

Plumas County Coordinating Council
(PCCC)

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
March 2, 2012**

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

Present: **Robert Perreault**, *Vice Chair* – Public Works Director; **Sherrie Thrall** – County Supervisor; **Terry Swofford** – County Supervisor; **Frank Stewart** – County Forester & Quincy Library Group; **Randy Wilson** – Planning Director.

Absent: None

2. **Public Comment Opportunity**

Public Attendees: (*per sign-in sheet and/or by verbal introduction*) **Terri Simon-Jackson**, Planning Staff Officer (Plumas National Forest); **Al Vazquez**, District Ranger (Almanor Ranger District-Lassen National Forest); **Lori Simpson**, Plumas County Supervisor; **John Olofson**, Plumas County Planning Commissioner; **George Terhune**, Plumas County Airport Land Use Commission; and **John Sheehan** (participant in a variety of civic groups).

Vice-Chair Bob Perreault opens the Public Comment Opportunity.

Ms. Simon-Jackson asks about the subject of Coordinating Council organization (as it did not appear on the agenda) and whether the Board of Supervisors has addressed that issue. Mr. Perreault reports that the BOS did discuss the matter on February 7th whereby they took the matter under advisement.

Mr. Perreault states that he received an email from Corky Lazzarino and in it she made reference to the Lake Davis winter recreation project and the fact that Forest Service will be holding two meetings next week (March 6th for local businesses & March 7th for the public). Mr. Perreault continues that Ms. Lazzarino asks whether snowmobiles will be allowed to cross the dam at the lake. Supervisor Swofford reports that he attended the last meeting and that there are two different maps: 1.) A map the public favors showing trails that go all around the lake, 2.) A map the Forest Service favors showing trails that do not go all around the lake. Mr. Swofford continues that there is concern about some areas not getting enough snow (on the map the Forest Service favors), and also that there is concern about eagle nesting areas.

Mr. Perreault comments on the joint highway project by the Federal Highway Administration (lead agency), the County and the Forest Service concerning the roadway known as Forest Highway 177. Mr. Perreault adds that a public open-house was conducted on February 22nd and the meeting went well. Mr. Perreault states that there were comments expressed about additional stop signs, and also concerns expressed about the highway encouraging growth in the area. Mr. Perreault also mentions that before the open-house there was discussion about the following: 1.) off highway vehicle usage impacts & improvements; and 2.) a separate OHV corridor.

Mr. Perreault asks if there are any other public comments. Hearing none, Mr. Perreault closes the Public Comment Opportunity.

3. **Review and Acceptance of Agenda by the PCCC**

A motion is made by Supervisor Swofford and seconded by Supervisor Thrall to adopt the meeting agenda of March 2, 2012. Motion is passed.

4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Frank Stewart states that he has the following two corrections:

- Page Three, *Item 14-A* - Correct wording, *Mr. Stewart states that Mike Wood, representing Quincy Library Group, and Jonathan Kusel, representing the opposition, testified at the House of Representatives hearing in Washington this morning regarding this bill.*
- Page Three, *Item 14-F* – Correct wording, *Mr. Stewart briefly mentions Congressman Wally Herger (California) and Congressman Ben Lujan (New Mexico) have both been working on Stewardship Contracting legislation.*

A motion is made by Supervisor Thrall and seconded by Mr. Stewart to adopt the meeting minutes of February 3, 2012, with suggested revisions. Motion is passed (Mr. Wilson abstains).

5. **Forest Service Planning Rule – Federal Advisory Committee**

Status report on the USFS call for nominations for the Federal Advisory Committee on the Forest Service Planning Rule.

Mr. Perreault reports that the Board of Supervisors discussed this topic at their February 21st meeting and it was reported that there is an individual elsewhere in the State that was going to be supported as a nominee by RCRC. Mr. Perreault adds that following discussion, the Board decided not to take action on this matter.

