

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Board of Directors

Chair , Don Gasser, Citizen (18)	Chuck Bowman, Firewise Community (19)
Vice Chair , Mike Callaghan, Firewise Community (18)	Jim Hamblin, PC Fire Chiefs Assoc. (19)
Secretary/Treasurer , Julie Ruiz, NSAQMD (18)	Ryan Bauer, USFS (18)
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, May 10th, 2018 - 9:00 am.

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

1. Welcome & Introductions – Don Gasser
2. Review Agenda – An item was added to new business by Michael De Lasaux: 4) Discussion Regarding Relationship between Plumas Corporation and the PCFSC. An additional item was added by David Popp: 5) Information from the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council meeting
3. No minutes available to approve. Tabled until June meeting.
4. Public Comment – It was acknowledged that this was the last meeting at which Michael De Lasaux is attending as an employee of the University of California Cooperative Extension. He was thanked for all of his contributions.

New Business –

1. Bids for Forestry Services – Don Gasser shared his concern that the PCFSC is working with one retained forester. He is developing a Request for Proposals that will be issued July 1st to develop a pool of foresters who are available as needed. He is aware of two interested parties. Mr. De Lasaux suggested that the Fire Safe Council consider the pros and cons of hiring foresters as employees of Plumas Corporation. Dan Martynn suggested that an annual statement of interest from local Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) could suffice. Mike Callaghan pointed out that having a contract in place allows the Fire Safe Council to know a specific price.

2. Resolution to Approve an Agreement with CAL FIRE for CCI Proposal – There was not a quorum of Board members available at the meeting. At the meeting Martynn, Callaghan, Bowman, and Gasser voted in favor of passing the resolution. The remainder of the votes were to be collected by email.

3. Conflict of Interest Policy – Hannah Hepner asked the Council to consider updating the Conflict of Interest policy to address who can utilize PCFSC services. While it is expected that Board members, as volunteers, are able to take advantage of services, it is not specified if paid employees of the Fire Safe Council or Plumas Corporation can do the same. Tim Driscoll, candidate for District 5 Supervisor, shared that in his time working with Counties it was considered reasonable for employees to utilize services as long as their position didn't give them an unfair advantage as far as access or cost. The Board will consider a resolution stating that stance at the June meeting.

4. Discussion Regarding Relationship between Plumas Corporation and the PCFSC – Mr. De Lasaux provided a brief history of the Fire Safe Council's relationship with Plumas Corporation. He spoke to the importance of having an engaged Fire Safe Council member on Plumas Corporation's Board. He said that Plumas Corporation's 2018-19 budget includes general administration funds for the Fire Safe Council Coordinator. He asked that the two Boards get together to discuss future implications that result from this change. It was decided that the PCFSC Executive Board (and any other interested members of the Board) will attend the June 6th Plumas Corporation Board meeting.

5. Information from the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council Meeting – David Popp recapped some of the interesting topics that were covered at the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council meeting. He is in possession of slides from Eric Knapp's presentation on the History of Light Burning, which Mr. Popp thinks would be valuable to share. He would like to see prescribed fire utilized on a larger scale to improve forest health. Trina Cunningham shared that what Mr. Popp described is what, tribally, they are working to establish.

Old Business

1. Report from the Committee for Cost Share Evaluation - none

2. Membership Program Recommendations from Butte Fire Safe Council – attachment will be resent for discussion at July meeting.

3. Report from the Community Connections Committee – Dan Martynn said that Community Connections is going through a restructure. Some of their funding is terminating as of June 1st. As Community Connections is considering what the organization's future looks like, Mr. Martynn is not sure how to pursue a partnership.

4. Legislation Update – more information in July.

5. Community Fuel Treatment Maintenance Workshop Committee – Michael De Lasaux said that last month the committee decided to focus on the maintenance needs in Indian Falls. Outreach is still needed. Dave Kinader would like to see new terrain treated as well.

Updates

1. Status of Current Grants –

Senior/Disabled Defensible Space: Mike McCourt – There are 85 people signed up, 15-20 of them are new clients. There is still some room for expansion with the contractor capacity that we have. The operator Request for Proposals is currently open until May 18th.

Chipping Program: Gary Parque – There are a lot of applications coming in from around the county, but there are currently only two community volunteers. Those volunteers are really helpful to have. Some people are likely waiting to turn in their applications until closer to their community's scheduled week for chipping. There has been a radio spot on KQNY and there are two large vinyl signs that are being displayed. J Lundquist asked what the role of the volunteers is. Mr. Parque said that volunteers follow up with applications, provide outreach, and ensure that piles are ready and properly constructed. Mr. Driscoll asked where the chips go. Primarily they are broadcast on site. It was suggested that chips could be supplied to Sierra Institute. Jason Christian followed that the amount of forest thinning needed around the Loyalton biomass facility to reduce tree density by 50% over approximately 35 years is roughly 100 rail cars per day. He believes that the problem is bigger than our community and that efforts need to be scaled up. Mr. Kinatader added that Plumas County could use 65,000 acres of treatment per year to keep on pace with historic burning.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Schedule – no questions or comments

2. Status of Grant Budgets – no major changes

3 & 4. Status of Potential Projects/Grant Opportunities – Hannah Hepner

USFS Stevens funds priority projects were discussed. Of five potential projects, it was determined that the American Valley Phase II (~100 acres @ \$178,560) and Genesee Woods/Red Clover (~136 acres @ \$168,840) projects would be submitted for the 2018/19 request. **m – Martynn, s - Kinatader** The Lake Almanor County Club project is the next priority, however, it is difficult to substantiate a nexus between the project and Forest Service land. The Portola 192 project was not included in this year's request due to a lack of project details. The Grizzly Ranch project (130 acres @ \$302,775) was not included because the landowner cannot contribute the cost-share.

