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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 10th, 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"/> Jonathan Pangburn CAL FIRE (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Trina Cunningham Maidu Summit Consort. (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 type="checkbox"/> Michael Hall Feather River RCD (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tracey Ferguson Plumas County Planning (23)	<input 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 – Reynolds
3. Approve July Meeting Minutes – Reynolds

Motion: Jonathan Pangburn, Second: Sally McGowan

4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: Kevin Danaher
5. Public Comment:

Jeff Greef – The Argentine lookout repair group is going to be hauling concrete to the lookout. They need volunteers to assist with carrying the material.

Three people from the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Program gave positive feedback for the work implemented.

Sally McGowan mentioned that PCFSC won second place for the float at the Fair parade.

New Business –

1. Advanced Waste Conversion Technology – Charles Smith presented on biomass utilization on behalf of Gold Seal Industries and Stonebridge Sustainability Inc.

Gold Seal Industries has taken a different approach to design, development, and operation, which is different than any other technology on the market.

- Zero emissions
 - Only true zero emissions system on the market
- Mobility
 - The system is mobile and comes in sets of shipping containers
- Plug ‘n play
 - Allows the various containers to connect and operate together to create a fully integrated system
- Self-powering
 - Operates fully off the grid

The technology is the only commercially viable alternative to waste incineration.

- Induction heating
 - Superheats and thermally degrades carbon-based materials to produce synthetic gas in an oxygen-free environment with zero emissions
- Synthetic gas
 - The synthetic gas is the base chemical that is converted into all forms of energy. The syngas is compressed and stored as an on-demand energy source
- Moisture
 - The moisture contained in the feedstock is extracted and distilled, then further condensed and converted into medical grade water
- Commodities
 - The remaining solids and other chemicals from the gas purification process are sold as commodities with zero waste

The technology utilized is an Ultimate Conversion System – Electromagnetic induction heating superheats waste in a vacuum to extract gas from material, also known as syngas. The gas is hydrogen-rich and contains ultra-low sulfur, with zero air emissions.

This technology can process a wide variety of feedstocks and convert them into numerous commodities.

- Municipal solid waste

- Used tires
- Coal
- Wood
- Plastic
- Electricity
- Transportation fuels
- Biochar

Old Business – None

Updates

1. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: Jonathan Pangburn said DSI inspectors are still in Plumas County areas. CAL FIRE is currently upstaffing.
- Feather River College: Not present.
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD): Quincy North Draft EA is being reviewed by the PNF team. Hand thinning is being implemented on Mohawk Road. The Emergency Forest Restoration team is in Crescent Mills.
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: Hannah said FRRCD is likely going to have funding to fully take over coordination of FRSC.
- Firewise Communities: Joe Smailes has been contracted to create an intelligent array of protection around Taylorsville Firewise. This is a green biomass project. Congressman Kiley will be coming to Plumas County on September 6th to meet with Firewise leads.
- Industry – Timber: Not present.
- Industry – Insurance: Mike Flanigan said the Department of Insurance issued a memo that they are developing a process to recognize what Firewise communities and individuals do for wildfire mitigation.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Not present.
- Northern Sierra AQMD: Mikki Brown shared that NSAQMD is actively looking to fill a seasonal part time position. The position will run from September to April.
- Plumas Corp: Scott Corey said that the annual audit will take place next month.
- Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association: No update.
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): Not Present.
- Plumas County Planning Department: Not present.
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Not present.
- Tree Mortality Update: No update.
- Plumas Department of Agriculture: Not present.
- Tribal Representatives: Not present.
- University of California, Cooperative Extension: There will be a post fire recovery workshop for all the north state in September and October.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: David Kinatader shared that the North Quincy and Claremont projects are moving forward. There is a substantial rush to spend inflation reduction act money.
- Mule Deer Foundation: Not present.

2. Status of PCFSC Programs

- Public Lands Projects – Matt West:
 - Lakes Basin – machine work has been going for a month. Hand contractors have only been up for a week, but they will continue to do work in the future.
 - QWIP going forward next month
- Private Lands Projects - Rachel Wehrman:
 - Mohawk – contractor started in Smith Creek Ranch – will be continuing for the next several weeks.
 - Quincy – PDC – finalizing prospectus and putting out to bid early next week
 - Eastern Plumas – Continued layout
 - Hamilton Branch and Clear Creek – Partnering with CAL FIRE – Antelope hand thin crew that has been active.
 - C-Road – bid tour several months ago, but no valid contractors came from that.
- County Coordination – Liam Galleher:
 - Fire Safe Home Visits have been active throughout the County
 - 924 Unique Discoveries in the County
- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich:
 - Deep in operations with the Senior/Disabled program
 - 240 confirmed clients
 - Done with the east side, and are currently in Quincy. Operations will be finished in Quincy soon.
 - More consistent high quality as opposed to last year
 - On track to hit October 14th deadline.
 - Recently assisted the County with a grant proposal on home hardening incentive. Proposal has gone to CAL OES.
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Matt West:
 - PUC conducted a night burn at Ben Hunt’s property.
 - S290 next weekend – intermediate fire weather behavior.
- Chipping – Gary Parque
 - Finished up all the spring round. Gary has been working on outreach for round 2.

3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events

Adjourn - Next meeting September 14th, 2023

Motion: Jonathan Pangburn, Second: Don Gasser