

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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

## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, April 14, 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 - **Mike Callaghan asked for a vote to approve the agenda with the addition of Item 5 under New Business, passed.**
3. Approve Meeting Minutes – **m-Hamblin, s-Gasser, passed.**
4. Public Comments – Dennis Doyle commented that work needs to be done in the C Road area with five landowners interested in participating. Additionally, C Road in the narrows area would be a bottleneck during an emergency and the road needs to be widened.

### Old Business

1. Resolution 2016-02 - Approval of Signature Authority Policy. **m-Callaghan, s-Gasser, passed.**

## **New Business**

1. Approval of Potential Grant Applications - Bill Chapman discussed the proposed California Fire Safe Council 2016 Wildfire Prevention Grant application for the Senior/Disabled program using the recently-approved CAL FIRE SRA grant as match. **Mike De Lasaux moved to apply for a Wildfire Prevention Grant for the Senior/Disabled program, s-Hamblin, passed.**

Extensive discussion of the merits of potential projects for 2017 & 2018 Stevens Fund grants led to the following consensus:

- 1) Mohawk Vista - A good project and ready for submittal, especially given the Beckwourth Jackson Project in the immediate vicinity. The May 26 field trip should revitalize community support.
  - 2) Gold Mountain - Sara said parcels off Eagles Nest Loop of 30-50 acres need treatment, as well as some adjacent PNF land. Mike Callaghan suggested a 119 ac parcel as well. Sara will talk to USFS and develop the project further.
  - 3) American Valley, Phase II - Conditional approval of submitting a project as long as landowners express commitment to pay in-kind contributions.
  - 4) Quincy CSD - Would be better to apply for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy planning grant in September.
  - 5) Plumas-Eureka - Bill met with CSD board and it believes none of the projects in the community Firewise assessment are ready for submittal, but strongly support participation with the PNF project being planned on the western boundary, perhaps for 2018 implementation.
  - 6) Genesee Valley - Nick Bunch will pursue project with Feather River Land Trust (Heart K Ranch), Genesee Woods, and Red Clover for 2018 implementation.
  - 7) Lake Almanor Country Club - Would like to work with three large landowners on north side of community to develop a future project.
  - 8) C-Road - Sue and Rachael are doing outreach for a Firewise designation. Consensus to send letter to all landowners which includes history of work done in area.
  - 9) Grizzly Ranch - John Reynolds reported that their community is focused on issues within the boundaries of the development, mostly vacant lots and developer-owned property. Next year they would like to start coordinating with adjacent landowners.
2. Review of Draft Firewise/CSPP Checklist - Council members expressed approval of the checklist to use with interested communities.
  3. Review of SRA Proposed Grant Regulations - Mike Callaghan explained the proposed new regulations and issues related to allocation of funds. Mike De Lasaux suggested the Council support the efforts of Frank Stewart to modify the proposed regulations to allow funding of fire safe council coordinators. We have relied heavily on federal Title III funds, but the continuity of this program is not assured and designated state funding would be more reliable. Mike Callaghan will talk to Frank and draft a letter of support.
  4. Discussion of HFR Project Mapping - Bill Chapman said Ryan Bauer had told him the USFS has the capability to begin adding Council and industry projects again. Mike De Lasaux suggested we request the balance of 2016 Title III funds to hire a contractor to digitize the mapping data for submittal to the USFS. Board members re-affirmed that they want to invite

entities involved with HFR projects to present their work and submit maps at the May meeting.

5. Resolution 2016-03 - Approval of Senior/Disabled Assistance Program Grant Agreements - **Mike Callaghan moved to approve Resolution 2016-03 as read, s-Bowman, passed.**

### **Updates**

1. Status of Current Grants - Bill Chapman reported that work is completed on the Crescent Grade project and the final report is in progress. He said a Request for Bids has been distributed for the three projects that require archaeological surveys with bids due next Monday. He reported that work has begun on the Dwyer Tree Farm project. He also pointed out the features of the new Project Schedule spreadsheet.
2. Status of Grant Applications
  - a. Sierra Nevada Conservancy - Rachael Norton reported that the Wolf & Grizzly Creek project is in the CEQA public review process and will be under consideration by the board at its June meeting. The Bucks Lake project is being scored by SNC staff and if it receives enough points, it would be submitted to the board in September.
  - b. SRA Fire Prevention Fund - Rachael reported that we had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$52,629 for the Senior/Disabled Assistance Program, but the Mohawk Vista application was not selected.
3. Standing Reports and Discussion
  - a. Website Development Committee - Sue McCourt reported that the committee was designing a more user-friendly site using much of the content from the existing site. She distributed a handout showing the structure of the site and requesting comments.
  - b. Feather River Stewardship Coalition - Rachael announced that the Stewardship Coalition will be hosting Feather River District guests at its April 27 meeting. On May 26, the Coalition will be conducting a field trip of Mohawk Vista.
  - c. Senior/Disabled Assistance Program - Mike McCourt reported that he has 43 commitments and is obtaining signatures and contractor bids are going out next week.
  - d. Plumas County OES - Sue McCourt announced the transfer of the office to the Sheriff's Office to be headed by Nick Dawson.
  - e. CAL FIRE - The agency is in the process of hiring two inspectors, so defensible space inspections will take place this season in Plumas County.
  - f. USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction - Nick Bunch reported that PNF staff is focusing on a number of under burning projects while still able to burn.
  - g. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District – Julie Ruiz reported that she is working with Sara on American Valley HFR burning issues and that they received 65 applications for the wood stove change out program.
  - h. Firewise Communities – John Reynolds reported that the Grizzly Ranch Association board of directors will be deciding the appropriate method of enforcing lot maintenance standards. Of special concern are 18 fire critical lots by Deer Creek. He also reported that the evacuation map has been completed.

**Upcoming events** - None announced.

Adjournment - Next meeting May 12, 2016