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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 9th, 2023 - 9:00 am.
50 Church Street, Quincy

Board of Directors

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair , John Reynolds Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair , Sally McGowan Firewise (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary/Treasurer Mike Flanigan, Insurance (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Smailes Firewise (23)
<input type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser RPF (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Pangburn CAL FIRE (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (24)	<input 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

Program Updates

1. Tommy Brenzovich: Home Hardening Program

CAL OES Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- Proposal was submitted August 4th 2023

- Several Requests for Information (RFI) since submission
- January 14th 2024 – Cal OES submits proposal selections to FEMA for further review
- Throughout 2024- Awards for projects after programmatic and Environmental & Historic Preservation reviews

Level 1 Importance Items:

- Pea Gravel under Home and decks/porches for 5ft around home with no vegetation (Zone 0)
- Fire resistant skirting around home plus trim and paint
- Enclose underside of elevated porches/decks with metal mesh or ember resistant skirting
- Stump grinding
- Tree Removal
- Defensible Space Landscaping within zones 1 & 2

Level 2 Importance Items:

- Enclose Soffits and Fascia with fire resistant material such as fiber-cement material (including screens and flame/ember resistant strip vents)
- Install Metal gutters with gutter guards
- Fiber Cement Exterior Siding plus trim and paint

Level 3 Importance Items:

- Install metal exterior doors
- Install metal Garage doors
- Install dual paned Windows (one pane tempered glass) & screens

Phase 1

- Project execution oversight, Interagency coordination and partnership development, Create project tracking system and reimbursement process and procedures (1/33)
- Homeowner Outreach, Application intake, Right of Entry / Landowner Agreements (2/12)
- Property Assessments, Develop final parcel list of 64 locations, Photo documentation, Identify necessary level of protection, Create a Scope of Work for each parcel (4/12)
- Environmental and Historic Preservation Review (11/8)
- Procurement: Bid process, Award, and Selection (16/3)

Phase 2

- Ignition Resistant Construction & Defensible Space Enhancement @ \$34,000 per home (26/8)
- Construction management (26/8)
- Project Closeout / Deliverables (33/3)

CA Department of Housing and Community Development

- \$3,000,00 set aside from a current FEMA grant to be used for home hardening in Plumas County
- Implementation team may be able to lay some tracks that we can follow as far as process goes
- Grant agreement: Late fall 2023
- Begin accepting applications: Summer 2024
- Timing would be conducive for our program to piggy back onto what they have going on

Challenges

- FEMA grants are inherently challenging to manage due to stringent recordkeeping requirements and deliverables

- Nothing in proposal to cover mileage, supplies, etc., appears to only be personnel hours and construction costs
- From the beginning, the program will be a very robust operation and will require a significant amount of time and effort to be successful
- Construction season and defensible space season run concurrently generating conflicting priorities for current program manager
- Limited construction knowledge possessed by PCFSC staff
- Some limitations as to where we can do treatments due to matching funds
- Maintenance requirements for 15 years (longevity and changes in ownership)

Solutions

- Pursue training opportunities for FEMA / Federal grant program management and partner with entities that are already familiar with the process
- Investigate opportunities to create a staff position that would fill the gap in construction knowledge, construction project management, and alleviate the conflict during peak field season (cost share or workforce development grants could be possible funding mechanisms if the Cal OES grant cannot)
- Be strategic about treatment locations to capitalize on the benefit of the 30% that can be outside of the CA Prepare boundaries
- Participants could be folded into existing Defensible Space program for maintenance purposes (Doesn't alleviate the overall longevity issue)

Consent Agenda

1. October Financials

Mike Flannigan provided an update. PCFSC is a third through the fiscal year and is looking healthy. Naturally, there will be a financial lull through the winter. The highest expense on the financials document is contracting professional services. Mr. Flannigan provided details on payments to PCFSC contractors.

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. PCFSC is safe on the timeline for all other grants.

3. Status of Potential Projects and Grant Opportunities

PCFSC applied for the AIM grant, which would fund \$75,000 of personnel for the Wood Processing Facility.

4. Board Minutes

October 12th, 2023

Approve Consent Agenda

Motion: Sally McGowan, Second: Kathy Kogge

Approved: All yes, none opposed

New Business

1. Feather River Action! – Request for Public Information

A request for public records was submitted to PCFSC by Josh Hart from Feather River Action. This is known as a Public Information Request. A copy of Mr. Hart's email was passed out to meeting attendees. Mr. Hart is requesting information on PCFSC Hazardous Fuels Reduction projects, such as location, acreage, participants, parcels, NEPA/CEQA documents, timelines, and funding sources. He is seeking information on the Plumas Disadvantaged Communities, Eastern Plumas, C-Road, and Mohawk Valley projects. Mr. Hart will be charged 20 cents per page for every document PCFSC is required to supply him with. At this point in time, PCFSC is uncertain about which information is required to disclose. A board meeting may be called to discuss further action.

Old Business – none

Adjourned

Motion: Sally McGowan, Second: Kathy Kogge

Approved: All yes, none opposed