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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

# Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 10:00 am.

50 Church Street, Quincy

## Board of Directors

|   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Chair</b> , John Reynolds<br>Firewise (23) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Vice Chair</b> , Sally McGowan<br>Firewise (23) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Secretary/Treasurer</b><br>Mike Flanagan, Insurance (23) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel<br>Plumas Fire Chiefs (23) | <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Smailes<br>Firewise (23) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Gasser<br>RPF (24)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Pangburn<br>CAL FIRE (24)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham<br>Maidu Summit Consort. (24)                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bowman<br>Firewise (23)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Tompkins<br>UCCE (23)   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy Kogge<br>Firewise (23)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Hall<br>Feather River RCD<br>(23)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tracey Ferguson<br>Plumas County Planning (23)                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Hunter<br>NSAQMD (24)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Bauer<br>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.

## 10:00am Membership Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review Agenda – no changes
3. Approve February Meeting Minutes

**Motion: Mike Flannigan, Second: Chuck Bowman**

4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: None
5. Public Comment:

Kyle Felker, project forester, commented on the proposed establishment of a new Monument in Plumas County. Mr. Felker expressed concerns about the Monument acting as a barrier to complete hazardous fuels reduction. He suggested that the public learn more about the implications of the Monument, and inquired about PCFSC's ability to speak officially on the matter with a letter. Hannah Hepner responded that taking an official stance is not necessarily appropriate from PCFSC, however, PCFSC could write a letter that expresses specific concerns. Ms. Hepner was invited to sit on the advisory committee for the Monument, but declined because the proposal is mostly outside of the Wildland Urban Interface.

#### 6. Board Comment:

Don Gasser expressed gratitude for "Living with Fire" and the PCFSC annual report.

Mike Flanigan expressed gratitude for the burn at Quincy High School in April. Matt West commented on the consumption of the burn, explaining that most piles were fully consumed, but some were put out at the end of the day because of air quality concerns.

#### **New Business**

1. Jennifer Wiley from Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture presented on the Noxious Weed Program and the Plumas Sierra Weed Management Area.

California has 45 active Weed Management Areas. Weed management areas are local stakeholder collaborations focusing on invasive plant control efforts. They are most often coordinated by county agricultural commissioner offices but in some cases, they are coordinated by Resource Conservation Districts. All interested land management entities, public and private, are invited to participate. Weed Management Area partners work together to identify top strategic priorities, share updates on field opportunities, and coordinate multi-jurisdictional projects.

Plumas Sierra Counties Weed Management Areas have a wide variety of partners, including the Plumas-Sierra Farm Bureau, Plumas National Forest, Tahoe National Forest, Lassen National Forest, Plumas-Sierra Counties UC Cooperative Extension, and more.

Ms. Wiley explained the California (CCR) 4500 list – title 3 of California Code of Regulations. This regulation is intended to address the obligation of the Department of Food and Agriculture to protect the agricultural industry from the movement and spread of injurious noxious weeds into and within California.

Ms. Wiley shared a comprehensive list of targeted weeds in Plumas and Sierra Counties, and explained that each one receives a rating of A, B, C, D, or Q. These ratings reflect the statewide importance of the pest, the likelihood of eradication or control efforts being successful, and the present distribution of the pest within the state.

Plumas-Sierra Counties Department of Agriculture is well equipped to handle these invasive plants, with tools such as a 2012 F450 500-gallon skid sprayer with boom and side jets, and 2 2014 Honda

Foreman 450's with 20-gallon ATV sprayers with 3 boom options. The weed program is fully funded by CDFA agricultural grants known as the Noxious Weed Grant Program.

Ms. Wiley demonstrated multiple weed-control projects, sharing maps and photos of treatments.

