

## Plumas County Coordinating Council

### MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JULY 8, 2011

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call** - 1:05 p.m.

**Present:** Brian Morris (Chair), Robert Perreault (Vice Chair), Supervisor Sherrie Thrall, Supervisor Terry Swofford, Randy Wilson

**Absent:** Frank Stewart

2. **Public Comment Opportunity**

Terri Simon-Jackson, Planning Staff Officer - Plumas National Forest, provides follow-up from the last meeting regarding what percentage of the HFQLG-DFPZ (*Herger Feinstein Quincy Library Group-Defensible Fuel Profile Zones*) network has been completed in the Feather River Ranger District, and her answer is 37%.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion is made by Supervisor Thrall and seconded by Supervisor Swofford to adopt the meeting minutes of June 3, 2011. Motion is passed. Randy Wilson abstains.

4. **Forest Service Statewide Memorandum of Agreement**

Brian Morris, Chair, explains that this is an MOA that Forest Service, BLM, CSAC, and RCRC, have been working on to address the strained relations between the counties and the federal agencies in reference to various planning and management issues. Chair Morris distributes copies of a draft letter by Bob Perreault that points out that the single most important issue of the MOA is coordination and yet that word is nowhere to be found in the document. Mr. Perreault adds that the MOA does not demonstrate a solid appreciation of the issues. Further discussion takes place resulting in a consensus to add wording to Mr. Perreault's draft letter in the following manner:

- o A paragraph stating that there has been a history of collaborative efforts (successful and unsuccessful) on the part of Plumas National Forest and Lassen National Forest to work with various local entities. Also wording added that stresses the continuation of communication and coordination;
- o A paragraph that stresses the importance of the Forest Service complying with coordination requirements of the National Forest Management Act. This paragraph should also stress the need for the MOA to more directly address the issue of coordination.

Chair Morris asks if there is a motion to recommend the letter, with the paragraphs added, to the Board of Supervisors. A motion is made by Supervisor Thrall and seconded by Randy Wilson. Motion is passed.

5. **Forest Service Watershed Condition Framework**

Terri Simon-Jackson distributes a letter dated June 20, 2011, to Regional Foresters from Joel D. Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System. Ms Simon-Jackson summarizes the letter and reads the last sentence in paragraph three as follows:

*“My goal is for each National Forest and/or Grassland to be in a position to implement a Watershed Restoration Action Plan in at least one priority watershed in FY12 and to have firm plans in place regarding other priority watersheds and develop additional needed action plans in FY12.”*  
(Holtrop)

Ms. Simon-Jackson also draws attention to a Watershed Condition Classification map and mentions that our region has one “impaired” area and that appears to be the Last Chance Creek watershed. Ms Simon-Jackson states there will be a collaborative meeting, including counties, at the end of July or beginning of August, and that a plan will need to be written before the end of September. Conversation continues regarding how to proceed and the Council agrees that the point of contact should be Brian Morris. Jerry Bird, Supervisor – Lassen National Forest, emphasizes that funding will be allocated to the watersheds needing the most help. Mr. Morris contributes that Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest Hydrologist, has presented a matrix of issues and weighting factors used to score a watershed’s condition. However, consideration of overgrown forest conditions and excessive fuel loading, which are the primary issues for local forests, have been minimized by the nationwide formula outlined by the Forest Service. Randy Wilson asks if there are maps that show more detail for our region and Ms Simon-Jackson responds affirmatively.

6. **National Forest Travel Management**

Bob Perreault states that he is working with Nancy DaForno, Clerk of the Board, to set up a meeting to discuss Travel Management, and Supervisor Thrall adds that she thinks a meeting can take place in September. Randy Wilson asks Jerry Bird and Terri Simon-Jackson if they know when the maps will be available and they respond that they will know more about the maps in August.

7. **Legislation Update**

- a. **H.R. 1581 (McCarthy) – Return inventoried roadless areas to multiple use if not recommended for wilderness designation** - No action taken
- b. **H.R. 242 (Herger) – Suspend implementation of Travel Management Rule** – No action taken
- c. **H.R. 1458 (Herger) – Catastrophic Wildfire Community Protection Act** – No action taken
- d. **H.R. 1837 (Nunes) – San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act** – Update and possible correspondence to Congressional Representatives

Brian Morris states that two hearings have been held by Congressman McClintock’s Water and Power subcommittee. San Joaquin Valley water interests are supporting the bill, but otherwise there is bipartisan opposition from the rest of California and

other Western states. The Board of Supervisors will consider letters to Congressional representatives at their meeting on July 12 to express Plumas County's opposition to the bill.

e. **Stewardship Contracting** – *No report*

f. **Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization**

Brian Morris talks about a per capita income adjustment that will be applied for the first time in 2011 and that Plumas County could receive significantly more funding than originally estimated in 2008. Bob Perreault adds that John Mannle and Mr. Morris have been reviewing the funding allocations and that county schools and the road fund could each receive about \$800,000 more than previously estimated.

g. **Other bills** – *None reported*

## 8. **Litigation Update**

a. **Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. California Department of Parks and Recreation, et al.** (*challenging EIR and funding for over-snow vehicle program*) - *No update given*

b. **Sierra Nevada Framework**

Brian Morris reports that the litigation tied to the Sierra Nevada Framework will now go back to the District Court. Jerry Bird and Terri Simon-Jackson provide additional details regarding the ongoing litigation connected to their particular purviews.

## 9. **Coordinating Council Organization**

Council members discuss and share the following sentiments concerning the composition of the Coordinating Council:

- Supervisor Swofford – Does not want to increase the size of the Coordinating Council until things are further along;
- Randy Wilson – Wants to see “maturity” developed over the course of time;
- Supervisor Thrall – Wants the Council to be made up of the people making the decisions;
- Bob Perreault – Wants Coordinating Council to have the distinction of being a policy board;
- Brian Morris – Believes the consensus is to maintain the Coordinating Council as it is currently composed for the time being, with continued participation by staff from other agencies and members of the public as has been occurring.

A conversation develops concerning information dissemination on the Website and frequency of PCCC meetings. The Council concurs that the Website issue can be explored further and the meetings will continue on a monthly basis.

## 10. **Meetings and Other Activity**

a. **June 22, 2011 meeting with Regional Forrester**

Terri Simon-Jackson asks for feedback regarding the meeting with the Regional Forrester and Supervisor Swofford shares that he has not been overly pleased with those meetings. Bob Perreault provides background information that when revisions to the Forest Service Planning Rule were proposed and with the Sierra Nevada Framework and individual forest plans due for updating, RCRC asked the Forest Service to conduct outreach. John Sheehan adds that at the same time, a multiplicity of people wanted to talk; so the series of Dialog Sessions were scheduled to meet those needs.

**b. Other meetings**

Brian Morris reports that he attended a Sierra Meadows Forum sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Mr. Morris continues that he was asked to be on a panel to discuss meadow restoration projects and effects on water-flow. Mr. Morris adds that he had an opportunity to share what projects are taking place in Plumas County and the new process the county is developing to evaluate impacts to water supplies and water rights.

**11. Date and Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

**a. Set next meeting** – The next meeting is set for August 5, 2011.

**b. New agenda items:**

- o NOAA fisheries presentation

**12. Adjournment**

A motion is made by Supervisor Thrall and seconded by Supervisor Swofford to adjourn the meeting of July 8, 2011. Motion is passed. The meeting adjourns at 2:55 p.m.