

Plumas County Coordinating Council
(PCCC)

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
April 6, 2012**

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

Prior to Roll Call, Bob Perreault, PCCC Vice Chair, reports that Tuesday, April 3rd, the Board of Supervisors appointed John Sheehan as a member of the Coordinating Council, and today is his "rookie" meeting.

Present: **Robert Perreault**, *Vice Chair* – Public Works Director; **Sherrie Thrall** – County Supervisor; **Terry Swofford** – County Supervisor; **Frank Stewart** – Counties QLG Forester; **Randy Wilson** – Planning Director; **John Sheehan** – Feather River College Trustee.

Absent: None

2. Public Comment Opportunity

Public Attendees: *(per sign-in sheet and/or by verbal introduction)* **Earl Ford**, Forest Supervisor (PNF); **Terri Simon-Jackson**, Planning Staff Officer (PNF); **Deb Bumpus**, District Ranger (Beckwourth Ranger District - PNF); **Judy Schaber**, Recreation Specialist (PNF); **Pete Hochrein**, Acting Forest Engineer (PNF); **Al Vazquez**, District Ranger (Almanor Ranger District -LNF); **Chris O'Brien**, Public Services Staff Officer (LNF); **Quentin Youngblood** District Ranger (Sierraville Ranger District - TNF); **Corky Lazzarino** (Sierra Access Coalition); **Shane Vargas** (Cal Fire); **Jim Wilcox** (Feather River Coordinated Resource Management); **Diane Uchytel** (High Mountain Riders); **Jeff Carmichael** (Portola resident); **Paul Roen** (Sierra County Resident); **Bill Nunes** (Sierra County Resident); **Tracy Ball** (Plumas County Resident); **Rex Fisher** (Plumas County Resident).

Vice-Chair Perreault opens the Public Comment Opportunity and mentions that the purpose of having the public comment item on the agenda is to give the public an opportunity to comment on anything that is *not* on the agenda. Mr. Perreault adds that there will be an opportunity to comment on each of the agenda items as they occur.

Jim Wilcox of the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management group states that there has been controversy about their program in the past and recently, and he would like to have an opportunity to clarify what information is valid and what is misinformation at a future PCCC meeting. Mr. Wilcox adds that they are eager to answer any questions the public may have; and to that end, they are currently preparing a "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet to make available to the public.

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 Mr. Wilson and seconded by Supervisor Swofford to adopt the meeting agenda of April 6, 2012. Motion is passed.

4. **Agenda and Minutes on Plumas County Website**

Mr. Perreault explains that since the last meeting, PCCC Recording Secretary Nancy Fluke has brought the agendas and minutes up-to-date on the County website. Mr. Perreault asks Ms. Fluke if she has any further comments to contribute regarding the website. Ms. Fluke states she will routinely add the agendas and minutes on the website, plus she can add various PCCC issues and information. Mr. Sheehan asks if links to other sites can be added to the PCCC page and Ms. Fluke responds affirmatively. Mr. Perreault explains that unlike a department where the director could routinely make changes, etc., the PCCC page on the County website is more of a Council activity rather than one where the Chair is in charge of the site. Mr. Perreault adds that any future changes to the PCCC website, other than the routine items, will first be brought to the Council as an agenda item for discussion and approval. Mr. Wilson thanks Ms. Fluke for updating the website.

5. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

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

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

Mr. Perreault reads the status of the final rule as follows:

The US Forest Service has signed the final planning rule for land management planning for the National Forest System. The Forest Service will begin implementing the final planning rule 30 days following the publication of the rule in the Federal Register.

