

Plumas County Coordinating Council

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF September 2, 2011

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call** - 1:02 p.m.

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

Absent: None

2. **Public Comment Opportunity**

George Terhune states he was present at a recent Planning Commission meeting where a presentation took place by the U.S. Navy regarding military low-level operating corridors over Plumas County. Mr. Terhune continues that he has become aware of the role that the Coordinating Council plays in dealing with Federal entities, and that he wishes to share his thoughts regarding the military operating corridors with the Council. Mr. Terhune states that he is not impressed with the military's stance that they need to use the corridors over Plumas County most of the time, and he is concerned that the provisions stated in the Draft General Plan regarding the military do not adequately represent the County's interest. Mr. Terhune states that most of the discussions and decisions regarding the corridors will take place between the Forest Service and the military; however, he strongly suggests that the County is given an opportunity to participate in those discussions. Mr. Terhune states that the Council needs to pay close attention to the language pertaining to the military in the General Plan update process, and also the Council needs to explore the various ways the County can be involved in the discussions between the two Federal agencies.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Frank Stewart asks to correct the word *meeting* on Page 4, Item c, first and second sentences, of the August 5, 2011, minutes to the word *hearing*.

A motion is made by Supervisor Thrall and seconded by Supervisor Swofford to adopt the meeting minutes of August 5, 2011, as corrected. Motion is passed (*Mr. Wilson abstains due to his absence at that meeting*).

4. **Forest Service Watershed Condition Inventory**

Brian Morris relays that he and Mr. Stewart, and Leah Wills, and representatives from the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group and Natural Resource Conservation Service attended a meeting with the Forest Service that pertained to the evaluation and scoring of various watersheds in a range of categories. Mr. Morris shows a map of Plumas County and explains the scoring. Mr. Morris states that the Forest Service was asked to designate two priority watersheds by the end of September and those watersheds have been identified as Grizzly Creek and Lower Wolf Creek. Mr. Morris states that the action plans are the next step for these priority projects, and that they will be tracked on a national level. Lee Anne Schramel-Taylor contributes that these two watersheds are the first to be evaluated, and that two or three more watersheds will be chosen soon to follow suit.

5. Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization

Brian Morris presents a draft letter to Congressman McClintock from the Board of Supervisors and states that similar letters would be sent to Senators Feinstein and Boxer. Mr. Morris elaborates that in this letter Rep. McClintock is asked to support reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools law as well as continuing Title III in its current form. Mr. Morris adds that the letter traces the history of Plumas County's forest receipts and the dramatic decline, from 1988 to 1997, with a reduction of more than 90% (from \$6.2 million to \$500,000). Mr. Morris states Congress and the Forest Service need to reform statutes that govern management of the forest to allow things like the Quincy Library Group or its successor. Frank Stewart suggests that Mr. Morris incorporate language on the second page from the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition to address the future funding formula. Bob Perreault makes the motion that Mr. Morris finalizes the letter for presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting to be held on September 6, 2011. Supervisor Swofford seconds the motion. The motion is passed.

6. Update on Standing Issues

a. Forest Service Travel Management

Mr. Morris states that the Forest Service Travel Maps have been released and that he has extra copies of them.

b. Forest Service/RCRC/CSAC Memorandum of Agreement

i. Response to RCRC regarding meeting notes of June 22

Bob Perreault states that at the last PCCC meeting he was given direction to write a letter to RCRC (with a copy to CSAC) that focuses attention on the facts or situations that are important to Plumas County. Mr. Perreault points out that there is a draft letter on the table dated September 1, 2011, and it was distributed to the Council members prior to this meeting. Mr. Perreault summarizes that the letter stresses that *coordination* is the issue that primarily has to be addressed and resolved, and then all other issues would be easier to address and move forward on. Brian Morris points out that there may be resistance to the term *coordination* because of possible legal interpretations and requirements associated with it. Randy Wilson makes the motion that Mr. Morris finalizes the letter for presentation to the Board of Supervisors at their September 13, 2011, meeting. Supervisor Swofford seconds the motion. The motion is passed.

c. Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Pilot Project

Frank Stewart states that they have thirteen months left for the pilot project. Mr. Morris and Mr. Stewart briefly discuss the status of the Ingalls, Jackson – Happy Jack, Basin, and Champs projects and that when these projects are finalized, they will no longer appear in the SOPA reports. Mr. Wilson asks if the Forest Service will have budget reductions because the QLG pilot project is sunseting. Lawrence Crabtree, PNF Deputy Forest Supervisor, reports that there will be a 34% gradual reduction. Mr. Stewart stresses that if the pilot project is not extended, then talks and collaborative efforts need to be explored prior to the pilot project going away. Mr. Stewart particularly highlights the importance of stewardship contracts.

d. Plumas Eureka State Park

John Sheehan reports that our Assemblyman and the Graeagle-Plumas Alliance are continuing to work on solutions to keep Plumas Eureka State Park functioning. Lee Ann Schramel-Taylor contributes that in order for the Federal Government to take over State Parks, Congress would need to reverse the act that originally transferred the land from the National Forest to the State. Mr. Sheehan says that at this point the agreement between Eastern Plumas Recreation and California State Parks is still in place, and that enough funds have been raised for the *Long Board* events to continue through winter 2013. Sheehan suggests that RCRC is asked how other counties are dealing with State Park closure issues. Brian Morris offers that he will follow-up on the matter. Mr. Sheehan provides the name Scott Elliott as a contact for more information.

