

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, June 8th, 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– **Martynn**, s- **Gasser**, passed
4. Public Comment – No public comment

New Business – None

Old Business – None

Updates

1. Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force – PC TMTF meeting to follow the PC FSC meeting. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is having a meeting concurrently, which includes an informational discussion of tree mortality and forest health. Claude Sanders shared that fir engraver is causing mortality on white fir across the county.
2. Status of Current Grants – Hannah Hepner & Project Managers
262 – Feather River Stewardship Coalition: Conducted a tour of Plumas National Forest’s Empire underburn on June 1st. The next meeting (date TBD) will be a planning meeting.

275/276 – Senior/Disabled Defensible Space: 55 residences will be treated this season. CAL FIRE is providing assistance with treatment on 18 properties in the northern part of the county. High Sierra Fire will start treatment next week. Barbara MacArthur (LACC Firewise) suggested that communities can highlight the program locally by sharing input from participants.

278 – Chipping Program: The Request for Proposals from chipping operators is open until June 9th. There has been no response from operators. However, Gary Parque has followed up with phone calls and generated some interest.

259 – Barry Creek: Work has resumed. Only a fraction of the 555 acres has been treated to date – it is unknown how much will be treated before the September deadline. A purchase order for chips has been secured for biomass.

East Quincy: Project is complete with a total of 92 acres of treatment.

East Shore: Waiting on a signed Decision Memo from the USFS. CAL FIRE crews are not able to perform the work, therefore an RFP for operators will be necessary.

260 – Hwy 70: Winningham has completed the majority of the mastication work. Hand-thin crews are scheduled to begin next week. The majority of the landowner contributions have been collected (of a total \$12,825) which are being used to pay the forester costs – which have exceeded expectations.

273- Dixie Valley: Kyle Felker anticipates having the layout complete by the end of the month. A modification to extend the deadline is awaiting final signature.

277- Wolf/Grizzly: Work has been submitted to contracting by PNF. Phil Oels was asked if people in Portola are aware of the project – he said no, not particularly.

280 - Bucks Lake: Will be in the queue for contracting for the fourth quarter.

279- Mohawk Vista & 281 – Gold Mountain: Waiting on executed grant agreements from PNF.

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

Red Clover Creek Recreation Association (RCCRA) would like to contract with PC FSC to perform work on non-compliant lots that their CC&Rs allow them to conduct treatment on. Is the Fire Safe Council willing to work in this capacity? Mike De Lasaux pointed out that working with the PC FSC means the treatments are more likely to be done well because of the Council's organizational capacity, and that communication between the Association and their landowners is key. Mike Callaghan stipulated that a legal document is needed stating that the Association has the ability to do the work and that they hold PC FSC harmless. Ryan Bauer noted that we need to clarify with RCCRA if they will recover the full cost or copay from the landowners. Mike De Lasaux clarified that the next step will be soliciting a written proposal from RCCRA that delineates a process that we can act upon, from which the Council can make a decision. It was noted that if the PC FSC would like legal advice, some beneficiaries of the Council's hazardous fuel reduction work have been attorneys.

Motion to approve – **De Lasaux**, second – **Callaghan**. All ayes.

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

Requested \$11,350 for Senior/Disabled Defensible Space program
Two year implementation period; requires 1:1 non-federal match

FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant – submitted May 18

Requested \$56,168 for Senior/Disabled Defensible Space program
One year implementation period, 5% cost share - \$2,808

NSAQMD AB 2766 – screening proposal due June 1

Investigated the possibility of making a proposal.

Determined that: 1) funds likely wouldn't be used during the 1 year implementation period because the program would still be in the second year of the SRA funds, and 2) PC FSC can't currently demonstrate significant reductions in vehicle emissions from the program.

Mike De Lasaux asked if the NSAQMD was likely to change the criteria for smoke emissions rather than vehicle emissions. Julie Ruiz said that can't be done because the funds come from DMV fees.

However, we may be able to pursue these funds in the future, and quantify the amount of vehicle emissions reduced, by seeking information from transfer stations.

CAL FIRE SRA FPF – usually a September deadline. Don't yet know if there will be new information for the next cycle of funding. A representative from PC FSC can attend one of the workshops if there are significant changes to the guidelines.

Mike De Lasaux asked how we can compel grantors to make funds available for coordination. Mike Callaghan noted that the PC FSC provided comments to that point during the SRA grant development. He suggested that the California Fire Safe Council has a role to play in coordinating with local Fire Safe Councils to pursue the issue.

NFWF Pacific Southwest Fuels Management Strategic Investment Partnership – Ryan Bauer announced that applications are due by July 12. PNF has one project in the RFP – the Butterfly Twain project – and is seeking a partner.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Prop 1 Restoration Grants – Applications are due by July 14.

5. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):** Sue McCourt –A webinar titled: [Beyond Firewise: The USAA Journey](#), about insuring homeowners in the WUI, is available online. Many other insurance companies attended the webinar. Upcoming webinars can be found at: www.cafiresci.org. A [filed trip and symposium about the Angora](#) fire will take place June 22-23 in Tahoe. An American Valley/Quincy evacuation plan is in the works, with CAL FIRE assistance. Mike Callaghan added that there was a [60 Minutes program](#) that did a good job of covering the issue of home survivability.

- **CAL FIRE:** Captain Vargas updated that they were able to re-open solicitation for Defensible Space inspectors because Plumas County didn't get any assignments in the first round. The deadline is June 16th. Chief Delacour said that the fuels crews will be on engines as of June 27th. After that time, they may be available for projects but it will only be a 3-4 person crew. Scott Rosikiewicz noted that the Redding SRA grant workshop will be held July 19th.
- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction** – Ryan Bauer said that 850 acres have been burned by the Mt. Hough District. This year there may be potential to burn into July. Contracts are all awaiting award, pending budget approval.
Claude Sanders asked what a citizen's recourse is when incomplete burn piles are observed. Mr. Bauer answered that it's possible that a follow-up underburn is scheduled to take place. If not, then an effort to clean it up can be made if brought to their attention.
Don Gasser gave credit to the USFS fuels folks for the air quality during burns.
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District:** Julie Ruiz – Air quality has been good and there have been many available burn days. There is a push to get burns done before CAL FIRE closes the window. NSAQMD had to temporarily stop the Graeagle burn pile effort due to smoke issues.
- **Firewise Communities:**
Whitehawk – Chuck Bowman - Thinning project completed. One landowner pulled out about 15 acres after the project began.
LACC - Barbara MacArthur – Thanked CAL FIRE for clearing LACC's roads. The community is ready for chipping. Their Firewise Day was held on Memorial Day weekend and was a success. They handed out "clean up logs" and many people were interested in the fire history map. The neighboring community, The Pines, is interested in becoming a Firewise community.
Gold Mountain – Mike Callaghan - Firewise Day was cancelled and rescheduled for Labor Day weekend. Winningham has been working on Jones Forestry's project on critical lots and has completed about 18 acres. The project has generated interest in getting the work done on additional lots.
Portola- Phil Oels – Portola City Council have created an ad hoc committee to pursue Firewise recognition. The City has a lot of assets that can be used. In 2014 a CWPP was done for Portola, but was left unsigned.
Plumas Eureka - Sue McCourt – On June 16th there will be a Firewise clean-up day.
- **Cal OES:** Lori Pini – On July 25th there will be a [Tree Mortality Symposium](#) hosted by USDA California Climate Hub, US Forest Service Region 5, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the National Forest Foundation, and the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative.
- **Industry Representatives** – none present

6. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

Adjourn - Next meeting July 13th, 2017