6. **Forest Service Planning Rule – Notice of Final Rule**

Ms. Simon-Jackson comments that the Planning Rule came out in the Federal Register in February and the comment period closes on the 5th of March. Ms. Simon-Jackson continues that any changes proposed to the preferred alternative that was released in the Federal Register will be reviewed before publication of the final rule will be reviewed. Ms. Simon-Jackson adds that the final rule will probably be in the Federal Register mid-March; and after it has been in the Federal Register for thirty days, implementation of the rule can begin.

7. **USFS Pacific Southwest Region – Sierra Cascades Dialog Sessions**

Session No. 5, "Collaborative Planning in Forest Plan Revision," conducted on March 1, 2012.

Mr. Stewart reports that he was present at the session and he provides copies of the *USDA Forest Service Region 5 Forest Plan Revision Draft Collaboration Handbook v1.2*. Mr. Stewart continues that primarily the meeting was about implementing and further defining the collaborative handbook. Mr. Stewart states that the two Supervisors in attendance expressed frustration over the continuing lack of clarity in distinguishing between coordination, collaboration, & cooperation. Supervisor Swofford contributes that it is difficult to get the Forest Service to even say the word coordination. Mr. Stewart expresses his concern that any push for collaboration in Forest Plan revisions would begin to take place in the southern part of the state, and it could take three to five years before anything gets done in this region; therefore, it could be ten years before anything is accomplished in this portion of the state. Ms. Simon-Jackson adds that the intent is to have the southern forest plans finished before plans in the north would be initiated. Mr.

Stewart encourages the Council members to read the collaborative handbook, and adds that more definitive information is expected to be out in December. Mr. Stewart states that the next Dialog Session is scheduled for May 10th.

8. **Draft MOA – Proposed by USFS-BLM-RCRC-CSAC**

The Vice Chair will report on attendance at a special RCRC meeting, conducted on February 24, 2012. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider this topic during their meeting scheduled for March 6, 2012. Discussion and possible action.

Mr. Perreault provides several handouts and begins a review of the summary of events (dated March 1, 2012) pertaining to the proposed Memorandum of Agreement (involving RCRC, CSAC, USFS, and BLM) to improve communication and better understand and coordinate each other's policy and management objectives. Mr. Perreault specifically points out a response letter with an enclosure (dated January 27, 2012) from the Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas J. Vilsack. Mr. Perreault continues that the enclosure was referred to at the February 24th RCRC meeting. Mr. Perreault states that the purpose of this agenda item is to request the Council to review the draft letter (dated February 29, 2012) and determine whether it should be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for their meeting March 6, 2012. Supervisor Swofford makes a motion to accept and forward the letter, Supervisor Thrall seconds the motion. Mr. Perreault asks if there is any discussion on the matter. Discussion ensues regarding what would result from the Board of Supervisors declining to participate in the proposed MOA. There is agreement that there would be no change due to the significant investment of time and people that exists already; however, the County has expressed in the past the desire to be brought into the Forest Service loop on projects prior to public scoping. Both Ms. Simon-Jackson and Mr. Vazquez encourage the Council to approach the Forest Supervisors regarding when the County can be brought into the loop. Mr. Perreault asks for a vote on the motion, and the motion is passed.

9. **Firewise Communities / Community Wildfire Protection Plan / Quincy Library Group Pilot Project**

Mr. Sheehan talks briefly about the success of the Fire Wise Communities program. Mr. Wilson contributes that progress is being made in the County GIS Department on the update of fire plan maps.

10. **Legislative Update**

Mr. Perreault says he wants to discuss *Items 10 and 11* at the same time. Mr. Perreault states that Brian Morris (previous PCCC Chair) reported on the legislative and litigation lists in the agenda because it is important for the Council members to receive status reports on these topics. Perreault continues that he has talked to County Counsel about his office assisting with researching and providing reports to PCCC, and County Counsel has indicated a willingness to do that. Mr. Perreault adds that if Council members agree, he would like to move these items more toward the front of the agenda so that County Counsel can give their report and then leave the meeting if they desire to do so. PCCC members indicated that this idea is acceptable to them. Mr. Perreault asks if anyone has anything today to report on legislative and litigation lists.

