

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Board of Directors

Chair , Don Gasser, Citizen (18)	Chuck Bowman, Firewise Community (19)
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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, June 14th, 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 Don Gasser: 2) Executive Meeting Report
3. Approve April Meeting Minutes – **m – Bowman, s - Ruiz**
Approve May Meeting Minutes – **m – Ruiz, s - Callaghan**
4. Public Comment – Claude Sanders shared his observation that white firs are succumbing to beetle attack across the county. It is not yet at the level of the pine mortality. Additionally he expressed his appreciation of chipping services received through the chipping program.

New Business –

1. Cost share waiver request for Mohawk Vista landowners – Hannah Hepner requested approval for two cost-share waivers for landowners in Mohawk Vista. One of the landowners can contribute \$3,000 towards a total of 33.7 acres of treatment, the other landowner can make no contribution for their 3.5 acres of treatment. Both parcels contribute significantly to the overall project. The larger parcel has a 5.4 pocket of tree mortality that needs to be addressed and the smaller parcel creates continuity between four neighboring parcels. A question of fairness was raised. In response it was pointed out that all project participants potentially benefit from a more complete project and, therefore, it is preferable to include those treatment areas that would otherwise be excluded without the waiver.

Motion to waive the \$250/acre cost share for the two landowners – Callaghan, seconded, passed: all ayes

2. Executive Meeting Report – Don Gasser summarized the outcomes of the preceding meeting:

A Forester Request for Proposals was approved and will be issued July 1st.

Future meeting agendas will be revised to allow for public input earlier in the meeting. Item #5, Standing Reports and Discussion, will now be the first item under Updates.

PCFSC Board Members attended Plumas Corporation’s June Board meeting. Plumas Corporation is investigating a way in which they can utilize GA funds to support the PCFSC Coordinator position. A PCFSC member was requested to regularly attend the Plumas Corporation meetings. David Popp offered to act as liaison.

An expenditure and a Conflict of Interest Resolution were approved by the Executive Board.

A presentation on the History of Light Burning and Cultural Burning was discussed. Tentatively the Council is considering a public event to be held in the fall. A cost estimate for the event will be presented at the July meeting.

The Portola Firewise process was discussed.

Old Business

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

2. Membership Program Recommendations from Butte Fire Safe Council – details of the Butte County Fire Safe Council membership program were presented by Hannah Hepner. Don Gasser voiced concerns that focusing on a membership program could detract from project work. However, he acknowledged that outreach and education is an important component of the mission of the Fire Safe Council. Further discussion of a membership program will take place at the July meeting.

3. Community Fuel Treatment Maintenance Workshop Committee – waiting on Indian Falls outreach.

Updates

1. Status of Current Grants –

Senior/Disabled Defensible Space: Mike McCourt – There are 103 clients this year. Roughly 70 are returning maintenance clients. When Mike started managing the program 4 years ago there were 40 clients.

Chipping Program: Gary Parque – There are currently 68 participants signed up. Additional participants are anticipated as each community’s scheduled date approaches. Mountain Craft Landscaping has been the operator for the first four weeks. Gary has been travelling all over the county to meet and follow-up with landowners. There was discussion about how to deal with requests for hauling. It was suggested that landowners who request hauling pay for the additional cost. Gary said that it’s important to establish a program that provides a consistent service so that participants know what to expect each year. It was also emphasized by several meeting attendees that a second round of chipping be available later in the summer.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Schedule – Hannah Hepner – The Dixie Valley operator is not available to start operations until September. Gold Mountain and Mohawk Vista/C-Road projects are on a similar schedule. Both require environmental assessments. Landowner contracts are anticipated to be sent out in August, however, operations likely won’t take place until next year. Dave Kinatader added that the Wolf/Grizzly units of the SNC funded project are complete (389 acres).

2. Status of Grant Budgets – There are still large remaining balances because operator invoices are outstanding. Cost center 284 (PG&E Senior Disabled) received half of the award amount upfront.

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

Little Grass Valley and Butterfly Twain applications awards were approved by SNC for \$500,000 each.

La Porte project is underway, funded by previous landowner contributions.

Requests for American Valley Phase II, Genesee Woods/Red Clover, and Portola were submitted for 2019 Stevens funds.

Requests for Lake Almanor Peninsula and Grizzly Ranch were also submitted for 2020 Stevens funds.