Mr. Perreault mentions that more information can be obtained at the planning rule website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule>. Ms. Simon-Jackson provides a handout that says the Under Secretary of Agriculture signed the decision on the National Forest Planning Rule on Friday, March 23rd. Ms. Simon Jackson states that the Forest Service can begin using the planning rule to develop, revise, and amend plans 30 days after it was published in the Federal Register. Ms. Simon-Jackson adds that there are very few differences between the preferred alternative that was released for the public to comment on and this final decision. Ms. Simon-Jackson encourages people to visit the website and adds that there will still be opportunities for people to contribute to the planning process. Ms. Simon-Jackson says the next step is to develop directives to implement the planning rule, and there will be public comment opportunities for those directives. Ms. Simon-Jackson states that there will also be a new Federal advisory committee to advise the Chief of the Forest Service and the Secretary of Agriculture on implementation of the new planning rule. Ms. Simon-Jackson continues that there will be “early adopted” forests that will lead this effort nationally, and thereof there are in Region 5 (Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia NFs). Ms. Simon-Jackson provides a history of the Forest Service land management plan for our region beginning with the 1988 land management plan that was amended by *Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group* in 1999, and then amended by the *Sierra Nevada Framework* in 2004. Ms. Simon-Jackson mentions that there are already threats of litigation on the new planning rule. Mr. Stewart encourages Council members to view the National Forest website and look at pages 65 thru 77 where they discuss the rationale of using the coordination requirement. Mr. Stewart adds that if you go to the definitions in the back, they define *collaboration* but they don’t define *coordination*. Mr. Stewart continues that the report states that the three forests that were picked already had a collaborative process in place; therefore, there is the need to develop that collaborative effort here. Earl Ford, Forest Supervisor -

PNF, added that there is a willingness to continue to foster a collaborative, open process on a day-to-day basis to manage the Forest. Mr. Sheehan asks if there are county or State organizations commenting on the lack of strong coordination in the final rule. Mr. Stewart responds, "No." Ms. Simon-Jackson adds that people are still "digesting" the final planning rule. Mr. Perreault contributes that the Coordinating Council exists because of a resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors with a focus on coordinated agency interaction. Mr. Perreault adds that one of the challenges before the PCCC is to have the Plumas County officials and the Forest Service officials have a meeting of the minds regarding the term *coordination*. Supervisor Swofford asks Mr. Ford if he has been ordered not to use the term *coordination*. Mr. Ford responds absolutely not, and adds humorously that he is even a "fan" of coordination. The discussion ends with Mr. Wilson commenting that the attendance at this meeting exhibits a definite interest on the part of the various agencies to keep communication open and ongoing.

7. Forest Service Planning Rule – Federal Advisory Committee

Mr. Perreault asks Ms. Simon-Jackson if she can give a brief status report on the Federal Advisory Committee. Ms. Simon-Jackson states that the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service realize that the new planning rule is different than the 1982 planning rule and that there is a certain amount of concern by different interest groups about what the new planning rule is going to look like; therefore, the idea came about to form a FACA (*Federal Advisory Committee Act*) committee that can advise and provide recommendations. Ms. Simon-Jackson states that the nomination period for applicants to serve on that committee closed February 21st and now 224 applications from 34 states are undergoing the review process. Ms. Simon-Jackson adds that the announcement regarding committee member selections are expected in late May.

8. Fiscal Year 2012 Local Forest Service Final Budget (Capital Improvements and Maintenance, National Forest System Funds, Wildland Fire Management, Permanent and Trust Appropriations)

Ms. Simon-Jackson circulates a budget handout pertaining to the Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe National Forests.

Mr. Ford introduces himself and states he has been the Forest Supervisor for the Plumas National Forest since September. Ford also expresses his sentiments that Quincy is a great place to live. Mr. Ford states that the trend nationally is for government budgets to be down. Mr. Ford then points out the figures on the handout that illustrate how the budget is down for the Plumas National Forest. Mr. Ford expresses frustration over dilemmas he has had to face as he tries to manage a reduced budget. Mr. Ford talks about spreading a diminished workforce between Beckwourth, Mt. Hough, and Feather River Ranger Districts. Mr. Ford states that he will be looking toward coordination with PCCC as far as what the Forest Service workforce will look like and what their program of work will look like in the years to come. Mr. Ford explains that he would like to work with industry to determine what kind of annual program they can roll out. Mr. Wilson asks how many positions are there in the Plumas National Forest currently; and Mr. Ford answers that there are approximately 334 permanent positions, and during the summer they expand to about 600 due to temporary hires. Mr. Stewart asks Mr. Ford what is the amount of QLG dollars out of the 2012 budget, and Mr. Ford and Ms. Simon-Jackson respond \$23 million across the 3 Forests. A brief discussion ensues about QLG funds and proposed expansion.

