



P.O. BOX 1225
QUINCY, CA 95971

418 N MILL CREEK RD
QUINCY, CA 95971

(530)927-5294
PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 11th, 2023 - 10:00 am.
50 Church Street, Quincy

Board of Directors

<input type="checkbox"/> Chair , John Reynolds Firewise (25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair , Sally McGowan Firewise (25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary/Treasurer Mike Flanigan, Insurance (25)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Smailes Firewise (25)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser RPF (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Hall Feather River RCD (25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Bauer USFS PNF (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Tompkins UCCE (25)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Kogge Firewise (25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lori Pini Office of Emergency Services (25)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Hunter NSAQMD (24)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jake Blaufuss AFRC (25)	

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 – Sally McGowan
2. Review Agenda – McGowan
3. Approve December Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mike Flanigan, Second: Julie Hunter

Approved: All yes, none opposed

4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: None

5. Public Comment: None

6. Board Comment: None

Mike Flanigan acknowledged Darrell Webster for his exceptional presentation last month on biomass utilization. Mr. Flanigan also acknowledged Amber Hughes' efforts for coordinating the Firewise leads meeting.

John Reynolds Received a letter of resignation from Jonathan Pangburn. Jonathan Pangburn will continue to attend meetings when possible. PCFSC is grateful to have support and input from Mr. Pangburn.

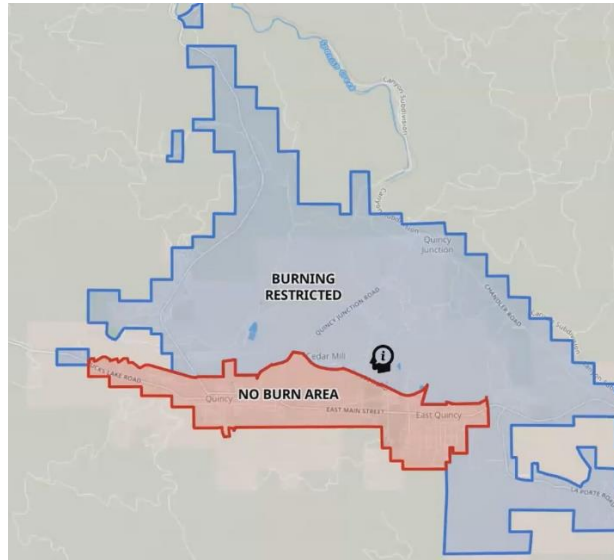
New Business

1. Rule 318 – Julie Hunter

Around 1990, there was a serious problem in the Quincy area with smoke during the winter due to a combination of wood stoves and open burning. In response, the NSAQMD Board of Directors adopted rule 318, following a public hearing. This rule was adopted in 1991 (amended in 1994 and 1996). Rule 318 prohibits any open burning in Quincy and East Quincy. It limits open burning in the adjoining American and Thompson Valleys (bounded by the Quincy FPD boundaries) to March 16 to November 16. This 'winter burn ban' has greatly improved air quality in the Quincy area. Additionally, in 1990, Plumas County adopted an ordinance requiring an inspection of wood stoves upon the sale of real property in the American Valley (within Quincy FPD boundaries). Any non-EPA certified stoves must be removed from the property before completion of a sale.

These measures and others have resulted in improved air quality. However, in 2006 the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) was lowered. The annual standard was dropped from 15 micrograms/cubic meter to 12 micrograms/cubic meter. With the standard lowered, the particulate level in Quincy has again become a concern.

Ms. Hunter hopes to add an exception to 318, which states that exceptions can be made for burning in the no-burn zone.



- Once the National Ambient Air Quality Standard is lowered, Quincy will be in nonattainment, which may prove difficult to make exceptions to 318.
- Not only will Quincy go into nonattainment, but likely the entire county.
- Board meetings for NSAQMD are in Portola and Grass Valley every 4th Monday at 1 pm – Portola meeting is located at the NSAQMD offices.

Old Business – None

Updates

- Public Lands Projects – Matt West:
 - The crews working in Lakes Basin finished work before snow deterred their work.
 - The crews working on the QWIP project in Boyles Ravine finished work before snow deterred their work.

For both these projects, operations are complete on the ground but some things will need to be fixed come spring.

- Matt has been inspecting the project sites.
- Private Lands Projects – Katie Quinn & Rachel Wehrman:
 - Plumas Disadvantaged communities
 - 886 acres
 - Operations ongoing in La Porte and Highway 70, and they are almost done.
 - CWDG funds have been awarded
 - 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

- Sending out landowner agreements to all the landowners designated for commercial
- Developing a RFP for archeology for noncommercial properties.
- Developing contracts for landowners where HFR consists of commercial removal
- EForT
 - Herbicide has been sprayed on projects and will continue to be monitored
- Mohawk
 - Currently working in Valley Ranch
 - About 85% is complete
 - Not operating currently because of weather
- Almanor Peninsula
 - Two parcels need archeological surveys
 - Getting in touch with Collins pine and Mason Bruce to come up with an agreement – we need to understand their THP since their projects run adjacent to ours
- Hamilton Branch Clear Creek Vegetation Management
 - They just finished 146 acres of mastication, which means the whole project is nearly done.
 - All of the mastication and hand thin work is done – people will be returning to the site to map things that still need work

Rachel and Katie applied for the wildfire prevention grant.

