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# Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 11<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 Flannigan, Insurance (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ron Heinbockel Plumas Fire Chiefs (23)	<input 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 Community Lead. (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 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 (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 – John Reynolds
2. Review Agenda – No changes
3. Approve April Meeting Minutes
- Motion: Mike Flannigan, Second: Michael Hall**
4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: None
5. Public Comment: None

## 6. Board Comment:

Don Gasser mentioned that because Ron Heinbockel is no longer Meadow Valley Fire Chief, PCFSC should recruit new board member representation from Plumas Fire Chiefs. Mike Flannigan suggests that Frank Carey would be a good candidate.

## New Business

1. Tracey Ferguson delivered a presentation explaining the specifics of the new [State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations](#). Ms. Ferguson shared the intricacies of topics such as:

- Standards for fuel breaks and greenbelts.
- Considerations for undeveloped ridgelines.
- New considerations for enforcement agencies.
- Improving local compliance with minimum Fire Safe regulations.
- Emergency response, personnel, street signs, addressing, reflective signs, and multiple addresses down a private road. This section addresses information that should be present on a public road.
- Emergency water standards.
- Fire authority, and specific considerations for Plumas County since there are multiple fire authorities.
- Residential and commercial land uses within the scope of the minimum Fire Safe regulations.

Ms. Ferguson elaborated on specific topics, such as:

LRA – Local Responsibility Area.

Considerations for installments of modulars in very high LRA's.

Building permits for new construction: If it is in very high LRA or SRA, they will be obliged by these regulations, but if you are remodeling an existing structure, then the regulations do not apply.

Exceptions to standards: landowners can apply for exceptions, but they must provide the same practical effect for factors like defensible space. There is a handout available for more information on exceptions. When one applies the "same practical effect" to exemptions, they do not have to fill out an exception form. There are certain metrics that automatically exempt landowners, like those who own small parcels. On the other hand, for a preferential desire to be exempt, then landowners must fill out an exception form.

The overall the intent of the regulations is to reduce structure-to-structure ignitions.

2. Fire Module – Logan Krahenbuhl is seeking board approval to pursue a grant that would increase PCFSC staff by adding a crew of six prescribed fire practitioners via the Quincy Prescribed Fire Module project. Mr. Krahenbuhl provided an overview of the need for the crew and gave an outline of responsibilities.

## Proposed model

- 6 employees
- Employed in-house
- Purchase 1 engine, 1 pickup truck (grant funded)
- No current infrastructure to house and maintain equipment
  - This will be written into a grant proposal
- Wildfire assignments: function as federal AD employees, not PCFSC employees

Mr. Krahenbuhl is seeking board approval to pursue this program. The intent of this program is to increase the pace and scale of prescribed fire. A program like this can be a replicable model for other NGOs, agencies, and Fire Safe Councils.

Trina Cunningham mentioned that the Maidu Summit Consortium is training a crew in cultural burning and fuels reduction. Ms. Cunningham says that they can be a partner for this program starting in June. They can also provide cultural consideration by helping identify cultural sites on private properties. This should be written into the proposal and business plan. If PCFSC is going to be training crews, they need to be trained in identifying basic archeological resources – it is imperative to train crew members in cultural considerations. For tribal engagement, reach out to Ms. Cunningham.

## **Motion: Ryan Tompkins, Second: Jonathan Pangburn**

### **Updates**

#### 1. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: Jonathan Pangburn said burn permits are available online at no-cost. Joe Walton provided clarity on the new online format for permit processing.
- Feather River College: John Dvorak said they have been working hard on curriculum development for the environmental studies program. Hoping to offer the upper division portion of the degree starting in Fall 2024. Fall 2023 will offer lower division courses. Recruiting now for a proactive prescribed fire training program (HEFT).
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD): Michael Hall said they are currently tied up with planting projects – depending on snow levels, it will probably take three weeks to complete. Have completed around 900 acres. Two new fire recovery grants received. Looking to recruit clients who have been impacted by wildfire. Recently re-signed an agreement with California State Parks to continue to work in Plumas Eureka. Four current employees working on PUC projects. May 31<sup>st</sup> will be a tour for the SNC site visit.
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: No updates.
- Firewise Communities: John Reynolds provided said Firewise Leads meetings have restarted. The first meeting was well attended. Future meetings are to be announced.
- Industry – Timber: No update.
- Industry – Insurance: Mike Flannigan reported that there are not many changes since last month. The California FAIR Plan is still the primary growth market.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Ben McNally said there is an upcoming deadline for project funding.

