 - Galeppi Ranch** – Ryan Tompkins has been collecting volunteer hours. A lot of material was chipped through the community chipping program. There are additional residents who would be interested in another HFR project.
 - Sloat/Cromberg/Camp Layman** – Mike McCourt reported that residents and the Forest Service have been burning piles in the area.
 - Gold Mountain** – Mike Callaghan said that Mountain Craft Landscaping masticated 17 parcels in November. There are now only 30 lots, of an original 248, that have not met the HOA's requirements for treatment. They will be done by the HOA next year. The Gold Mountain CSD is planning on submitting a grant for additional treatment areas outside of homeowner lots. An evacuation preparedness meeting and screening of Wilder than Wild was recently hosted by the community.
 - Plumas Eureka** – Dennis Lincoln said the community is considering getting a siren for the fire department building and establishing a local Incident Command structure. In the spring they will test run an incident.
 - Greenhorn Creek** – Janice Bishop said that the community was recertified this year.
 - Portola** – no report.
 - Not present/no update:** LACC, Almanor Pines, Mohawk Vista, Lake Almanor West
 - Potential Communities:** Taylorsville, Paxton Lodge, Feather River College, Chilcoot/Vinton
- Sue McCourt added that Plumas County Firewise communities reported a \$1.1 million investment in 2018.

2. Status of Current Grants –

Senior/Disabled Defensible Space: Mike McCourt – The program completed 104 residences this year. Demand is expected to increase.

Chipping Program: Gary Parque – The program will be available outside of the LRA next year. Don Gasser asked that the program be more available throughout the year. Mike Callaghan commented that we will likely

start to see more participation with applications in the future. Karen Lichti asked what the Fire Safe Council can do to increase the open hours at the green waste facility and address pine needles.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Schedule – There were no questions about the HFR schedule.

3. Status of Grant Budgets – There were no questions about the grant budgets.

4. Status of Potential Projects/Grant Opportunities – Hannah Hepner directed attendees to the handout for information about upcoming projects and opportunities.

Two applications were submitted to the Plumas Resource Advisory Committee:

\$52,413 for coordination

\$67,078 for Mohawk Valley HFR planning

Three applications will be submitted to CAL FIRE Fire Prevention:

\$237,047 requested for Greenhorn Creek HFR

\$41,505 requested for Living with Fire outreach

TBD for Senior/Disabled Defensible Space program

5. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

December 8th – Wilder Than Wild Screening, Taylorsville Elementary School, 6:30pm

January 15th – Prescribed Burn Association Workshop

January 23rd – Feather River Stewardship Coalition Meeting, 2:30pm

February 5th – Wilder Than Wild Screening, Chester Fire Hall, 6:30pm

Rich Adams said that he will share the regional Forest Health Task Force survey with the Fire Safe Council.

Adjourned – Next meeting scheduled for February 14th, 2019