- A. **H.R. 3685 (Herger) – To amend the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery Act to extend and expand the scope of the pilot forest management project required by that Act – Introduced on December 15, 2011**
No Report

- B. **H.R. 1581 (McCarthy)** – *Return inventoried roadless areas to multiple use if not recommended for wilderness designation*
No Report
- C. **H.R. 242 (Herger)** – *Suspend implementation of Travel Management Rule*
No Report
- D. **H.R. 1458 (Herger)** – *Catastrophic Wildfire Community Protection Act report*
No Report
- E. **H.R. 1837 (Nunes)** – *San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act*

Supervisor Swofford asks Mr. Wilson about a vote concerning this matter. Mr. Wilson responds that H.R. 1837, which is basically about shifting water to the San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles, cleared the House. Supervisor Thrall says she understands that the Senate is not going to take it up and Mr. Wilson adds that there is a lot of opposition to it.

F. Stewardship Contracting

Mr. Terhune asks if this action has been entered as a bill. Mr. Stewart states that there are two things to report; one is that it has been entered by Congressman Lujan as a bill (H.R. 2601), and the other is that Congressman Herger is still waiting to see what will happen with the Secure Rural Schools funding.

G. Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization
No Report

H. Other bills

Mr. Sheehan mentions that the Plumas County Economic Recovery Committee is sending a letter to the Department of Fish and Game explaining that the rule concerning dredging will have a negative effect on Plumas County.

11. Litigation Update

A. Travel Management

- 1. **Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation v. U.S.F.S. (Eldorado National Forest)**
No Report
- 2. **Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center v. U.S.F.S. (Stanislaus National Forest)**
No Report

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

Mr. Perreault mentions that he received an email since the last meeting from Silvia Milligan providing update information as follows: *State won this litigation. Center Snowlands lost - HOWEVER; they have now filed against Region 5 for the same reason.*

C. Sierra Nevada Framework and Basin Project
No Report

12. Meetings and Other Activities

Mr. Stewart mentions that the Mt. Hough Ranger District will have an open house at the Greenville town hall regarding the Mt. Hough/Cascade Proposed Trails project on April 8th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Pertaining to the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan update, Mr. Wilson reports that the Feather River Regional Water Management Group has expressed support for the grant efforts going forward. Mr. Wilson explains that the focus of this grant is on disadvantaged communities.

Mr. Stewart asks Mr. Vazquez when the Creeks II project will be out. Mr. Vazquez responds that it should be out by September and that Dry Hills may even be out sooner than that.

13. Date and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

A. Confirm next meeting for: *April 6, 2012*

B. Future Agenda Items.

- o Ms. Simon-Jackson says that in the previous minutes there was mention by Deb Bumpus about quarterly lists of projects. Ms. Simon-Jackson asks Mr. Perreault if he would like to make this an agenda item for the next meeting. Mr. Perreault says he will talk to Ms. Simon-Jackson about this further, and then put it on a future agenda.
- o Trails Update (motorized/non-motorized) with Mike Donald, Pete Hochrein, Al Vazquez, & Deb Bumpus.
- o Mr. Vazquez mentions that an update can be provided regarding Lassen National Forest routes in the Travel Management Plan and the environmental impact.
- o Forest Service budgets
- o Mercury studies and TMDLs
- o Randy Wilson - discuss how the different sections of the General Plan might reinforce the PCCC position on coordination.

14. Adjournment

Hearing no further comments, Bob Perreault adjourns the meeting of March 2, 2012, at 2:40 p.m.



Robert Perreault, PCCC Vice-Chair