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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

# Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 9:00 am.  
50 Church Street, Quincy

## Board of Directors

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Chair</b> , John Reynolds Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Vice Chair</b> , Sally McGowan Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> Mike Flanigan, Insurance (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Smailes Firewise (23)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser RPF (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Pangburn CAL FIRE (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bowman Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Tompkins UCCE (23)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Kogge Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Hall Feather River RCD (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracey Ferguson Plumas County Planning (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Hunter NSAQMD (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Bauer USFS PNF (24)

**Mission Statement:** “To reduce the loss of natural resources and human values caused by wildfire through Firewise community programs and pre-fire activities.”

### 5-Year Strategic Plan

Program Strategy: Expand existing programs and establish additional projects:

1. Leverage and expand partnerships
2. Sustainably increase staffing
3. Establish robust monitoring systems & metrics
4. Increase public engagement
5. Develop County-wide community fuels and threat mapping assessment

Funding Strategy: Target sustainable annual budget increase of 20%:

1. Continue to produce competitive grant proposals that are based on funder’s objectives.
2. Pursue approaches for non-competitive funding which reduce administration while increasing long term benefits.
3. Leverage charitable donations to increase public outreach, education, and participation.
4. Continue to pursue potential revenue-generating activities utilizing woody material.

Leadership Strategy: Ensure strong and functional systems are in place to facilitate ongoing organizational capacity:

1. Maintain a Board of Directors with strategically recruited membership.
2. Continue partnership with Plumas Corporation as fiscal agent.

## 9:00am Board Meeting

### Roll Call

### Approve Agenda

**Motion: Mike Flannigan, Second: Joe Smailes**

**Approved: All yes, none opposed**

### Program Updates

## 1. Logan: PUC in 2023 / The PUC Process

Mr. Krahebuhl delivered an organization year-in-review and programmatic roles and responsibilities.

As a reminder PUC is a group of Plumas County residents that volunteer to help each other accomplish their individual land management goals, revolving around fire use. This is coordinated by staff at the Fire Safe Council who also facilitate training opportunities and community outreach. The three pillars of PUC are training, outreach, and stewardship.

Outreach protocols:

- Email communications
- Phone communications
- Social Media
- Website
- Newsletter and Google group
- Tabling
- Landowner Site Visits
- Firewise Community Site Visits

Spreading the word about PUC and how the Fire Safe Council programs function to complement each other. Going out with the PCFSC County Coordinator to chat with Firewise communities has received great responses.

2023 PUC Stats:

- 37 site visits
- 90 community members engaged
- 484 Instagram followers have been gained
- 395 current email list subscribers
- 11 attendees per meeting on average
- 25 pizzas consumed
- 39 burns had assistance from FRRCD
  - 1200 hours worked
  - 10 different land ownerships
- 182 different people have volunteered 1700 hours
- 8 private landowners assisted with burning
- 2 public landowners assisted with burning

What happens on a site visit?

- Landowners reach out or are referred to Logan, time/date scheduled
- They are presented with information about FSC programs and PUC
- We talk about objectives, hurdles, and how we can offer assistance
  - Common talking points:
    - Permits (AQ and CDF)
    - FSC Programs
    - Safe times of year to burn (piles vs. underburn)
    - Objectives (defensible space vs. forest health)

- How do I prep my land for burning?
  - Can someone help me prep my land for burning?
- Sometimes people just need advice and information then can tackle problems independently
- Some people need direct assistance.
- Takeaway:
  - People requesting site visits don't necessarily need physical help burning or prepping/thinning.
  - Sometimes people just need advice for complicated local problems that there is a lack of, or misconstrued, local knowledge about.

#### Education and Engagement:

Monthly 2-hour PUC meeting with an education curriculum or discussion topic and socializing.

Topics covered this year:

- Burn planning
- Fire effects
- Weather forecasting
- Scheduling/prioritizing
- Pumps
- Medical Plan and more
- Plumas and Butte Cal-TREX support
- Local presentations when requested
- PUC Basic Wildland Firefighter Training NWCG Cert.

#### Local TREX:

- Matt West, Hannah Hepner, Jeff Greef, Tommy Brenzovich, and Logan Krahenbuhl have served in roles such as IC, Planning Section Chief, Safety Officer, Communication Unit Leader, Operations, PIO, and various instructor roles in order to operate Plumas Cal-TREX and support Butte Cal-TREX.
- Plumas TREX programs enables training for up-and-coming practitioners, firefighters, and other NGOs/agencies.
- PUC's affiliation and involvement with partners has allowed us to achieve more goals by expanding our workforce.
- Assistance from WRTC, BCCER, FRC because of TREX
- Received volunteers from CAL FIRE, QFD, and UC Berkeley Forestry Camp

#### Out of Area Trex:

Attending other TREXs and training events throughout the state/country has allowed PCFSC to network, build relationships, improve programs, and mentor others.

- Statewide PBA meetings
- PBA Fireside Chat Zoom calls
- Hannah: Klamath WTREX 2022
- Logan, Hannah, Matt: PBA Knowledge Exchange and Tribal Engagement Workshop
- Logan: Central Coast Cal-TREX 2023
- TNC fire assignments

This year and last year PUC and Plumas Cal-TREX folks assisted Plumas Unified School District, Feather River College, Chico State, City of Chico, PNF Mt. Hough, and PNF Beckwourth. RX through PUC programs is not limited to private lands, so building partnerships going forward is vital.

## **Consent Agenda**

### **1. August Financials**

Mike Flannigan provided an update. PCFSC has a healthy budget, but we are behind on spending funds. The PCFSC Edward Jones agent will come in to speak two times a year. PCFSC has gained a net interest 200,000 in one year. Mr. Flannigan thinks these funds could be utilized for scholarships for the FRC Fire Management program.

### **2. Status of Grant Budgets**

Rachel Wehrman provided an update. The Disadvantaged Communities grant is still up against a tight timeline, but PCFSC may utilize CWDG funds to fund a contractor. PCFSC will be executing 4 contracts for this project.

Tracey Ferguson asked if potential grants are included on the cost tracking grant sheet. It is not – these grants have all been awarded.

### **3. Status of Potential Projects and Grant Opportunities**

PCFSC will be submitting for the AIM grant by the end of October. This grant will fund roughly \$75,000 of personnel planning for the Firewood Processing Facility.

### **4. Board Minutes**

- September 7<sup>th</sup> special board meeting
- September 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting

## **Approve Consent Agenda**

**Motion: Mike Flannigan, Second: Joe Smailes**

**Approved: All yes, none opposed**

## **New Business**

### **1. Staff updates – Rachel Wehrman**

Amber Hughes and Katie Quinn have been hired as the Outreach Coordinator and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Manager. They will both start full-time by mid-October.

### **2. PG&E Settlement Funds, Investment Results Update**

John Reynolds provided an update, and ideas to expend these funds.

- Educational outreach – living with fire, more robust outreach budget.
- Donation outreach – PCFSC is likely not going to get donations unless resources are dedicated to pursuing them.
- Support the Fire Chief’s association.
  - Adding administrative and support staff to the fire chief’s
- Scholarships for the Fire Management program at FRC.

John Reynolds encourages the board to think of other options for expenditures.

**Old Business**

1. None

**Adjourned**

**Motion: Mike Flannigan, Second: Kathy Kogge**