Quentin Youngblood, District Ranger – Sierraville Ranger District / Tahoe National Forest, introduces himself and states he is representing Tom Quinn, Forest Supervisor – TNF. Mr. Youngblood refers to the data on the handout and points out that the budget for the Tahoe National Forest is down approximately \$820,000.00 from their initial budget in FY2011. Mr. Youngblood says that 9% of the Sierraville Ranger District is in Plumas County. Mr. Youngblood adds that they are under the HFQLG Act, whereas other districts on the TNF are not. Mr. Youngblood continues that their fire suppression budget is down about \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00. Mr. Youngblood states however that the Sierraville Ranger District is an anomaly because their primary budget, which is \$3,018,000.00, is actually up by 1.3 million dollars. Mr. Youngblood explains that the deliverables they are producing this year are almost double.

Chris O'Brien, Public Services Staff Officer – Lassen National Forest, explains that he is representing Jerry Bird the Forest Supervisor (LNF) at this meeting. Mr. O'Brien states he can't give any different news than what has already been explained about diminished budgets. Mr. O'Brien continues that they are still planning to do a significant amount of work on the LNF, but they are also going through a workforce analysis with a loss of about ninety positions overall.

Mr. Stewart asks all three Forest representatives what they anticipate happening if QLG goes away. Al Vazquez, District Ranger – Almanor Ranger District, explains that they will be "thrown in the pool" with the rest of the Forests and they will all have to compete for funding. Mr. Vazquez continues that the Lassen National Forest is already making the necessary preparations to compete for funds, so they are at a competitive advantage. A discussion ensues about particular projects and how they will fare if QLG goes away, and what strategies are being discussed. Mr. Ford specifically contributes that they want to coordinate and collaborate with industry, environmentalists, and everybody else to move forward.

Mr. Sheehan asks for an explanation concerning a budget discrepancy related to QLG, and Mr. Ford and Mr. Youngblood summarize that the allocation stayed the same but the distribution in each respective Forest changed.

9. Proposed FY12-13 Budget for the PCCC

Mr. Perreault explains that Coordinating Council does incur some costs for support, etc.; but those costs are covered by other County departments such as Public Works and Planning. Mr. Perreault adds that he doesn't believe there is a need for a formal budget for PCCC at this time. Other Council members concurred.

10. Recent and New Proposals by County Director of Public Works

Mr. Perreault reports the following items:

- ***Proposals for Reclassification of roadways in National Forest System (NFS) lands from ML3 to ML2:*** Mr. Perreault explains that Butte County, Plumas County, Tehama County, Shasta County and Lassen County are interested in joining forces to duplicate a successful scenario proposed between the Shasta County Public Works Department and the Shasta-Trinity National Forest whereby they identified National Forest roadways to be considered for reclassification from ML3 to ML2 for OHV use. Butte, Plumas, Tehama, Shasta and Lassen Counties will meet with the LNF Forest Supervisor to begin discussing a similar proposal.

- **Proposal for Butte County and Plumas County to present a list to Plumas National Forest regarding roadways, trails and other issues:** Mr. Perreault explains that Butte County and Plumas County want to submit to the Plumas National Forest a combined list from both counties to include roadways to consider for reclassification to enable OHV use, as well as trails and other issues (such as dispersed camping sites), and discuss the feasibility of these projects. Mr. Perreault adds that they have not officially reached out to the Plumas National Forest staff yet, but that will occur after the list and maps are completed by the 2 Counties.

Mr. Ford contributes that this is another opportunity for *early and often coordination*. Mr. Wilson asks when the maps would be available and Mr. Perreault answers that it would be a few weeks. Terry Ball, resident of Quincy, asks whether there is an opportunity for the public to comment on these proposals; and Mr. Perreault responds that Butte and Plumas Public Works Departments will reach an agreement concerning the list/proposal, then the two county Boards of Supervisors will confirm that the list/proposal is appropriate, then the list/proposal goes to the Forest Service. At that point in time the public will have an opportunity to comment. Mr. Perreault adds that Butte County has already done some outreach to their local user groups. Terri Simon-Jackson adds that if the proposed roads/trails are adjacent to private land, the landowners are notified of proposed actions.

