

# Plumas County Fire Safe Council



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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, May 11th, 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- **Sanders**, passed
4. Public Comment – No public comment

**New Business** – None

### Old Business

'Living with Fire' Tabloid Update & Review –

Mike Callaghan commented that the use of acronyms may be overwhelming to the public and that the Code Red message should be more prominent. He then queried the group for other feedback. Alisha Wilson noted that mention of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) was entirely missing from the publication and should be included in the future. Sue McCourt suggested that links to TEK resources/information be added to the PC FSC website. On the whole, feedback was positive and the next publication will be printed in 2019. Sue McCourt asked if the group would consider glossy/higher quality printing next time. The cost will be investigated.

Overview: California State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund –

Mike Callaghan noted that the SRA fee bills have just been delivered. The fee was passed by the California State Legislature to pay for fire prevention. When a fee is paid, the payer must be provided with a service. So, where have the funds been directed so far? On average over the past 6 years, 72% of the funds have been spent through CAL FIRE, while 12% have been spent for the Board of Forestry (including legal fees), and 16% to other State agencies for administration (including 9% to the Board of Equalization for collection of fees).

Grants expenditures are not reported as an expenditures until the actual funds are released through grantees. The 2015 status report ([available online](#)) doesn't address *how* funds are being spent, but does show how expenditures are distributed by Cal Fire units geographically. While LMU is receiving back what is collected by SRA fee payers, it is unknown if Plumas County is receiving an equitable amount.

Chief Delacour explained that the increase in funds to the CCCs is a result of inmate numbers being down.

## Updates

1. Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force – Next meeting tentatively scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. Sue McCourt said presentations from the April 14<sup>th</sup> Cal OES workshop are on the [CA TMTF website](#). The campgrounds on the west shore of Lake Almanor are closed due to tree mortality. Mike DeLasaux and Sue McCourt will collaborate on a press release in order to facilitate the tree mortality data collection app.

2. Status of Current Grants – Hannah Hepner & Project Managers

**278 – Chipping Program:** Gary Parque updated that there has been a lot of outreach done, but follow-up is proving crucial for follow-through from landowners. There may not be many participants in the first year, while the program is under development and still relatively unknown to residents. Applications are due May 15<sup>th</sup> to allow for contracting. However, a second phase of contracting will take place later in the summer. Mike Callaghan noted that, in the first year, emphasis should be placed on identifying and training community volunteers.

**262 – Feather River Stewardship Coalition:** Modification processed adding \$20,000 in additional funds to the grant. The next meeting is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**259 – Barry Creek:** Work has resumed. The forester, Danielle Bradfield, has concerns that the wet weather will limit completion of the project – the grant expires in September. A purchase order for chips has been secured for biomass.

**East Quincy:** Should be done by the end of the month.

**East Shore:** There are 9.41 acres of viable treatment area. The cultural resources survey is complete. Once the report is submitted, it should be a quick turn-around to receive the signed Decision Memo.

**260 – Hwy 70:** Winningham has masticators on site, ready to begin work. A budget modification is pending. Forester costs exceeded expectations.

**273- Dixie Valley:** Parcel assessments will be conducted once the weather permits. A grant extension has been requested.

**277- Wolf/Grizzly & 280 - Bucks Lake:** Contracts are under development at PNF.

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

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

#### **USFS Stevens funds – submitted April 14**

**C Road** - 90 acres, \$180,570

**Grizzly Ranch** – 130 acres, \$270,275

**American Valley Phase II** – 100 acres, \$285,970

**Genesee Woods/Red Clover** – 100 acres, \$178,970 (2019 Stevens funds)

#### **CA FSC Grant Program – submitted May 10 (due May 12)**

Requested \$11,350 for Senior/Disabled Defensible Space program

Two year implementation period; requires 1:1 non-federal match

#### **FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant – due May 19**

5% cost share – able to request \$60,000 for Senior/Disabled program

**Plumas Eureka** – CSD undertaking work on their properties (6-8 acres, 1.5 acres complete), Firewise Committee is working on developing a landowner project.

### 5. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):** Sue McCourt – It is Wildfire Awareness Week this week. Has had conversations with 7 different community representatives (including Portola) regarding new Firewise Communities. FEMA paperwork on floods. There is a Greenhorn Ranch/Estates Firewise Awareness Day on 6/4.
- **CAL FIRE:** Sean Delacour - 8 of 13 engines will be staffed so crew work will diminish. Engines will accompany project work. Crews finishing Eastside American Valley Project with burning in the fall. CAL FIRE crews will service 18 Senior/Disabled clients who would not otherwise have received help. Shane Vargas - Can't hire Defensible Space Inspectors this year. Will use ESRI app to do it.
- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction** – No representative present
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District:** Julie Ruiz – There are issues with transporting burn material to another place and then burning it. AB2766 funds may be available for chipping in lieu of burning programs.
- **Firewise Communities:**
  - Whitehawk** - 55 acre thinning project underway. Trying to schedule a Firewise day for the entire district.
  - Gold Mountain** - Mastication being done now by Winningham. 90 parcels remain to be treated. Letters were sent to all landowners, with a 25% response rate. Now calling those who did not respond to letter.
  - Grizzly Ranch**- Continuing to work on new CC&R standards and provisions. A Firewise Day is tentatively planned for early August.

### 6. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

UC Berkeley - Sagehen Experimental HFR Project tour is planned in Tahoe Forest on May 18th

Adjourn - Next meeting June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017