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PLUMASFIRESAFE.ORG

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 14th, 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 Flanagan, Insurance (23)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Pangburn CAL FIRE (24)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tracey Ferguson Plumas County Planning (23)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Hunter NSAQMD (24)	<input checked="" 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 August Meeting Minutes – Reynolds

Motion: Mike Flannigan Second: Kathy Kogge

4. Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to: Hannah Hepner
5. Public Comment:

Jeff Greef provided an update – Argentine lookout group will be hauling 60-pound bags of concrete up hills on September 30th. If the public knows anyone who is willing to help, please reach out to the Argentine Lookout Group. The Plumas Wood Fiber project is still in progress. Mr. Greef’s project aims to replace peat moss with processed forest biomass (wood fiber). Mr. Greef is looking to purchase land for the project facility. Learn more at <https://www.plumaswoodfiber.com/>

6. Board Comment:

Ryan Bauer provided an update. The Forest Service added an update to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act WUI layer.

New Business – None

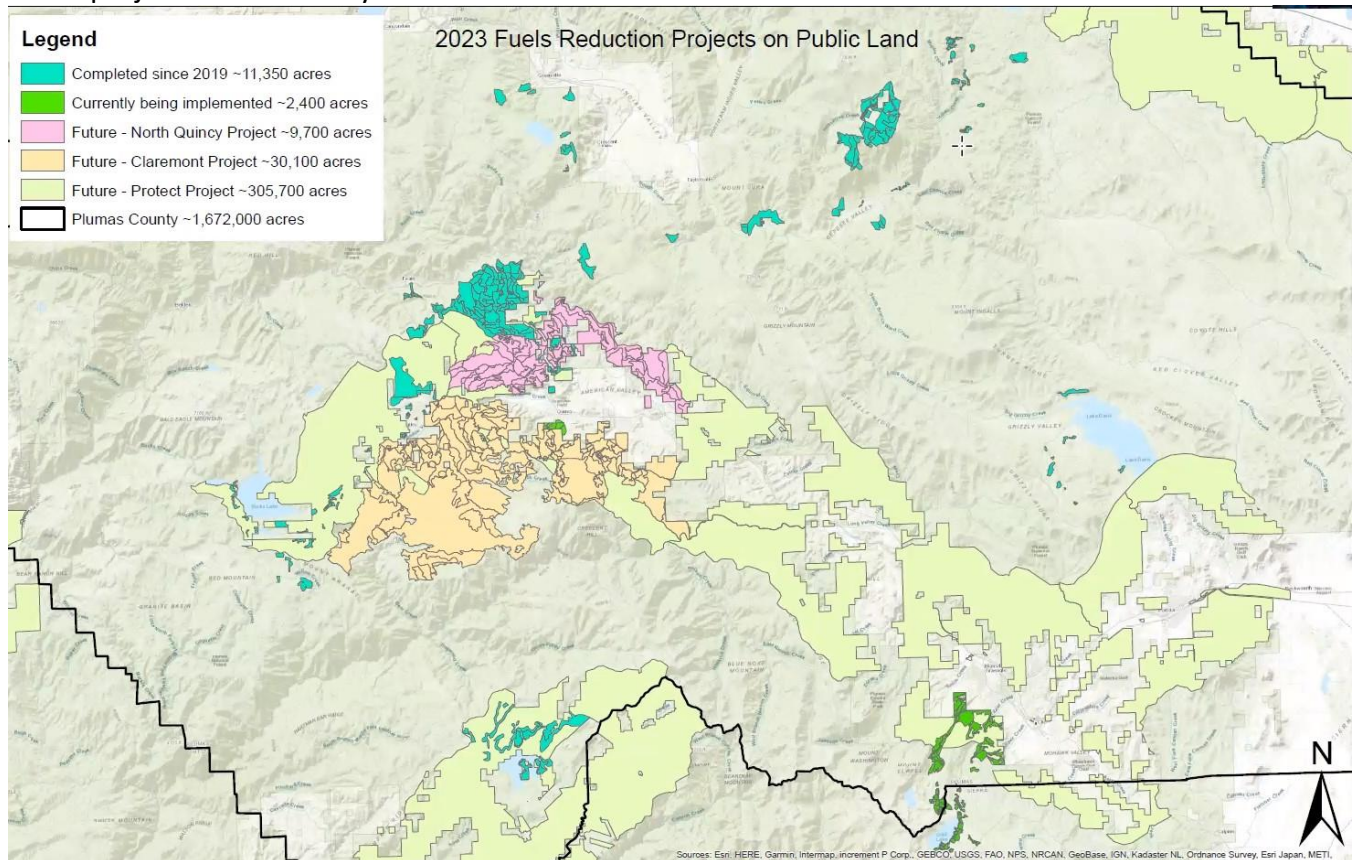
Old Business – None

Updates

1. Status of PCFSC Programs

- Public Lands Projects – Matt West:

Matt West provided an update on the Quincy Watershed Improvement Project, as well as other Public Lands projects in the county.



Mr. West provided some ratios of types of treatments done on public lands. 42% of Public lands projects are handpiled. Another dominant treatment is “biomass” related, where after the removal of larger wood, PCFSC pays to get rid of woody residuals, like smaller pieces of biomass. 12% of treatments are grapple piled. 10% of treatments utilize mastication.

The Lakes Basin project will be done by June 17th, 2024. The end date for QWIP funding is January 2026.

