

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Board of Directors

Chair, Mike Callaghan, Firewise Community (18)
Vice Chair, Don Gasser, Citizen (18)
Sec/Treasurer, Mike De Lasaux,
UC Cooperative Extension (18)
Chuck Bowman, Firewise Community (17)
Jim Hamblin, PC Fire Chiefs Assoc. (17)
Shane Vargas, CAL FIRE (18)
Cary Curtis, Firewise Community (18)
Dan Martynn, NRCS (18)
Julie Ruiz, NSAQMD (18)
Ryan Bauer, USFS (18)

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, March 9th, 2017 - 9:00 am.

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

1. Welcome & Introductions – Mike Callaghan
2. Review Agenda – no changes
3. Approve Meeting Minutes – m– **Hamblin**, s- **Callaghan**, passed
Mike Callaghan - Report on Executive Sessions minutes. Decision to reject all Cultural Resources Survey proposals due to budget constraints and reissue RFP with the option to contract each project independently.
4. Public Comments – Trina Cunningham - has been involved with the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) collaboration and reports that the State is considering how to bring resources and funds to rural areas to address issues around fire and water.

New Business

1. SRA Crew Projects

Chief Sean Delacour – Due to drought relief, CAL FIRE has cut funding for SRA funded fuels crews in half. There may only be one crew and it is unknown when they’ll be available. Support for projects requesting assistance with burning may be available with an engine crew. Therefore, CAL FIRE support is a limited resource and needs to be prioritized.

Current priorities: Senior/Disabled program – to supplement reduced annual budget

American Valley – to wrap up work not completed by contractors
East Shore Lake Almanor – along Hwy 147 right-of-way

2. Tabloid Update

Tabloid will be in all local papers in advance of May 6th Community Wildfire Preparedness Day. Sponsorship pledges are needed by March 15th and content is needed by March 31st. Likely sponsors: CAL FIRE, USFS, and Firewise Communities

Old Business - None

Updates

1. Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force

The next meeting is April 13th.

The website is live through Plumas County OES:

<http://www.countyofplumas.com/index.aspx?NID=2484>

Peter Crase will be participating in a Tree Mortality Mitigation workshop and information exchange hosted by Cal OES and the State TMTF on April 14th at the Cal OES office at Mather.

Feedback about the State TMTF insurance virtual workshop was that it didn't provide solution based information or dialog and there was little to pass on to communities from it.

2. Status of Current Grants

278 – Chipping Program: Outreach materials distributed. Discussion of operational details. Conclusion was that much will be learned from the pilot year of the program. Issues involving the use of SRA Fire Prevention funds in the LRAs were discussed. Post-meeting note: a review with CAL FIRE indicates that SRA funds may **not** be used.

262 – Feather River Stewardship Coalition: PNF is in the process of adding \$20,000 in additional funds to the grant.

259 – Barry Creek: Work will resume when conditions allow. The forester, Danielle Bradfield, has concerns that the wet weather will limit completion of the project – the grant expires in September.

East Quincy: 2/3 done. Awaiting return of Winningham.

East Shore: Parcel assessments have been completed. There are only 9.8 acres of viable treatment area. BNSF Railroad vegetation management representatives toured the project with us and are committing to treating the right-of-way that borders the project. The extent of their financial commitment will be known in the next two weeks.

260 – Hwy 70: Landowner agreements and the Decision Memo have all been signed. The forester, Sara Taddo Jones, is working on the prospectus for the operator bids.

271 – American Valley: Mastication has concluded. 3 acres remain untreated, as well as several acres of pile burning. The deadline is Wednesday March 15th. The limits of the two-year expiration of the grant funds were discussed. Mike De Lasaux asked if there were aspects of the project where we could improve efficiencies. Kyle Felker answered that treating larger acre parcels is a more efficient use of time. Any unused funds (contracted for road repairs) will be used to cover the additional forester time required for the project. It was asked if any remaining funds could be redistributed to other projects. Post-meeting notes: The 2-year deadline cannot be extended. Funds could potentially be redistributed

if 1) a change in the scope of work was developed well in advance of the deadline and 2) the funds were spent before the deadline. In this case, the contracted funds that were unused could not be disencumbered until work was completed by the operator – too close to the deadline to make adjustments.

273- Dixie Valley: A modification has been requested extending the grant expiration for an additional year. Ideally we will be able to start fuels reduction work this year, but the remote, high-elevation location will mean a delayed start for the archaeological surveys.

277- Wolf/Grizzly: All agreements have been signed. Contracts are under development at PNF.

279- Mohawk Vista & 280 – Gold Mountain: Waiting on grant agreements from PNF.

280- Bucks Lake: Grant agreement with SNC signed Jan 3rd. Collection agreement between PC FSC and PNF is in progress.

3. Status of Grant Opportunities

a. Stevens projects – Proposals will be due in April for fiscal 2018. Need to discuss prioritization of communities adjacent to USFS lands. Areas of USFS projects to consider: Genesee, Plumas Eureka, Frenchman Estates.

b. PG&E announced 2017 Resilient Communities grants. Projects in Plumas County that affect PG&E reservoirs would likely be good candidates.

Additionally, while coordination funds remain a concern, development of a request to PG&E for Giving Locally funds should be pursued – as they benefit from perpetuation of PC FSC activities.

John Sheehan asked if there has been grant funding pursued for Slate Creek and South Fork projects. Ryan Bauer answered that they are waiting to see how the first SNC projects go. Mr. Sheehan added that we should pay attention to the program developing in Denver that may have application in the Sierra.

4. Standing Reports and Discussion

- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES) – Sue McCourt – There will be a Firewise Coordinators meeting next Tuesday, March 14th at 9:30am at the Quincy Library.
- CAL FIRE – Captain Vargas is in the process of hiring defensible space inspectors. Claude Sanders asked how much of county has been inspected and when residents should expect a second inspection. Chief Delacour said they prioritize a target area every year and are uncertain when they will return to any given area. In an ideal world, inspections would occur every year. Scott Rosikiewicz noted that CAL FIRE's Greenhouse Gas grant information has been updated on the website and that SRA fee invoices will be mailed out for Plumas County in April.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction – Ryan Bauer – The Feather River District will be moving into the west-side of Plumas County communities.
- Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District – Julie Ruiz – The winter burn ban lifts next week. She should still be contacted in situations that require a permit.

- Firewise Communities – John Reynolds – Grizzly Ranch – will be attending next week’s Firewise meeting. Chuck Bowman – Graeagle – is trying to involve areas outside of Whitehawk; has received permitting for their 55 acre pilot project. Cary Curtis – Gold Mountain – is revisiting the Ready, Set, Go program for evacuation resources; out of 400 lots, 100 are currently out of compliance – working aggressively with HOA to get 90 of them done by December; of critical lots only 7 of 67 are untreated and work will be undertaken by the HOA.

5. Upcoming Events

May 6th – PNF will be sponsoring Wildfire Preparedness Day

March 14th: Firewise Coordinators meeting at the Quincy Library, 9:30am

April 14th: Tree Mortality Mitigation workshop and information exchange at the Cal OES office at Mather

Adjourned - Next meeting April 13th, 2017