

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



*P.O. Box 1225 - Quincy, CA 95971*  
**530 283-0829**  
**www.plumasfiresafe.org**

## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, February 11, 2016 - 9:00 am**  
Plumas County  
Planning & Building Services Conference Room  
555 Main Street – Quincy, CA

### Board of Directors

*Mike Callaghan, Chair (16)*  
*Chuck Bowman, Vice Chair (17)*  
*Mike De Lasaux, Sec/Treasurer (16)*  
*Don Gasser (17)*  
*Jim Hamblin (17)*  
*Steve Murphy (17)*  
*Jerry Sipe (16)*  
*Shane Vargas (16)*

### Mission Statement:

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

### 2016 Goals:

- 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.

1. Welcome & Introductions - Mike Callaghan
2. Review Agenda - **m-Gasser, s-Bowman, passed.**
3. Approve Meeting Minutes - **Mike De Lasaux moved to approve the minutes as amended, s-McCourt, passed.**
4. Public Comments - Jim Hamblin thanked Mike De Lasaux for attending the Indian Valley CSD meeting to discuss Firewise.

### New Business

1. Set 2016 Council Goals - **Mike De Lasaux moved to approve the 2015 Goals as amended by Don Gasser to become the 2016 Goals, s-Gasser, passed.**

2. Adopt Resolution 2016-01 Approving Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Application - **m-Gasser, s-De Lasaux, passed.**
3. Approve Lake Almanor Country Club Community Wildfire Protection Plan - Sue McCourt reported that Nils Lunder had developed the proposed plan. Shane Vargas clarified that local plans become an appendage to the county-wide plan and become a component of the unit fire plan when signed by the unit and reviewed by Sacramento. Mike De Lasaux commented that the National Fire Plan requires a CWPP before grant funding can be obtained and thinks developing a local plan is a duplicative process to the county-wide plan unless a local group wants to apply directly for a grant. Ryan Bauer commented that the county-wide plan only identifies communities at risk in a general way and is basically a requirement for obtaining grant funds while local plans identify specific work to be done.

Jerry Sipe said the process of reviewing revisions in this plan and obtaining signatures needs improvement; some parties signed earlier versions of the document, and there is confusion about which groups should be on the signature page. Council members discussed the role of the Council in the development of local CWPP with some believing the Council should take a leadership role and others that locally developed plans are more likely to result in action. **No motion was made and Mike Callaghan offered to contact the local group to obtain their final version and poll the Board members via email.**

4. Approve Greenhorn Community Wildfire Protection Plan - Mike Callaghan stated that this plan was developed by Nils Lunder under a Title III funded contract and the Council is neither a collaborator nor funding source for the proposed actions. **M-Sipe, s-Callaghan, passed.**

## **Updates**

1. Status of Current Grants - Bill Chapman briefly discussed the new comments column on the Active Grant Status spreadsheet and discussed how the need for archeological surveys is impacting six projects. Mike De Lasaux asked if the process had changed. Nick Bunch responded that the surveys were always a requirement, but signers of Decision Memos were more flexible in the past. The process is being re-evaluated. Ryan Bauer commented that numerous changes have been made in methodology and all surveys from the last decade are being re-surveyed. From now, all surveys will expire in 3-5 years. As a result, the USFS archeologists are overburdened and the PNS is considering allowing certified RPF to conduct surveys.

Mike McCourt reported that outreach for the Senior/Disabled program will begin in March with calls to past clients and visits to senior nutrition centers. Treatment contracts will be let late April. Mike De Lasaux asked if churches had been targeted for outreach and Mike responded that he has the most success with word-of-mouth promotion. Mike Callaghan asked if previous work had been mapped and how we identify areas that are underserved.

2. Status of grant applications
  - a. Title III grants - Mike Callaghan announced that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) had approved grants for Council coordination (\$58,300) and the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space program (\$44,000) at its February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mike stated that a handout developed by Mike De Lasaux describing the importance of Title III grants had been discussed with the Supervisors. It was suggested that Mike De Lasaux present the material to the Council at its March meeting.
  - b. Dixie Valley Collaborative - Ryan Bauer commented that an application had been submitted in August and this project had been included in the PNF Capability Report. He expected an agreement this week.
  - c. Round Valley/Lake Davis - Mike De Lasaux explained that this was a unique project with the Council acting as a conduit for state funding of a PNF project. The USFS will be managing the project and paying contractors to do the work, but the process of how funds will flow from the SNC to Plumas Corporation to the PNF is not yet worked out. A Collections Agreement will need to be executed that resolves these issues. This will also need to be done for the Bucks Lake project.
3. Standing Reports and Discussion
  - a. Plumas County OES - Sue McCourt announced that the Genesee Valley Evacuation Plan was undergoing final review as were the Greenville and Butterfly Valley Firewise assessments. She announced that the International Association of Fire Chiefs will focus on WUI issues and fire adapted communities at its March 6-10 conference in Reno.
  - b. CAL FIRE - Shane Vargas confirmed that \$1.8 million of the \$5 million in the current grant cycle from the Fire Prevention Benefit Fund has already been granted in areas with high tree mortality problems. The remaining \$3.2 million in funds from the current cycle are still following the established review process.
  - c. USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction - Nick Bunch reported that the Mt. Hough District was treating 44 acres in American Valley with additional units to be treated district wide if funds allow. A RAC funding proposal would fund residual work in the Hons Meadow area and the Empire area above American Valley. No burning is being done because of the current high pressure area, but they will be moving to underburning when conditions allow. Ryan Bauer reported that the Beckwourth District is in the scoping phase of the Lakes Basin project and is seeking a categorical exemption for forest health preemptive disease treatments near Plumas Eureka Estates and Graeagle.

**Upcoming events** - None announced.

Adjournment - Next meeting March 10, 2016