Lakes Basin Updates

- For handwork, 540 acres that have been inspected and complete.
- For handwork, 440 acres have been complete, but have not passed inspection yet.
- For handwork, 220 acres have not been complete.
- The project just added 180 acres from the Forest Service

- Private Lands Projects - Rachel Wehrman:
 - Plumas Disadvantaged communities
 - 886 acres
 - Bid Tour on September 6th
 - Bids due tomorrow 9/15
 - Pretty quickly approaching deadline in February 2024.
 - Project broken up into 4 different zones to hire multiple contractors
 - This will enable implementation and completion by February 2024
 - Eastern Plumas Project
 - 5,000 acres total
 - The foresters have almost completed all of the layout, then PCFSC will contract archeology
 - CAL FIRE funded
 - Commercial and noncommercial facets of the project
 - EFoRT
 - Herbicide has been sprayed on projects and will continue to be monitored
- County Coordination – Liam Galleher:
 - 962 Unique Discoveries
 - 175 residents engaged
 - 8 other fire safe councils have adopted the program – used same rhetoric and verbiage
 - All based on rhetoric used from CWMBP course, which was a 5-month course made available to PCFSC staff
 - Deliverables going forward:
 - Increased follow up to utilize the resident checklist to its fullest potential
- Senior Disabled Defensible Space – Tommy Brenzovich:
 - 257 clients for the season
 - 158 were annual clients and the rest were new
 - The S/D crew is working their way towards the Almanor Basin
 - 100 clients left to be treated – crew treats 4-6 clients per day

- Meeting with California Urban Development to discuss the in-development home hardening program
- Mr. Brenzovich is considering putting clients on a rotating schedule. That way, those who don't usually get a spot on the list can be serviced. Mr. Brenzovich's goal is to incorporate fundamentals from the social vulnerability map of Plumas County.
- Plumas Underburn Cooperative – Matt West:
 - Working on Butte TREX
 - 90 people for weekend trainings and another 60 that signed up to be on-call.
 - Monthly meeting next week – Thursday at 4:30
- Chipping – Gary Parque
 - All clients will be serviced by the end of the 2023 season
- Firewood Processing Facility
 - County Works permit is just about finished
 - Site development review for the planning department is active
 - NSAQMD committed to purchasing 1500 cords of wood from PCFSC, and possibly more.
 - HEAP has 175 customers that can commit to utilizing these products
 - PRS Disaster resource program has also expressed interest
 - IHSS has also expressed interest
 - Veterans services has 30 potential customers
 - Daryl's next step is to undergo the CEQA process
 - Marketing study is currently in the process
 - Cords will cost roughly \$200
 - There is a gasification system planned for phase 2 of the project

2. Standing Reports and Discussion

- CAL FIRE: Not present.
- Feather River College: Not present.
- Feather River Resource Conservation District (RCD): Not present.
- Feather River Stewardship Coalition: Hannah Hepner provided an update. The FRRCD has a potential to receive funding to continue the coalition and enhance it. Miles Brookes at the RCD is taking on the leadership of that initiative.
- Firewise Communities: There will be a Firewise leads meeting Wednesday. Joe Smailes provided another update. Pamela Grant and Mr. Smailes put together the meeting with Congressman Kiley, who was able to see Greenville for the first time after the Dixie Fire. The Taylorsville community defense project is still active.
- Industry – Timber: Not present.
- Industry – Insurance: No updates.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Not present.
- Northern Sierra AQMD: Julie Hunter provided an update. NSAQMD received a new grant to be utilized for the wood smoke reduction program. This will be available in 3 counties. Find more information on the NSAQMD website. Tasha Coleman will be leading this effort. Ms. Hunter offered a reminder that burn permits will be available once burn season begins. Mikki Brown also provided an update. The 2015 tag was the first targeted airshed grant that NSAQMD received. This grant is now nearly finished, with all the funds successfully implemented. This

helped enable 539 wood stove changeouts. Chimney sweep vouchers are tricky to quantify, but NSAQMD have received 30,000 dollars of those vouchers. 55 Woodsheds in the nonattainment area have been delivered – this is equivalent to 55 cords per year of wood. NSAQMD ran a Pilot seasoned firewood program. Going forwards, NSAQMD will be prioritizing full-time residents, so starting now, wood stove changes are going to be income based.

- Plumas Corp: Not present.
- Plumas County Office of Emergency Services (OES): OES is looking for people who received damage to their homes during winter storms. Landowners have to be primary residents, and are then eligible to receive a low interest loan to repair their home. The deadline is October 10th. OES is working on bringing in more incident command training courses to Plumas County.
- Plumas County Planning Department: Tracey Ferguson provided an update. Ms. Ferguson encourages the community to come to the Wildfire long term Recovery workshops throughout the county.
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship: Not present.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Not present.
- Tree Mortality Update: No update.
- Plumas department of agriculture: Not present.
- Tribal Representatives: Trina Cunningham provided an update. La Jolla band of Indians is hosting an event on biochar and other burning related TEK topics. Ms. Cunningham will be attending the After the Fire Leadership Conference in Sonoma.
- University of California, Cooperative Extension: Ryan Tompkins provided an update. UCCE will be hosting post-fire recovery programs and workshops in Shasta, Siskiyou, and Trinity counties. UCCE partnered with American Forests to develop an annual needs assessment. Mr. Tompkins is on the steering committee on a study linking forest management, wildfire smoke, and public health impacts. On September 27th there is a reforestation tour with the CA State board of forestry. Over 71 people are signed up. Mr. Tompkins is currently executing a partnership with the USDA climate hub on reforestation tactics.
- USFS Hazardous Fuels Reduction: Ryan Bauer provided an update. The Community Protection Projects were granted emergency authority. The initial treatments are on 70,000 acres of land near La Porte and Mohawk Valley; USFS signed an agreement with national forest foundation. The current fire recovery projects are still moving along.
- Mule Deer Foundation: Not present.

3. Other Updates & Upcoming Events – none

Adjourn - Next meeting October 12th, 2023