

Plumas County Coordinating Council

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF October 7, 2011

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call** - 1:00 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** – *No Comments*

Public Attendees (*per sign-in sheet*) - John Mannle (Plumas Co. Public Works), Corky Lazzarino (Sierra Access Coalition), Terri Simon-Jackson (Forest Service), David Wood (Forest Service), Earl Ford (Forest Service), Laurence Crabtree (Forest Service), Al Vazquez (Forest Service), John Sheehan (Plumas Corp.), and Sylvia Milligan (ROC).

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Terri Simon-Jackson asks that the name *Engle* on Page 2, Item 6-c, second line, of the September 2, 2011, minutes is changed to the name *Ingalls*.

Frank Stewart asks for the list of public attendees to be added to the minutes in the future.

A motion is made by Supervisor Thrall and seconded by Supervisor Swofford to adopt the meeting minutes of September 2, 2011, as corrected. Motion is passed.

4. **Bridge Replacement Projects** – *Presentation regarding Plumas County Public Works replacement of bridges.*

Bob Perreault states that the focus of this presentation will be on three bridges of importance to both Public Works and the Forest Service. Mr. Perreault adds that these three projects are good examples of two agencies coordinating and collaborating together. A handout is provided, and John Mannle draws attention to the maps displayed in the room. Mr. Mannle briefly explains each bridge project.

- a. **Denton Bridge** (Blairsdan-Graeagle) – *federally designated wild and scenic river*
Existing bridge may be used as a foot bridge with the new bridge adjacent to the old. Fiscal meeting with the Beckwourth Ranger District is pending.
- b. **Sloat-Poplar Valley Road** – *federally designated wild and scenic river*
Existing bridge may be used as a foot bridge with new bridge adjacent to the old. Mr. Mannle provides historical background concerning flooding in the area.
- c. **Snake Lake Road** – *adjacent to National Forest System lands*
Existing bridge will be replaced. Project is in early stages of the environmental process.

A brief discussion follows regarding removal of mining tailings, SMARA thresholds, and protection of archaeological sites.

5. **Mammoth Base Land Exchange** – *Staff report on proposed Mammoth Base Land Exchange, including Taylor Lake in Plumas County (comment deadline: October 31)*

Brian Morris provides background information regarding the proposed land exchange whereby private lands in various areas of the State would be assumed by the Forest Service in exchange for the Forest Service giving up the main lodge at the Mammoth Mountain ski area. Mr. Morris continues that an area near Taylor Lake in Plumas County (owner – Feather River Land Trust) falls under this proposal. Corky Lazzarino of Sierra Access Coalition expresses her concerns that the Forest Service might restrict or eliminate access in the area for camping, etc. Mr. Morris mentions that Supervisor Meacher was not made aware of this proposal until a supervisor in Inyo County happened to mention it to him. Mr. Morris adds that the matter will be addressed by the Board of Supervisors at their October 18th meeting.

6. **Fire Wise Communities / Community Wildfire Protection Plan / Quincy Library Group Pilot Project**

a. **Update on Firewise Communities and CWPP**

Brian Morris states that Plumas County has two communities designated as Fire Wise (Lake Almanor West and Graeagle), and that at least two more are in progress (Bucks Lake and Greenhorn). Frank Stewart suggests that Jerry Hurley of the Fire Safe Council provides an update about both the Fire Safe and the Fire Wise programs at a future meeting.

b. **Report on Keddie Ridge Project, objection meeting, and status of pre-decision administrative review**

Brian Morris and John Sheehan give background information and state that a modification of acres and added analysis are pending and that a decision will be out soon. Mr. Sheehan explains that new opportunities may be available pertaining to logging methods (skyline vs. skid) on the steeper terrain. Earl Ford adds that there is no indication at this point that there will be any litigation. Frank Stewart compliments Earl Ford and Laurence Crabtree on their efforts to move forward on this project.

c. **Report on FY2012 Forest Service budget, including status of funding for Quincy Library Group Pilot Project**

Earl Ford, Forest Supervisor (PNF), reports that the budget is in deliberation; but preliminarily it looks like there will be a 2% to 5% reduction, which would have an effect on the Quincy Library Group project. Mr. Ford continues that the Secretary of Agriculture is trying to focus the reductions on “things” rather than “people.” Brian Morris states that there is a continuing resolution that funds the federal government through November 18, and the deadline for the “super committee” to propose budget cuts in November 23. How the two may interact with each other is a “wait and watch” situation.

7. **Forest Service Schedule of Proposed Action** – *Review of quarterly updates of Schedules of Proposed Action for the Plumas and Lassen National Forests*

Brian Morris reported that the new SOPAs for the Plumas and Lassen National Forests had recently been circulated to the Council along with a summary of the updates. It was the consensus of the Council to continue to distribute the SOPAs in that manner.

8. Coordination Protocols – Discussion regarding ongoing development of protocols and policies for other agencies

Bob Perreault distributed a memorandum describing “mission” and “vision” statements as well as a proposed version of each. Brian Morris distributed an initial version of definitions of terms related to agency interaction, such as coordination, cooperation, consultation, etc., including both dictionary definitions and uses in pertinent statutes.

The Council and Forest Service representatives discussed their objectives in working together and the value of defining certain terms, particularly a general definition of coordination. It was the consensus of the Council that Bob Perreault and Brian Morris should continue to work on policies and protocols for interagency dealings.

9. Legislative Update

b. Stewardship Contracting – Frank Steward reported that representatives from Fire Safe Council were scheduled to meet with the Regional Forester to discuss the need for stewardship contracts and the statutory changes that are needed to make them more effective.

c. Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization – Brian Morris reported that a draft bill was being circulated in the House of Representatives to replace the expiring Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The law being proposed is the “National Forest County Revenue, Schools, and Jobs Act” and mandates minimum sales levels of timber from the National Forests. The bill also exempts projects from judicial review. The House bill is dramatically different from the current Senate approach, which would essentially extend the existing law with a continued decrease in annual levels of funding.

10. Litigation Update

a. Travel Management

- i. Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation v. U.S.F.S. (Eldorado National Forest)** – The parties are still negotiating an appropriate remedy to the violations of the Endangered Species Act and National Forest Management Act.
- ii. Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center v. U.S.F.S. (Stanislaus National Forest)** – The case has been briefed and argued and is awaiting the decision from the judge.

12. Date and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

a. Next meeting is set for November 4.

a. Future Agenda Items.

- i. Mercury studies and TMDLs**
- ii. Randy Wilson - discusses how the different sections of the General Plan might reinforce the PCCC position on coordination.**

13. Adjournment

Hearing no further comments, Brian Morris adjourns the meeting of October 7, 2011, at 2:47 p.m.