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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 8th, 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 checked="" 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"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Jake Blaufuss AFRC (26)	<input 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"/> Lori Pini Office of Emergency Services (26)	<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 – John Reynolds
3. Approve January Meeting Minutes

Motion: Don Gasser, Second: Kathy Kogge

Approved: All yes, none opposed

4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: Tracy Ferguson – Submitted by Mike Flannigan
5. Public Comment:

Jeff Greef will be speaking at Quincy Firewise on his biomass utilization project

6. Board Comment: None

New Business – Rick Foster presented a video on wildfire mitigation conducted around Quincy High School.

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.
 - Inspections are pretty much wrapped up – things are mostly done - clean up must be done by spring
 - CSD project will need some clean up in spring
 - Contract with Terra Fuego will be drafted
 - Processing invoices
- Private Lands Projects – Katie Quinn & Rachel Wehrman:
 - Plumas Disadvantaged communities
 - 886 acres
 - 23 chainsaws are actively running on cemetery hill
 - Eastern Plumas Project
 - 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
 - Actively working landowner agreements for the commercial components of these projects
 - A bid has officially come in for archeology
 - 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:
 - See Mr. Galleher’s presentation in the board notes for updates.
- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich:
 - Sign-ups are starting to trickle in for the 2024 season.
 - 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.
 - See Mr. Brenzovich’s presentation in the board minutes for updates on the 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
 - Tommy is working on the maps to be provided to our contractors
 - Working on building the client list for the 2024 season
 - Participated in a tour of the Camp Fire with Italian engineers
 - Chipping outreach materials are complete – sign ups will be live for the 2024 season next week
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Logan Krahenbuhl:
 - Helping many landowners with small piles in the last month
 - Working with FRRCD to burn piles in Plumas Eureka
 - Plumas CAL TREX will be happening from April 28th through May 4th
 - Coordinating TREX with many partners
- Firewood Processing Facility – Darrel Webster
 - The air curtain incinerator will no longer be able to power the kiln units
 - We are limited in the amount of biomass we can store on site. Currently, we can store 4 days’ worth of biomass on Plumas Corp land – PCFSC is currently exploring more avenues to store material
 - Working on the CAL FIRE work force development grant
 - Working on the AIM CoCo grant to fund personnel for the facility
 - Presenting to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors to gain letters of support for the facility
- Outreach Coordination – Amber Hughes
 - Providing Firewise support
 - Working on the Community Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices Course
 - 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
- Attended Quincy Firewise and facilitated a discussion about goals for 2024
- Chester Firewise meeting in March to promote PCFSC programs
- Attending the FRC job fair

2. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: Alan Thornhill provided an update.
 - Hired a forestry tech position
 - Hiring seasonal DSI inspectors – they will be onboarded in the next month or two
- Feather River College: Not present.
- 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: Liam Galleher provided an update.
 - The FRRCD received potential funding to fund personnel to coordinate the coalition. Mr. Galleher will act as the FRSC coordinator should the FRRCD choose to accept the funds.
- Firewise Communities:
 - Firewise leads meeting is this upcoming Tuesday
 - James Ausboe will be presenting
- Industry – Timber: Not present.
- Industry – Insurance: Mike Flanigan provided an update.
 - State Farm implemented two rate increases – a total of 90% rate increase.
 - 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: Mikki Brown provided an update.
 - The NAAQS annual standard changed from 12 to 9 ug/m³ yesterday.
 - The rule 318 public notice can be found at the NSAQD website:
<https://myairdistrict.com/index.php/public-notices/>
- Plumas Corp: Scott Corey provided an update.
 - Working on public documents for the Tributaries Project
 - There is no implementation money for this project yet, but planning is active.
 - From highway 36 to the southern Sierra's, Plumas Corp has been monitoring ground water for years – there is hope to compile data soon.
 - Mountain Meadows is holding up nicely.
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): Lori Pini provided an update.
 - New CAL OES representative will be attending meetings from now on.

- Plumas County Planning Department: No update.
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy:
 - March 7th is the next board meeting – 2 forest health implementations are on that agenda
- Tree Mortality Update: No update.
- Plumas department of agriculture: Not present.
- Tribal Representatives: Trina Cunningham provided an update.
 - Partnering 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
 - SB 310 is being closely monitored
 - Actively monitoring other bills, codes, and ordinances that sound the use of fire and cultural fire.
 - Member of the water solutions network
- University of California, Cooperative Extension: Not present.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Ryan Bauer provided an update.
 - Participated in a tour of the Camp Fire, Dixie Fire, and North Complex Fire for Italian engineers
 - This winter has kept the environment wet enough to continue burning
 - The target is to reach 5,500 acres of burning
 - Starting in October, there were many accomplishments around Sloat/Cromberg
 - 200 acres of burning in Butterfly Valley
 - Went after 200 acres of piles in the Frenchman area.
 - Completed a large project around Moonlight
 - 50 acres burned at Bucks Lake
 - Feather River District did some burning around the Tamarack area – near grass valley reservoir
 - Finished machine piles around the Butterfly project
 - This spring they are hoping to go after acreage on the Big Hill project around Cromberg
 - Limited in their ability to pull together high complexity prescribed fire projects
 - Spanish Ranch / Meadow Valley is still on the books for 200-300 acres
- Terra Fuego – Bill Jacks provided an update.
 - Working on the logistics for a PCFSC and Terra Fuego partnership
 - Getting ready to burn in McLeod this spring
 - Finished a big project in the Lindo Channel in Chico
 - Working with the Feather River Land Trust on 3 different properties around Chester, Genesee, and Sierra Valley
 - Working with Trina Cunningham to be the Tribal representative on burns

- Fire Chiefs Association –
 - The new Beckwourth Peak fire department will be fully up and running on July 1st
 - They will be consolidating the adjacent fire departments into one department.
- Sierra Institute – Zach Browning provided an update.
 - Mr. Browning has been working on reviving the Feather River Stewardship Coalition – he will connect with Mr. Galleher to identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Mule Deer Foundation: Chris Daunt provided an update.
 - Will be coordinating projects around UC Forestry Camp this season.
 - Should be receiving bids for a project around Antelope lake soon – this is a timber sale and biomass project.

3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events – None

Adjourn - Next meeting March 14th, 2024