11. Forest Service Project Updates – Status Reports by Various National Forest Staff

Mr. Perreault states that the purpose of this agenda item is primarily to update the Council on various National Forest projects. Mr. Perreault cautions that although there may be differences of opinion concerning projects, it is not the Council's role to become involved in the resolution of differences. Mr. Perreault adds that it is appropriate for people to express concern at the Council meetings if a project, for example, is progressing too rapidly or is in need of additional effort. Mr. Perreault provides handouts pertaining to the first two bulleted projects.

- **Mount Hough / Cascade Proposed Trails, PNF – Mt. Hough Ranger District**

Judy Schaber, Recreation Specialist – Mt. Hough Ranger District, PNF, introduces herself and states that she is the lead person for the NEPA process which is a collaboration of two RAC grants (South Park & Mt. Hough). Ms. Schaber continues that presently the District is in the public scoping phase of the process that she hopes to finish by the end of April. Tracy Ball, resident on Mt. Hough Road, Quincy, states his concern regarding the proposed motorized off-road vehicle trails that would be in close proximity to his property. Mr. Ball continues and that he and his wife, Brenda Lantow, as well as other concerned citizens, would like to see policy established (County and Forest Service) to keep such trails well separated from residential areas. Mr. Ball adds that the Sheriff's office has also expressed support for a policy on the matter. Ms. Schaber comments that all comments received will be considered as they develop alternatives. Mr. Ball adds that this would be another platform whereby the Forest Service can put forth coordinated effort with the County and private land owners. Mr. Sheehan asks Ms. Schaber if this project has been able to take advantage of previous environmental analysis done, and Ms. Schaber responds affirmatively. Mr. Stewart asks if the Mt. Hough-Cascade proposed trail is the same as the Mt. Hough-South Park proposed trail listed in the SOPA and Ms. Simon-Jackson responds affirmatively.

- **Granite Basin Proposed Trails, PNF – Feather River Ranger District**

Pete Hochrein, Acting Forest Engineer - PNF, states he is representing Karen Hayden, District Ranger - Feather River Ranger District, and the Granite Basin Project. Mr. Hochrein points out that not all the trails shown in green on the map (handout) will actually be located on the ground until sometime this spring/summer. Mr. Hochrein adds that specialists in archeology and botany will assess any negative impacts at that time. Mr. Hochrein continues that in the spirit of coordination and collaboration, the Granite Basin Project is at a point where the District is ready to receive comments. Mr. Hochrein reports that they are currently implementing a grant that they received a year and a half ago for additional OHV trails. Mr. Hochrein continues that they have applied for two additional OHV grants: #1 - A grant for reconstructing, upgrading, and maintaining the existing OHV trails; #2 - A grant for adding the trails seen in green on the map. Mr. Hochrein adds that if they are successful in obtaining those funds, they will work with Sierra Buttes Trails Stewardship trail crews, along with volunteers, to perform maintenance and construction. Mr. Perreault comments that if anyone would like to have a larger copy of the map, they can contact Nancy Fluke, Recording Secretary.

- **Lake Davis Summer / Winter Recreation Management Plan, PNF – Beckwourth Ranger District**