- Northern Sierra AQMD: Julie Hunter announced that the green waste program in Portola has been stalled because of the snow. There is now PCFSC information on the NSAQMD online permitting website.
- Agriculture Department: Not present.
- Plumas Corp: Scott Corey said two new people have been hired. Bethany Rouse and Kendall Hiemke. They are in the process of hiring a new person to manage a program in the Southern Sierras. They will be working on monitoring Giant Sequoia groves. In the near future, some state representatives will be visiting Plumas County to tour a selection of projects.
- Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association: Matt West said there will be a meeting this Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am at Station 1 in Quincy. They have just completed the fire academy, which consisted of 15-20 new volunteers. There were recently two pile escapes that required a response from the Quincy VFD.
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): Not present.
- Plumas County Planning Department: Tracey Ferguson said Plumas County submitted three Hazard Mitigation Grants. One of those grants works in tandem with the PCFSC Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program Manager. They also collaborated with Jim Willcox from Plumas Corp for watershed considerations. Plumas County Planning Department is also planning for the update of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This was approved and adopted through FEMA and the board of supervisors in 2021. Plumas County is continuing to work with the Dixie Fire on the 2021 Wildfire Recovery Plan.
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Kristy Hoffman said that SNC is hosting a project tour on May 31<sup>st</sup> in Chester. There is an open grant cycle for wildfire recovery and forest resilience. SNC is starting work on their next strategic plan.
- Tree Mortality Update: No update.
- Tribal Representatives: Trina Cunningham announced that the Maidu Summit Consortium is hosting its second annual logging jamboree sponsored by Collins Pine – partnered by the Almanor Foundation and the Feather River Tourism Association. It is \$10 per person to participate in the event. Most of the 3,000 acres of land owned by the Maidu Summit Consortium is still under snow, but they are hopeful to open parts back up to the public later in the summer. Tree planting will start this spring as soon as it is accessible. They are recruiting for a training program and are hoping to train up to 30 people. Ms. Cunningham has resigned from the Maidu Summit Consortium.
- UC Cooperative Extension: Ryan Tompkins is working on statewide reforestation between federal, state, NGO, and private partners. Katie Lowe recently published a paper in Fire Ecology – it was about Quincy Library Group treatments that burned in two fires, and how they responded.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Not present.

## 2. Status of PCFSC Programs

- Public Lands Projects – Matt West: Lakes Basin area has been conducting pile burns, and are also underburning at lower elevations.
- Private Lands Projects - Rachel Wehrman: The C-Road project recently had a bid tour on May 1<sup>st</sup>. PCFSC is currently reviewing the contractor bids. All of the landowner agreements have

been sent out for the Plumas Disadvantaged Communities Project. Ms. Wehrman is meeting with crews for the Clear Creek Hamilton Branch Project.

- County Coordination – Liam Galleher: Submitted the CA Creative Corps grant for \$150,000. This is to fund a Docu-series about wildfire mitigation in Plumas County. Liam sat on two panels in Sacramento discussing the PCFSC County Coordinator program. The Wildfire Preparedness Fair is on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Plumas County Fairgrounds from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Fire Safe Home Visit program is officially open for the season.
- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich: Has sent out the S/D bid list to contractors, which contains 190 addresses so far. PCFSC is teaming up with the County to start developing the Home Hardening Incentive Program.
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Logan Krahenbuhl: PUC had its most productive month in history this April.
  - 7 days of burning
  - 7 different property ownership
  - 17 different burn units
  - 36.7 acres
  - 816 hours of staff/volunteer time
- Chipping: The chipping program will begin May 30<sup>th</sup>.

3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events: None

Adjourn - Next meeting June 8th, 2023