

Plumas County Fire Safe Council



Board of Directors

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Vice Chair, Don Gasser, Citizen (18)
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UC Cooperative Extension (18)
Chuck Bowman, Firewise Community (17)
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Shane Vargas, CAL FIRE (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, July 13th, 2017 - 9:00 am.

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

1. Welcome & Introductions – Mike Callaghan
2. Review Agenda – John Sheehan requested addition of item 3.g. “La Porte Forest Service projects”
3. Approve Meeting Minutes – Mike Callaghan requested that “ability” be changed to “authority” in line 6 of item 3/4. The statement now reads: “Mike Callaghan stipulated that a legal document is needed stating that the Association has the *authority* to do the work and that they hold PC FSC harmless.” – vote: all ayes, revised minutes approved
4. Public Comment – No public comment

New Business – None

Old Business – None

Updates

1. Plumas County Tree Mortality Task Force – cancelled tentative July meeting. The task force has not identified a crisis in Plumas County. Claude Sanders noted that he has seen a continuing trend of engraver beetles causing mortality in white fir. Chuck Bowman added that 46 dead and dying trees have been identified in Whitehawk, 18 of which are white fir. John Reynolds said that Grizzly Ranch encounters a greater a problem with cedar and mistletoe.

John Sheehan asked if the mortality tracking app is in use. Sue McCourt answered that Mike De Lasaux

is waiting for a critical situation prior to public announcement of the app. Kyle Felker noted that if/when it's made public, we need a plan for how to process the information. Mike Callaghan concluded that a determination will be made at the August as to whether or not we hibernate the task force or make a public outreach push.

Chief Don Gordon announced that there is \$6 million of state funding in the budget to offset the 25% match for CDAA. Additionally there is a \$10 million inclusion for tree mortality grants, in addition to usual funding. The State is transitioning the discussion to forest health – which may mean there will be assistance available to counties outside of the 10 identified.

Mr. Callaghan asked if documentation suggests that dense forest stands are being more affected by mortality. District Ranger Micki Smith has observed recent pitch tubes on pines and increasing mortality around Bucks Lake. She said stand density is a moot point because the bug hatch is so catastrophic it is overwhelming treated forests. She also said the weather is going to have a significant effect on the bug hatch. Several Forest Service fuels staff added that they've been seeing mortality at all elevations and aspects.

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

262 – Feather River Stewardship Coalition: Hosting a free [SNC grant writing seminar](#) on August 22nd & 23rd.

275/276 – Senior/Disabled Defensible Space: 55 residences will be completed this year. CAL FIRE crews have helped immensely. Mike McCourt has been getting positive feedback from clients. Three participants are also taking advantage of the chipping program for piles that were generated outside of the 100' of treatment.

278 – Chipping Program: Phase I complete. An amendment will be added for Gold Mountain. Don Gasser would like to see the work done by local contractors. He suggested conducting a meeting with operators to explain the program.

259 – Barry Creek: The THP is expiring and work will conclude. Hand thinning units will not be treated.

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

East Shore: The final cultural resources report has been submitted and the project is awaiting a signed Decision Memo from the USFS.

260 – Hwy 70: Sara Taddo Jones has resigned as the forester. Mastication is complete. Hand crews have returned from a fire. They are 80% done with piling.

273- Dixie Valley: The modification for grant extension is awaiting signature. Kyle Felker is working on layout.

277- Wolf/Grizzly: Work has been submitted to contracting by PNF. There will be action on it in 2018.

280 - Bucks Lake: Contracting is imminent. The expiration date for grant funds has been extended one year to align with the Wolf/Grizzly deadline.

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

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

John Sheehan asked if CAL FIRE SRA grants cover coordination. Chief Gordon responded that it's not for CAL FIRE to decide – Fire Safe Councils have a national governing body. Mr. Sheehan followed that letter writing to CAL FIRE and SNC should be considered. Mr. Callaghan suggested a discussion with Plumas Corporation about charging additional administration fees on each project to pay for coordination.

