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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

# Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 10:00 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (23)	<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.

## 10:00am Membership Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions – John Reynolds
2. Review Agenda – Reynolds
3. Approve October Meeting Minutes

**Motion: Mike Flannigan, Second: Sally McGowan**

**Approved: All yes, none opposed**

4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: Greg Kinne & Julia Sidman
5. Public Comment: None

6. Board Comment: None

## **New Business –**

### **1. Board Nomination Committee – Reynolds**

John Reynolds and Sally McGowan will lead the committee for recruiting new board members.

## **Old Business – None**

## **Updates**

- Public Lands Projects – Matt West: No update.
- Private Lands Projects - Rachel Wehrman:
  - Plumas Disadvantaged communities
    - Two contractors have started work along La Porte road, and the remaining two will start soon.
    - 886 acres
    - 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
    - Layout is ongoing
    - The RPF for the project has hired a professional archeologist. They have started surveys on commercial parcels. There are noncommercial parcels in the project as well, and another archeologist needs to be hired to do those surveys.
    - 5,000 acres total
    - The foresters have almost completed all of the layout, then PCFSC will contract archeology – professional archeologist part of the team
    - CAL FIRE funded
      - Commercial and noncommercial facets of the project
  - EFoRT
    - Herbicide has been sprayed on projects and will continue to be monitored
  - Mohawk
    - Operations continuing in white hawk Ranch and Mohawk Meadows. They will be moving to Valley Ranch in the next couple of weeks.
    - About 75% is complete
  - C-Road
    - Reached out to three additional contractors and asked for a more concentrated bid solicitation
    - It has been challenging getting a contractor in place, but we now have someone who is going to start within the next few weeks.
    - Project totals roughly 100 acres.
  - Almanor Peninsula
    - Two parcels need archeological surveys
  - Hamilton Branch Clear Creek Vegetation Management

- Contractor will be beginning work in the next few weeks. They will operate on 146 acres total.
- County Coordination – Liam Galleher:
  - Almost 1000 hazards identified
  - 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:
  - Mr. Brenzovich has a few more site visits to complete in Lake Almanor
  - The crew is done! They finished their last house on Halloween.
  - 249 total clients served
  - Going forward, Tommy hopes to create additional processes for prioritizing Senior/Disabled treatments and who can sign up. The goal is to treat people who haven't been treated before, and treat those who are at higher risk or lower income.
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Logan Krahenbuhl:
  - Burnt acreage on Rick Foster's property
  - Helping FRC with pile burns
  - Burned 60 large piles on FRC campus
  - Helped Butte PBA – personnel, on burning
  - Going down to support Butte CAL TREX training weekends
  - Transitioning to on call crew for Butte Cal TREX
  - RCD crew is actively out on PUC properties
- 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
  - **Wisewood** had things in operation expenses that they did not foresee
  - 896,000 operating costs for phase one
  - Darrell provided a projected timeline for PCFSC members
  - Engaging Tahoe Basin markets to have other sources of income
    - We will need a class a dump truck
- Outreach Coordination – Amber Hughes

- Onboarding gone smoothly – during the first three weeks
  - Familiarizing with Firewise language and protocol
  - Google forms for the Firewise tool trailer
  - Attended Site Visits
  - Attended Lassen national forest symposium
  - Applied for round up at the register at the CO OP
- Going forward
  - Continue to do site visits with PCFSC staff
  - Social media
  - Prepping for wildfire preparedness month

## 2. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: Mr. Thornhill provided an update. Coming Monday, bur permits will not be required for burning
  - 2022: 2100 defensible space inspections with a 79% compliance
  - 2023: 4722 defensible space inspections with a 78% compliance
  - Homeowners are required to uphold PRC 4291 – there can be legal implications if they don't comply
- Feather River College: Not present.
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD): Michael Hall Provided an update.
  - Still looking for a project coordinator – They will be in charge of NRCS site visits and facilitating management plants for landowners
  - Burning piles in the moonlight project
  - Fall planning in the moonlight scar – new for PNF and FRRCD
  - Dave Kinatader secured infrastructure funds for the FRRCD – these funds were used to hire firestorm
    - Helped enable work surrounding Oakland camp and the Mt. Hough ranger station.
  - North Quincy Project draft EA is out for public comment
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: No updates.
- Firewise Communities:
  - Joe Smailes – North Fork Recovery project – comments closed on Monday, but Joe wants to highlight the Sierra Institute and the Forest Service for how they handled the open houses. It enabled thorough outreach and opportunities for community questions and organizational answers.
- Industry – Timber: Jake Blaufuss provided an update.
  - AFRC is a trade association – they represent 95% of mills on the west coast. A lot of the projects from PCFSC used to be more multi-faceted, in that they included saw mills more often. Mr. Blaufuss calls for increased partnerships with the timber industry.
  - Mr. Blaufuss also recommends increased outreach with private landowners in strategic areas.
- Industry – Insurance: Mike Flanigan provided an update.

- Executive orders are starting to recognize the actions rural communities are taking to reduce wildfire risk – they are starting to recognize FIREWISE USA, and individual home hardening efforts.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Not present
- Northern Sierra AQMD: Mikki provided an update.
  - Mikki works on targeted airsheds projects for MSAQMD
  - Plumas County is not achieving the national standard for air quality when one analyses numbers from wood smoke.
  - This issue is very isolated to wood smoke, so NSAQMD was awarded a few million dollars in grants to help fix the issue.
- Plumas Corp: Scott Corey provided an update.
  - The Mountain Meadows project has been fully implemented
    - Staff are currently re-seeding the project grounds
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES):
  - National weather service is pushing out info that Plumas will be hit by its first big storm next week.
  - The Plumas community should sign up for Genesis, the new Code Red system
  - Disaster recovery, rural jurisdictions training
  - ICS 300 April 10-12
  - ICS 400 May 15-16
- Plumas County Planning Department: No update.
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Kristy Hoffman provided an update.
  - SNC has awarded grants to some projects in the Plumas area
    - Mule Deer Foundation
    - Taylorsville Protection Project
  - Upcoming workshops:
    - Grant administration workshop
    - Grant writing workshop
    - Workshop on prevailing wages
    - SNC has strategic plans open for public comment
- Tree Mortality Update: No update.
- Plumas department of agriculture: Not present.
- Tribal Representatives: Trina Cunningham provided an update.
  - Been working on state policy issues regarding upper watershed investments related to fire and water issues.
  - Working with Feather River College students
- University of California, Cooperative Extension: No updates.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Not present.
- Terra Fuego – not present
- Fire Chiefs Association – Ron Heinbockel provided an update
  - Insurance rates have nearly tripled
  - Increasing staffing

- There will be a new district in Eastern Plumas, and the required taxes to pay for it have been approved.
- Mule Deer Foundation: Chris Daunt provided an update.
  - Field work is winding down for the winter
  - Will be putting together an RFP around UC Berkeley camp
  - One to two positions will be opening soon to work on project oversights and layout
  - The objective for treatment is thinning, conservation of mule black tail deer and their habitat – these objectives overlap with wildfire crisis strategy.

### 3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events –

- Quincy Firewise hosted an informative presentation on smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

Adjourn - Next meeting December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023