## **Old Business**

None

## **Updates**

### **1. Standing Reports and Discussion**

- CAL FIRE: Captain Steve Clement said they are staffing engines with 3 personnel for each engine. By mid-May they are planning for 5 engines in the Unit. As of recent, CAL FIRE hired 2 new Defensible Space Inspectors. The unit has sent 4 personnel to help with flooding elsewhere in the state. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, burn permits will be required and can be obtained online.
- Feather River College: Not present.
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD): Monika Richardson said the Feather River RCD just received two shipments of seedlings for the upcoming EForT planting season, as well as for planting in the Moonlight fire scar. Ms. Richardson just submitted a grant for tree climbing and cone collection. FRRCD has developed a map of severity patches, where regeneration is likely very low. Two FRRCD staff members will travel through Plumas County to identify seed trees for seed collection. They will be developing partnerships for collecting cones on Forest Service land.
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: Hannah Hepner said they are working on a year-long calendar of meeting and field-tour dates.
- Firewise Communities: Gary Parque said there will be an Eastern Plumas Wildfire Preparedness fair hosted by the Beckwourth District.
- Industry – Timber: John Van Duyn of Honey Lake Power said the timber industry is always looking to purchase fuel to help subsidize hazardous fuels reduction projects.
- Industry – Insurance: Mike Flannigan said Nationwide is the biggest insurer in the nation and they have withdrawn from the state of California for small businesses. The California FAIR plan is considering fuels in the surrounding area, slope, and access to property.
- Industry – Utilities: Not present.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Not present
- Northern Sierra AQMD: Julie Hunter announced that April 22<sup>nd</sup> is a wood stove event in Portola. There was a successful burn in the no-burn zone of Quincy at Quincy High School.
- Agriculture Department: No update.
- Plumas Corp: Not present.
- Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association: Matt West said the next meeting is still being scheduled.
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): Not Present.
- Plumas County Planning Department: Not present.
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Kristy Hoffman announced that there is a wildfire recovery and forest resilience grant cycle opening next week. The request for proposals will be available on the SNC website. Proposals are due in mid-June. There will be a SNC board meeting in Plumas

County on May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. They will tour Crescent mills and other projects on Collins Pine land.

- Tree Mortality Update: No update.
- Tribal Representatives: Not present
- UC Cooperative Extension: Not present.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Not present.

## 2. Status of PCFSC Programs

- Public Lands Projects – Matt West: No updates.
- Private Lands Projects - Rachel Wehrman has a bid tour scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> for the C-Road project. The Plumas disadvantaged communities project has made progress with archeology. PCFSC received the CWDG grant, which will hopefully fund the East Shore project. Ms. Wehrman is working on getting a permit for the Clear Creek Hamilton Branch VMP to enable PCFSC to operate within railroad right-of-way.
- County Coordination – Liam Galleher applied for the Community Wildfire Defense grant, which was awarded for \$6.8 million. This will fund the Plumas County Hazardous Fuels Assessment and subsequent hazardous fuels reduction projects. The software company Fire Aside wrote a couple of press releases for the Plumas County Fire Safe Council and posted them in Plumas News. This helped with increased sign-ups for the Fire Safe Home Visit project. During the week of April 17<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Galleher will be in Sacramento for a wildfire mitigation legislative walk and County Coordinator conference.
- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich has been calling community members and getting them signed up for service.
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Logan Krahenbuhl said PUC put on a refresher training (RT-130), general training, and a wilderness first aid for the Prescribed Fire Training and Exchange (TREX). PUC also participated in a PBA Knowledge Exchange, where PUC acted as a mentor to help other PBA's get established. PUC also burned piles behind Quincy High School.
- Chipping begins at the end of May, and there are still spots available.
- Outreach: Living with Fire, the PCFSC annual report, and wildfire preparedness day flyers are both available.

## 3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

Lindsay Cline announced that California State Parks are preparing CEQA documents for prescribed fire programs in the Sierra District. They have completed their first official study that encompasses prescribed fire goals over the next 15 years.

Adjourn - Next meeting May 11th, 2023