Deb Bumpus, District Ranger – Beckwourth Ranger District, PNF, states that since she last reported on this subject to the Council, they have had three public meetings and they also did a presentation at a meeting of the Graeagle-Plumas Alliance. Ms. Bumpus says they are now receiving comments and they will use them for developing their alternatives. Ms. Bumpus states that at first they received more comments on snowmobiling; but later on, the comments were more focused on the connectivity of the trails. Ms. Bumpus adds that after reviewing the comments, they expect to have a map ready by next month. Ms. Bumpus explains that they intended to have a survey done that looked at the impact of snowmobiles on the bald eagles; however, they have not had enough snow this year to perform the survey. Ms. Bumpus states that they are trying to work with the different groups to develop loops around Lake Davis & access to Lake Davis, as well as access related to Jackson Creek, Sloat, Portola, and Chilcoat. Ms. Bumpus adds that she will have more information at a subsequent meeting. A discussion ensues regarding the issue of the bald eagles. Ms. Bumpus states that they will use external data on bald eagles, but they will also need to gather their own site specific data to satisfy the environmental analysis. Regarding the alternative concerning snowmobiles crossing on the bridge, Mr. Perreault states that his preference would be that use of the existing bridge by OHVs be identified as an alternative, even though there is already disagreement, would still appear as a formal alternative so issues can be addressed. Ms. Bumpus explains that they are still at the point where they are collecting feedback on developing the alternatives. Mr. Wilson asks Ms. Bumpus what their timeframe is for a decision; and Ms. Bumpus responds that it would be Fall at the earliest, but more likely longer than that due to the lack of snow. Ms. Bumpus explains that they will submit a grant for Green Sticker funds to get the implementation going. Jeff Carmichael, resident of Portola, contributes the following comments about the project:

- He has heard that in a normal year, the bald eagles move to Sierra Valley when the lakes are frozen over;

- He believes the snowmobiling community would respect an effort to tie the two road systems at Lake Davis together;
- He believes snowmobilers would conduct themselves in a safe manner on the bridge;
- He would like to see more roads/trails developed considering the huge area of land involved.

Corky Lazzarino, member of Sierra Access Coalition, suggests, due to the importance of this project, that the Council should coordinate with the Forest Service. Ms. Lazzarino continues that she thinks PCCC and Forest Service coordination should already have been done before reaching the public comment stage. Ms. Lazzarino adds that perhaps if that coordination had taken place, some issues regarding crossing the dam could have been ironed out. Mr. Perreault states that he is looking forward to Forest Service outreach to the Public Works Department, regarding snowmobiles over the bridge; with an understanding to have as a goal of consideration at that meeting, an alternative that will connect the loops and that is safe. Mr. Perreault addresses Ms. Lazzarino to say that he feels the identification of all alternatives is the key milestone to accomplish right now, and that he believes the process overall is going okay at this point. Ms. Lazzarino says that another thing to consider is an economic analysis, and Ms. Simon-Jackson shares that it is a part of the NEPA process.

Note: Side discussion regarding making PCCC minutes, particularly public comments in the minutes, available to the Forest Service project personnel.

Mr. Perreault explains that comments expressed at PCCC meetings on these projects will appear in the minutes, but they are not a formal part of the project review process that the Forest Service is required to follow. Mr. Perreault encourages attendees to submit their comments directly to the appropriate Forest Service staff. Mr. Wilson asks if there is a way that PCCC minutes can be provided to the Forest Service Ranger District overseeing a project so they know what the discussion was at this level. Mr. Perreault asks Ms. Simon-Jackson if she can develop a way to get PCCC minutes to the appropriate person(s). Ms. Simon-Jackson states she has been forwarding minutes on to the respective people. Ms. Simon-Jackson continues that PCCC minutes would not be considered part of the Forest Service public record because the meetings are not considered public meetings for the Forest Service. Mr. Wilson asks Supervisor Thrall if the County could submit the minutes as formal comments from the County, and Supervisor Thrall responds that the minutes would have to be brought to the Board for approval. Supervisor Thrall adds that another approach might be to include portions of the minutes as part of a Board comment letter on a project. Ms. Simon-Jackson states that she can take the minutes off the County website after Ms. Fluke has posted them and forward them to the appropriate people. Ms. Simon-Jackson also points out that information concerning who to send comments to can be found in the SOPAs. Ms. Simon-Jackson clarifies that in the eyes of the Forest Service, standing to appeal a decision is given to an entity/individual submitting comments directly to the Forest Service and not entity/individual comments appearing in non-Forest Service meeting minutes, such as the minutes of PCCC meetings.