- County Coordination – Liam Galleher:
 - Wrote the Wood Innovations grant, but we weren't able to submit because the project changed
 - \$300,000
 - Fund contractual, mechanical and civil engineering, equipment, and personnel
 - 1005 hazards identified throughout the county, with resources offered accordingly
 - 227 residents engaged
 - 8 other fire safe councils have adopted the program – used same rhetoric and verbiage
 - Deliverables going forward:
 - Increased follow up to utilize the resident checklist to its fullest potential
 - Interviews with the University of Idaho and the University of Southern California discussing our County Coordinator program and how our county makes Fire Safe decisions.
 - Providing Firewise support during application season.
 - Applying for the CAL FIRE workforce development (2-5 million dollars)
 - Working on a map of County-wide projects to understand wildfire mitigation and forest health county wide
- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich:
 - The Senior/Disabled program is closed for 2023.
 - 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.

- Researching the FEMA program and how it will apply to PCFSC's home hardening program
- Working closely with Amber to develop language for his program
- Working on a system that can prioritize clients by need – this will consider demographics, location, and how often those clients have been treated.
- Tommy is hoping to work with an Ameri Corps crew to work on home hardening projects or other projects related to S/D
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Logan Krahenbuhl:
 - Pile burns in Taylorsville this most recent Saturday and Sunday
 - Loaned out air purifiers to folks in town
 - Planning for Spring TREX – will either happen in March or April
 - Next meeting is January 18th
- Chipping – Gary Parque
 - All clients will be serviced by the end of the 2023 season
 - Dates are almost solidified for the 2024 season
- Firewood Processing Facility – Darrel Webster
 - The Firewood Processing Facility will be changing – PCFSC will now be putting a heavier emphasis on biomass utilization instead of Firewood Processing, but the facility will still do both.
 - Darrell hopes to work with Airburner, and purchase their firebox
 - We are transitioning into diesel instead of electrical power – there was an increased electric rate, which would make the facility too expensive
 - Mr. Webster provided a summary to the group
- Outreach Coordination – Amber Hughes
 - Providing Firewise support
 - Establishing a network group with other Fire Safe Council outreach coordinators in the Northern Region
 - Established the connection with the Children's Fair for the Wildfire Preparedness Fair
 - Working on networking, marketing, and strategies to synthesize information to the public
 - The Firewise Leads meetings will resume its monthly presence – the first one was January 10th.
 - PCFSC received Round Up at the Register from the Feather River Food Co-op
 - Finished a newsletter that will be sent out at the end of this month

2. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: Alan Thornhill provided an update.
 - Chief announced his retirement at the end of December, so there will be new leadership in Susanville coming soon.
- Congressional District
 - The congressman is concerned about the denial of funding for the gold lake highway project
 - 3 supervisors from Sierra County went to Rocklin to meet Congressman Kiley to explain the severity of this issue

- Feather River College: Hayden Lampe provided an update.
 - Gearing up for the spring semester to start at the end of January – almost all classes are about full
 - List of 86 prospective students interested in the new bachelor’s degree program
 - Ecosystem Restoration and Applied Fire Management – Upper division classes should be available in Fall 2024
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD):
 - Applying to a CAL FIRE grant to provide 5 million in assistance to the Forest Service
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: No updates.
- Firewise Communities:
 - Joe Smailes provided an update – the renewal process was extremely difficult – 65% of communities were rejected.
 - The Taylorsville project is going well. Implementation of the project is set for 2024.
- Industry – Timber: Jake Blaufuss provided an update.
 - Mr. Blaufuss is the newest board member for PCFSC, and represents the timber industry through AFRC, and is happy to provide updates in the future.
- 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.
 - California is enticing insurance agencies to come back through various rate approvals, or other things of that nature. However, they are still resistant.
 - Jeff Greef inquired about parcel-specific mitigation – if a landowner does ample work on their property that proves effective, will insurance companies consider that? Mr. Flanigan responded, often times not – they are still subject to non-renewal.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Not present
- Northern Sierra AQMD: No update.
- Plumas Corp: Scott Corey provided an update.
 - This is the season for monitoring reports to be submitted.
 - Bought 156 Bidder Brush plants
 - In the Giant Sequoia groves, they are working on a data portal - pulling together multiple partners
 - Agreement with Butte RCD to work on Crane Meadows
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): No update.
- Plumas County Planning Department: No update.
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Kristy Hoffman provided an update.
 - The budget released “doesn’t look good” for SNC
 - Watershed Improvement Summit is in Sacramento
 - March 7th and 8th
 - New hire: Trinity Sterling
- Tree Mortality Update: No update.
- Plumas department of agriculture: Not present.
- Tribal Representatives: Trina Cunningham provided an update.

- Developing a partnership with California Open Lands, based in Butte County
 - There is a lot of workforce development and trainings wrapped up in this partnership
 - There is an effort to develop trainings for tribal crews in the natural resource field, and also to develop trainings for non-tribal partners on how to consider natural resources through a tribal lens: increase the knowledge of traditional ecological knowledge
 - Hoping for sometime between late spring and winter next year
- University of California, Cooperative Extension: Not present.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Ryan Bauer provided an update.
 - Projects around Lakes Basin fully complete
 - Thanks to those who submitted comments on recent projects: North Fork and Quincy Protect
 - Did not get any additional funding to support priority landscapes in 2024.
- Terra Fuego – Bill Jacks provided an update.
 - Community meeting in McCleod – 70 people in attendance
- Fire Chiefs Association – Not present.
- Sierra Institute
 - CCI grant
 - California Headwaters grant – they are looking for one proposal per forest, so hoping to collaborate with Feather River Resource Conservation District
- Mule Deer Foundation: Chris Daunt provided an update.
 - 1300-acre timber sale going out to bid soon – project should be done in 2024
 - Project surrounding Baker forest and UC Berkeley camp is ongoing – this project will also be a timber sale

3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events – None

Adjourn - Next meeting February 8th, 2024