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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 12th, 2023 - 10:00 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 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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.

10:00am Membership Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions – John Reynolds
2. Review Agenda – Reynolds
3. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: None
4. Public Comment:
5. Board Comment:

Mike Flannigan provided an update – Labor of Love (organization) is coming out this Saturday to do work around the community. Greg Kinne has also organized a field day for the Forest Knolls project on the same day.

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. Taylorsville Community Defense Zone Project Update

Bella Bledsoe provided an update. Environmental compliance has been complete. The project covers 9 nonindustrial landowners that border Taylorsville. The goal is to achieve a shaded fuel break-like forest treatment. Sierra Institute is seeking further funding to fully implement the project.

Joe Smailes also provided an update. This project consists of a continued line of uninterrupted landscape all along the south side of Taylorsville; the participating property owners border each other. The community participation for this project is substantial. The Forest Fire prevention permit has just been approved, which is a one-year commitment. Archeology has been ongoing. The goal is to be under 200 TPA, but the project is aiming to be around 120 TPA. The project is 265 acres. The project will be a good candidate for an underburn once complete.

Old Business – None

Updates

- Public Lands Projects – Matt West
 - The hand thinning crews are back in lakes basin. 20 people are out there now.
 - Mr. West is anticipating more crew members to be working on the project over the next month. The crews are chopping trees and stacking.
- Private Lands Projects - Rachel Wehrman:
 - Plumas Disadvantaged communities
 - Contractors will be starting very soon. The first contractor will start on La Porte.
 - 886 acres
 - Bid Tour on September 6th
 - Bids due tomorrow 9/15
 - Pretty quickly approaching deadline in February 2024.
 - Project broken up into 4 different zones to hire multiple contractors
 - This will enable implementation and completion by February 2024
 - Eastern Plumas Project
 - 5,000 acres total
 - The foresters have almost completed all of the layout, then PCFSC will contract archeology
 - CAL FIRE funded

- Commercial and noncommercial facets of the project
 - Danielle and the team are continuing with layout
 - EForT
 - Herbicide has been sprayed on projects and will continue to be monitored
 - Mohawk
 - Operations continuing in white hawk
 - C-Road
 - Reached out to three additional contractors and asked for a more concentrated bid solicitation
- County Coordination – Liam Galleher:
 - Almost 1000
 - A little under 200 residents engaged
 - 8 other fire safe councils have adopted the program – used same rhetoric and verbiage
 - All based on rhetoric used from CWMBP course, which was a 5-month course made available to PCFSC staff
 - Deliverables going forward:
 - Increased follow up to utilize the resident checklist to its fullest potential
- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich:
 - Crew is still working across the county
 - Tommy has a few visits left in Lake Almanor to visit
 - The crew has currently services 190 residents
 - Tommy can now give a pretty accurate idea of when crews will be on properties. Crews update their progress on google map as they complete projects.
 - Average cost per house is \$1105
 - If someone is signed up, they are not automatically signed up for the next available treatment. However, PCFSC staff do reach out to those clients to gauge interest.
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Logan Krahenbuhl:
 - Quincy Firewise Workday on Saturday – 9:00 am -12:00 pm for the Forest Knolls
 - Logan is helping with the basic Wildland Firefighting Class at FRC
 - A couple landowners on Quincy Junction road will be participating in burns this fall.
- Chipping – Gary Parque
 - All clients will be serviced by the end of the 2023 season
- Firewood Processing Facility
 - Working on site plan, drainage plan, etc.
 - Market analysis is complete – the projected income for phase one is \$626,375
 - The projected income for phase two is \$673,750
 - High electrical cost coming in with phase 1 – looking at \$139,000 dollars for phase 1 power bill
 - Phase 1 is site development, development of all infrastructure. Phase 2 is the implementation of a gasification system which provides heat and power, where we remove ourselves from the grid and develop our own power.
 - Rough capital cost for phase one \$2.775 million
 - Rough capital cost for phase two is \$4.812 million
 - The air quality permit application is complete and will be submitted shortly

2. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: Jonathan Pangburn provided an update. Burn permits for all burn types are now available. Small burn permits are good for one year.
- Feather River College: Not present.
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD): Michael Hall Provided an update.
 - The Warner Valley project is still active
 - Work was done for a project near Camp Fleischmann
 - Another project is active in Seneca – There are 477 acres more to do that will be complete in Spring. Pile burns need to be complete
 - Large scale project in Indian Valley is starting - 9 landowners and 200 acres.
 - Fieldwork: crew has 2 more weeks of clearing down in Plumas Eureka. They will then be available to help with PUC prep and cleanup.
 - Entered into an agreement with NRCS as of yesterday to help landowners write forest management plans.
 - North Quincy – in progress – hope to get a notice in the paper next Thursday
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: Michael Hall provided an update.
 - Put in an application to SNC to fund a position to run the stewardship coalition.
- Firewise Communities: John Reynolds provided an update
 - The due date is November 17th for Firewise forms.
- Industry – Timber: No updates.
- Industry – Insurance: Mike Flanigan provided an update.
 - The insurance commissioner issued a memo that there is a tentative agreement which will allow insurance companies to use different rate structures.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Not present.
- Northern Sierra AQMD: Julie Hunter provided an update.
 - Burn season is open – be sure to get your air quality permit.
 - If you are residential burning a pile, no permit from the AQMD is required
 - If you are burning over an acre of underburn, one does require a permit from the AQMD.
 - Wood smoke reduction program for all three counties is available for all folks in Plumas and Sierra counties. This is a wood stove changeout program.
 - Non-attainment is still active in Portola
- Plumas Corp: Scott Corey provided an update.
 - Plumas Corp staff are on alternative work schedules to complete implementation by the end of the season.
 - Biggest construction right now is in Mountain Meadows, east of Westwood
 - New staff member will start this month working in the Southern Sierras
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): No update.
- Plumas County Planning Department: No update.
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Not present.
- Tree Mortality Update: No update.
- Plumas department of agriculture: Not present.

- Tribal Representatives: Not present.
- University of California, Cooperative Extension: Ryan Tompkins provided an update.
 - 18 Firewise communities in Sierra and Plumas Counties are using the Firewise Reporting tool on Survey123
 - Hours entered by Firewise Communities Totals
 - Sum of Dwelling Unit/Home: 6,216
 - Sum of Landscaping: 12,113
 - Sum of Common Area: 1,046
 - Sum of Miscellaneous: 1,060
 - Total: 20,435
 - Sum of Total investment: \$812,157.04
 - Mr. Tompkins and Sue McCourt sent out the reporting tool data.
 - Mr. Tompkins shared information on The Human Health Benefits of Improving Forest Health in California. Mr. Tompkins sat on the steering committee for the report. Reach out to Mr. Tompkins for more information if interested.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Dave Kinatader provided an update.
 - Burning on all districts
 - 2 crews currently on the Beckwourth
 - Working on little grass valley reservoir projects
 - Partnerships with FRRCD are active
- Terra Fuego
 - Just got a job near McLeod prescribing fire over 1300 acres on industry land
 - Partnered with Pacific Forest Trust
 - Crews are actively out prepping units to burn in the spring
 - Awarded a 460-acre pile burn in Lassen National Forest near Diamond Mountain
 - Landowner of the 5-dot ranch have asked Terra Fuego to manage their land with the use of prescribed fire
- Mule Deer Foundation: Not present.

3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events –

Kevin Danaher provided an update: The California state Government is going to launch a program that hands out electric bikes. Members can look into the California State Government Electric Bike Program.

Adjourn - Next meeting November 9th, 2023