SNC Prop 1 applications were submitted November 1st 2017 for:

Little Grass Valley Reservoir Watershed Protection Project – 480 acres, \$500,000

Butterfly Twain Fuels and Forest Health Project – 455 acres, \$500,000

An award decision is expected in June.

CAL FIRE California Climate Investments (CCI) Forest Health grant concept proposal was submitted February 21st, 2018 to treat 6,818 acres on public private lands in Plumas County. Representatives from the Feather River Stewardship Coalition made a project defense in Sacramento on April 30th and received valuable feedback for the full proposal (due June 13th). There is a larger percentage of federal land in the project than the State would like to see in this round of funding.

PG&E awarded \$52,690 in support of the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance program. They did not fund the Defensible Schools proposal.

CALFIRE Fire Prevention Grant (formerly SRA) applications are due June 6th. An application for three-years of funding for the chipping program will be submitted.

IAFC Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Mitigation Grants – no longer available

Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District DMV Fund Program proposals are due June 1st. Projects must reduce motor vehicle emissions. There is \$35,267 available for Plumas County. It was decided that the Fire Safe Council wouldn't make an application due to other pressing grant deadlines.

Secure Rural Schools (Title II & III) – Mike Callaghan asked when we can expect Secure Rural Schools funds to become available locally. The answer was unknown. It was noted that volunteer fire departments are now eligible to make requests for Title III funds as well.

5. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force:** Sue McCourt said that the State website is a good place to find the latest notes about work being done in the Sierra. Mr. Callaghan suggested that a Plumas TMTF meeting be held in June to collect whatever incidental information is available. The organization would then be disbanded if a significant problem is not identified.
- **Feather River Stewardship Coalition:** There will be a tour of the Eureka Fire in June.
- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):** Sue McCourt shared a brief tribute to Tom Forster from the Plumas Eureka Fire Department. The County Board of Supervisors made a proclamation for Wildfire Awareness Week. The Forest Service provided advertising support for Wildfire Awareness Week. Chester residents will be sent evacuation maps on May 21st.
- **CAL FIRE:** Chief Delacour said that two Defensible Space inspectors have been assigned to Plumas County. A Fire Season proclamation from the Lassen-Modoc Unit will start May 14th, at which point a permit will be needed to burn. All stations will open next week, with at least one engine. The northwest part of the county will have a wildland fire field day training for all fire departments.
- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction:** Dan Patterson said that Mt. Hough Ranger District has just finished burning in Meadow Valley and that they may try to burn another unit next week. Beckwourth Ranger District has been burning at Dixie Valley. The burn windows are starting to close.
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS):** no update
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District:** not present
- **Firewise Communities:**
 - Graeagle** – Chuck Bowman – The Whitehawk community has done a drive through identifying tree mortality. There are 60 new trees, which is about the same as last year. The species composition has shifted mainly to firs. A 17 acre area around the townhomes are being marked for treatment right now and will go to bid in about two weeks. Planted vegetation around the townhomes needs to be removed. A planting list for the community will be created in the future.
 - Plumas Eureka** – Dennis Lincoln – The community has a clean-up day scheduled for June 23rd, which will be coordinated with the chipping program. Ted Dobbs, an insurance adjuster, will speak at a meeting on July 14th at the fire house.
 - Sloat/Cromberg/Camp Layman** – Mike McCourt – The community's Firewise Day on May 5th was well attended. They did demonstrations on safe and efficient burning and presentations on defensible space. They got a few sign-ups for the chipping program and for address signs. The Forest Service was there issuing burn permits.
 - Portola** – Mike Matis – The Firewise committee will be hosting a community outreach event on May 19th in conjunction with the stove change-out events. The community's assessment and photos have been submitted.

Gold Mountain – Mike Callaghan/Judy Clot – On May 27th the annual Firewise day will feature a pancake breakfast, demonstration around the maintenance garage, CodeRed sign-ups and chipping program information.

Chester - Karen Lichti – The Firewise committee hosted an information booth on May 5th. CodeRed was very popular, particularly with part-time residents. On May 29th the committee will meet to follow-up on the event.

Almanor Pines – J Lundquist – The community has 142 lots, 120 residences, and 50 year-round residents. It has been a challenge to promote Firewise. Their Firewise Day is scheduled for June 9th.

Not present/no update: LACC, Mohawk Vista, Lake Almanor West, Chilcoot/Vinton, Grizzly Ranch, Feather River College

- **Industry Representatives:** none present
- **Tribal Representatives:** none present

6. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

June 9th – Almanor Pines Firewise Day

June 23rd – Plumas Eureka clean-up day

July 7th – LACC annual Firewise meeting: 9:30am at Fire Hall #2

October 7th – Grizzly Ranch Firewise Day

Adjourned – Next meeting scheduled for July 12th, 2018