7. Legislation Update

Brian Morris reports that Congress has been in recess, so there are no updates or formal actions to report.

Brian Morris mentions that on the State level, the Cal Fire State Responsibility Area (SRA) fees are being revised. Supervisor Thrall states that CSAC has recommended that supervisors contact their legislative delegations and budget committees right away to express opposition to the newly amended SRA fee bills.

8. Litigation Update

a. Travel Management

i. Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation v. U.S.F.S. (Eldorado National Forest)

Brian Morris reiterates that there was a decision on this matter and the Forest Service decision was generally upheld; however, there were some problems with compliance with the Endangered Species Act and National Forest Management Act, and remedies are being negotiated by the parties. The judge is scheduled to review progress on September 12.

ii. Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center v. U.S.F.S. (Stanislaus National Forest)

Brian Morris reports that a decision is pending.

b. Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. California Department of Parks and Recreation, et al. (challenging EIR and funding for over-snow vehicle program)

Brian Morris states that originally the trial was set for October, but it has now been moved to February. Mr. Morris adds that the plaintiffs have agreed that they will not seek a stay and the program will go forward for the winter of 2011-2012.

9. Meetings and Other Activities

a. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Tour

Brian Morris reports that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation sponsored a tour in Plumas County. Mr. Morris continues that the Foundation initiated the Sierra Meadows Initiative which involves work on both Forest Service and private land to manage and restore meadow environments. Mr. Morris continues that there were a number of host ranchers in the Feather River Watershed of the Plumas National Forest area (i.e., Last Chance, Sierra Valley, Long Valley Creek). Mr. Morris elaborates about various efforts to protect water supply, particularly where downstream property owners are concerned.

b. Other Meetings

Frank Stewart mentions the September 19, 2011, congressional hearing by the public lands subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee at the State Capitol regarding management of National Forest lands.

Frank Stewart asks Lee Ann Schramel-Taylor to report what transpired at a recent Resource Advisory Committee meeting. Ms Schramel-Taylor states that there was \$382,000 available to disburse for projects and the committee made its project recommendations.

Lee Ann Schramel-Taylor states the next Sierra-Cascade Dialogue session will take place October 12, 2011. Frank Stewart adds that socio-economic aspects will be discussed at that meeting, as well as the biomass opportunities.

George Terhune mentions Planning Commission meetings on September 15, 2011, and September 22, 2011, which will devote time to the Draft General Plan. Randy Wilson, Planning Director, adds that there will be a presentation by Cal Fire at the September 15th meeting on the various responsibility areas (i.e., State, Federal, Local, Direct). Mr. Wilson provides information and a timeline pertaining to the Draft General Plan and the Draft EIR and the ability for the public to comment on those documents. Mr. Wilson adds that public participation at recent meetings has been lacking. Supervisor Thrall suggests outreach via the County Webpage and the local newspaper.

10. Date and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

a. Set next meeting is set for October 7.

b. Future Agenda Items.

i. Plumas County Public Works bridge replacements – October 7

Bob Perreault, Public Works, and Terri Simon-Jackson, Forest Service, are coordinating.

ii. Forest Service/QLG budget for FY2012 – October 7

Will be placed on October 7, 2011, agenda as a placeholder.

iii. Mercury studies and TMDLs

To be placed on a future agenda.

Frank Stewart mentions the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and Stewardship Contracting as potential successors to the Quincy Library Group. Mr. Morris adds that he is working with Leah Wills, Sierra Institute, and Forest Service staff on a similar proposal.

Supervisor Thrall suggests as a future agenda item that Randy Wilson discusses how the different sections of the General Plan might reinforce the PCCC position on coordination. Frank Stewart contributes that it may be beneficial in the future to have PCCC and the Forest Supervisors participate in face-to-face discussion about what coordination means. Bob Perreault adds that the Council members need to determine first what coordination means from the PCCC perspective, and also determine specifically when they should get pulled into Forest Service discussions.

11. Adjournment

A motion is made by Supervisor Swofford and seconded by Supervisor Thrall to adjourn the meeting of September 2, 2011. Motion is passed. The meeting adjourns at 2:32 p.m.