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

NFWF Fuels Management Partnership – due July 12

Geographic focus includes PNF. Butterfly Twain Fuels Reduction listed in RFP as a program priority: hand-thin approx. 400 acres. Minimum 50% match, preference to 1:1 match. 3 year implementation period. No application to be made because of limited funding available for match.

CDFW Prop 1 Restoration Grants – due July 14

No match required. Up to 3 year implementation period. No application to be made because of the short deadline and lack of developed project.

Plumas RAC Title II – due August 11

\$500,000 available. No match requirement.

Mr. Callaghan voiced support for making a request for the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance program. General support was voiced for making this application.

SNC Prop 1 – pre-applications due Sept 1st

No match requirement.

Mr. Sheehan suggested “orphan” QLG projects, including Grass Flat near La Porte. He said there is significant service work and underburning that needs implementation for timber work that has already been done. Ideally we could involve the Yuba County water agency. David Kinateder said that Prop 1 has been good for addressing backlogged work. He noted that Grass Flat is a project that provides good economies of scale. He also suggested the On Top project, which would tie in well with the Bucks Lake project.

Motion to submit an application for the Grass Flat project – Gasser, s – Bowman

Mr. Sheehan asked if we should also consider an application for the Butterfly Twain project. Mr. Kinateder said that he has funding coming from different places for that project and that he is more concerned about older projects.

Mr. Callaghan concluded that long-range planning is needed to identify priorities.

CAL FIRE SRA FPF – usually a September deadline. Don't yet know if there will be new information for the next cycle of funding.

5. Standing Reports and Discussion

- **Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):** No report.
- **CAL FIRE:** Chief Gordon said that additional funding for tree mortality related projects has been added for the SRA grants. CAL FIRE units are able to create a local Tier 2 designation – which is useful for projects sending material to biomass facilities. A \$41 million augmentation is “adding shoulders” to the staffing season, which will allow CAL FIRE to do fuels reduction projects. The Cap & Trade bill has language that suspends the SRA fee, which will go into effect next fiscal year.
Shane Vargas is out on long-term disability. Two Defensible Space inspectors have been hired. Captain Rob Cobb will be coordinating in Captain Vargas' absence. A digital LE 100 will be in use this year. CAL FIRE is broadening education and outreach with Public Information Officers. Martin Senter asked if CAL FIRE has been instructed to burn on federal lands. Chief Gordon said that they will burn on any land. They are working on a good neighbor authority on the West Shore of Lake Almanor, involving Lassen National Forest.
- **USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction** – David Kinatader said that there has been timber sale activity going on at Round Valley and Bucks Summit. He expressed excitement over the 853 acres of underburning and 742 acres of pile burning accomplished on the district this year. Martin Senter is new on the Beckwourth District. He updated about the several projects that are in both the planning and implementation phase.
- **Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District:** No report.
- **Firewise Communities:**
 - Grizzly Ranch** - Firewise Day will be held August 6th with a joint meeting with Beckwourth VFD and BBQ. They are focused on enforcement of hazardous fuel requirements, evacuation preparedness, and TMTF.
 - Graeagle** – Whitehawk Ranch has removed 105 dead and dying trees this year due to infestation.
 - Gold Mountain** – Mike Callaghan announced that Cary Curtis has resigned as Chair of the GM Firewise Committee and also a PC FSC Board member. Tom O'Brien is GM Firewise Chair. Firewise day will be held with a pancake breakfast and meeting on September 2nd.
 - Portola**- The City of Portola is currently seeking volunteers to re-start their application as a Firewise Community.
 - Plumas Eureka** - Held a clean up day focusing on a house and had 30 people participate.
 - Sloat/Cromberg/Camp Layman** - Is now officially recognized as a Firewise USA Community.
- **Industry Representatives** – none present

6. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

The Council declined to provide sponsorship for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Adjourn - Next meeting Aug 10th, 2017