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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 11th, 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 type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Joe Smailes Firewise (23)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser RPF (24)	<input checked="" 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 (22)

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 – quorum established

Approve Agenda

Motion: Tracey Ferguson, **Second:** Trina Cunningham

May Consent Agenda

1. April Financials -Mike Flannigan reported that there are no major updates for the financials.

2. Status of Grant Budgets
3. Status of Potential Projects & Grant Opportunities
4. April Board Meeting Minutes

Approve consent agenda

Motion: Mike Flannigan, Second: Sally McGowan

New Business

1. Review and Approval: Investment Fund Policy

The finance committee is interviewing investment agents. With the amount of money PCFSC is considering, the finance committee feels it necessary to invest the funds with an investment agent. With approval, the finance committee will construct an investment strategy.

Motion: Jonathan Pangburn, Second; Trina Cunningham

Roll Call Vote

- John Reynolds – aye
- Sally McGowan – aye
- Don Gasser – aye
- Jonathan Pangburn - aye
- Kathy Kogge - aye
- Michael Hall – aye
- Ryan Tompkins - aye
- Tracy Ferguson - aye
- Trina Cunningham - aye
- Mike Flannigan - aye
- Julie Hunter - aye

2. Wood Products Infrastructure PG&E Match Approval

PCFSC was awarded \$1 million for the Wood Products Infrastructure Proposal. This will fund Phase 1 of the firewood processing and wood heat facility. Ms. Hepner explained that if PCFSC were to accept these funds, there would be an obligation to provide a match of slightly more than \$1 million dollars. It is possible to find another grant to provide that match or to utilize PG&E funds. Ms. Hepner asked the board whether PCFSC should accept these grant funds.

Ms. Hepner explained that the intent of this program is not to run it as a business, but as a stream of revenue that funds PCFSC programs. If the funds are accepted, PCFSC will hire a project manager to manage the project development.

Phase I requires funding for personnel, permitting, general contracting, site prep and equipment to produce kiln dried firewood. Permitting will not occur until there are approved plans.

Jonathan Pangburn wanted PCFSC to consider that this might be a source of “unrelated business income” for PCFSC taxes. He asked if PCFSC will lease the property from Plumas Corp.

Ryan Tompkins acknowledged that PCFSC would need to produce 2000 cords per year in Phase 1 and 3500 cords per year in Phase 2 to be economically viable. He compared this to the annual firewood permits issued by PNF, which totals 6,000-8,000 cords annually.

Julie Hunter confirmed that 2000 cords could be utilized in the city of Portola, and 4000 cords in the nonattainment area. Ms. Hunter insists that clean burning wood is a significant strategy for ameliorating the air quality issue in Portola. Ms. Hunter is supportive of this program.

Sally McGowan asked about where the material would come from and how it would be transported. Ms. Hepner explained that it will be included in the contracts with Hazardous Fuel Reduction contractors.

John Reynolds insisted that this is an opportunity for PCFSC to make a big step towards a solution to biomass utilization in the county.

Mr. Pangburn suggested amending this motion, saying that PCFSC staff will seek additional funds to implement this project, so PCFSC can refrain from using PG&E funds. Michael Hall seconded that suggestion. The new staff member will do a market analysis to figure out if PCFSC should continue this project. Ryan Tompkins also asked that PCFSC includes a working group as a part of this project.

Motion: Don Gasser, second: Julie Hunter

Roll Call Vote

John Reynolds – aye

Sally McGowan – aye

Don Gasser – aye

Jonathan Pangburn - aye

Kathy Kogge - aye

Michael Hall – aye

Ryan Tompkins - aye

Tracy Ferguson – Abstain

Trina Cunningham - aye

Mike Flannigan - aye

Julie Hunter - aye

Adjourned