CAL FIRE CCI Fire Prevention applications were submitted for Portola HFR and for three years of the Community Chipping Program. Grant selection will be announced in July. Completed grant agreements are due no later than September 28th and grants will be awarded by October 19th.

A CAL IFRE CCI Forest Health application for the Plumas Collaborative Forest Health Project, which includes Meadow Valley and Genesee Woods/Red Clover, was submitted June 12th. Grant selection will likely be announced shortly after the Fire Prevention awards.

Indian Falls and Boyle Ravine are potential projects that require further development.

5. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force:** A meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1:00pm on Thursday July 12th, following the PCFSC meeting. It was noted that the State TMTF has transitioned into a Forest Management task force. The latest information from the state group is available on their [website](#).
- **Feather River Stewardship Coalition:** There will be a tour of the Eureka Fire and surrounding forest management from 9am-3pm on June 22nd.
- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):** Sue McCourt – The Firewise communities have had a lot of activity. Chester has received their CAL FIRE evacuation maps in the mail. Additional maps were made for Plumas Eureka, but a correction needs to be made before they can be distributed. The County Hazard Mitigation Plan will be updated this summer. Additionally, the County has been providing emergency preparedness outreach for seniors.
- **CAL FIRE:** not present due to training. The new Unit Chief is Scott Packwood. Shane Vargas may be a good contact for legislative updates.
- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction:** Dave Kinatader – The SNC Bucks project started with spring and some of the units are visible from the road. The contractor is Imperial Forestry. Additional funding is anticipated for remaining optional contract items. Butterfly Valley service work is taking place in the WUI. PCREW is contracted to pile additional material. They will hold a volunteer workday on June 29th. A grant proposal has been submitted by Mooretown Rancheria for a large project that includes parts of Plumas County. Dan Patterson – Prescribed burning has ended for the season. In total the Mt. Hough District burned 110 acres of a 220 acre unit in Meadow Valley. The Forest Service is currently responding to about one fire per day.
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS):** not present
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District:** Julie Ruiz – Many of the surrounding CAL FIRE units have already implemented a burn ban. However, the Lassen-Modoc Unit is still operating under restricted burn hours until the end of the month. There have been smoke complaints at the Courthouse Annex from testing of the biomass boiler system. They are working on a solution. The NSAQMD received CCI funds to do a county-wide woodstove exchange program. All of the funds for

this year have been committed, but interested individuals are encouraged to continue to submit applications to support a request for additional funds for next year.

- **Firewise Communities:**

Graeagle – Chuck Bowman – Whitehawk’s dead and diseased tree program is underway. The community has released a bid request for work around the town homes. The bid tour is June 27th and bids close July 5th. Mohawk Meadows and Valley Ranch have expressed interest in pursuing Firewise recognition. Additionally, Mr. Bowman met with residents of Smith Creek Ranch about becoming Firewise. Mr. Bowman shared that the Time and Expense Investment Examples mailing that was sent by the National Firewise organization is a resource for those communities looking at how to meet the financial contribution requirement of Firewise recognition.

Gold Mountain – Judy Clot – Held a Firewise Day on May 27th. There was a good showing. The event featured several speakers and provided evacuation bags to attendees.

Portola – Phil Oels – Committee is ready to submit a Firewise application. A volunteer has been posted at the transfer station to distribute timesheets for collecting volunteer hours. A Firewise Day was held that featured a Forest Service tank truck and Smokey Bear.

Sloat/Cromberg/Camp Layman – Mike McCourt – They have been collecting volunteer hour reports. Chipping has been taking place in the area. There have already been two fires this year – one was 10 acres and the other was less than an acre.

Chilcoot/Vinton – Gary Parque – Will be organizing a Firewise committee at a June 23rd community meeting.

Galeppi Ranch – Dave Kinatader – They are nearly ready to submit their Firewise application.

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

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

6. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

June 22nd – FRSC Eureka Fire Tour: 9am-3pm

June 23rd – Graeagle Health and Wellness Expo: 10am-2pm

June 23rd – Plumas Eureka clean-up day

June 29th – PCREW volunteer work-day in Butterfly Valley

July 1st – Forester RFP will be issued

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

July 12th – Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force Meeting: 1:00pm

July 14th – Plumas Eureka Firewise Insurance presentation

July 23rd – Plumas Eureka clean-up day

October 7th – Grizzly Ranch Firewise Day

Adjourned – Next meeting scheduled for July 12th, 2018