○ **Carmen Valley Watershed Project in Plumas County (pond and plug project on the Sierraville RD, TNF)**

Quentin Youngblood, District Ranger – Sierraville Ranger District, TNF, introduces himself and the project. Mr. Youngblood points out that he has the NEPA decision document and some maps to share (handouts). Mr. Youngblood

begins that last April in Plumas County there was a Board resolution supporting water rights and basically asking for an additional level of analysis with watershed restoration projects specifically involving the *pond and plug* techniques, as well as asking for a level of coordination. Mr. Youngblood states that he wishes to meet the intent of that resolution in today's meeting. Mr. Youngblood continues that the NEPA document was signed for this project in 2008, but they prepared a supplemental information report (SIR) where they looked at the water rights and long and short term effects to some downstream users holding water rights. Mr. Youngblood elaborates that the watershed has been degraded due to such things as roads, railroad grades, and logging at the turn of the century resulting in considerable erosion. Mr. Youngblood says they have done some watershed restoration to ephemeral and intermittent drainages approximately 7 years ago to increase the hydrologic connectivity in the area. Mr. Youngblood says he has met with Supervisor Swofford and Sierra County's Board and they have indicated to him that they are not in support of implementation of this project, but there are efforts to articulate a protocol as far as coordination. Supervisor Thrall states that she assumes they will hold up proceeding with this project until some of those protocols are worked out. Mr. Youngblood answers that right now the project is pending process delineation with both Plumas and Sierra Counties. Mr. Carmichael contributes that his interest, and that of other property owners, is to insure that the Board of Supervisors has the ultimate say on the funding and therefore the implementation of these projects.

○ **Trails Projects on the Lassen NF**

Chris O'Brien, Public Services Staff Officer – LNF, provides a summary handout and explains there a number of projects on the Lassen National Forest regarding trails and roads. Mr. O'Brien states that their primary concern is implementation of the Travel Management Plan decision was signed in 2009. Mr. O'Brien continues that in the plan they identified three tiers of road and trail systems as follows:

- *Tier One* – roads and trails they can bring on with the Plan;
- *Tier Two* – roads and trails they want to bring on, but they require extra work (i.e., mitigation measures) before they could do that;
- *Tier Three* – larger scale projects in areas that had larger issues that needed to be addressed.

Mr. O'Brien reports that they have already started with *Tier Two* projects and they are in the process of placing signage on their ML3 roads for mixed use. Mr. O'Brien explains that there are a couple larger area projects they are working on: one on the Hat Creek District, and one on their Front Country area (more in Tehama County). Mr. O'Brien states that the project of most interest for this meeting is the High Lakes area whereby they have had considerable public discussion during the Travel Management process. Mr. O'Brien explains that the priority is to insure that there is access to the High Lakes for OHV users and others. Mr. O'Brien provides an update on the snowmobile lawsuit (referenced in Agenda *Item 17B*) that claimed LNF did not do proper NEPA on their snowmobile program. Mr. O'Brien explains that the litigants had a similar lawsuit against the State and they lost that suit. Mr. O'Brien adds that the Forest Service regional office has been in discussion with the litigants to see if they can come to some understanding and develop a process for resolving the issue without actually stopping the snowmobile program. Mr. O'Brien closes his comments by saying

the Lassen National Forest is actually in “pretty good shape” with the litigants. Mr. O’Brien adds that the litigants are aware that the LNF is pursuing updating their NEPA, and also that LNF has already been promoting snowshoeing and cross country skiing areas in an effort to meet the intent of the litigant’s case.

12. USFS Pacific Southwest Region – Sierra Cascades Dialog Sessions

Mr. Perreault announces that the next Dialog Session – *Adaptive Management in Forest Planning* will be May 10th in the Sacramento area. Mr. Perreault points out that Mr. Stewart sent an email with the agenda. Ms. Simon-Jackson mentions that Mr. Ford has offered to carpool to cut down on energy use, and that Nancy Francine will be the contact for carpooling.

13. Congressional Oversight Hearing in Elko, NV on March 12, 2012

Mr. Perreault briefly reports that after invitations became finalized, Plumas County officials were informed that they were no longer on the invitation list for that particular hearing, so local officials did not attend the Elko Hearing. Mr. Perreault adds that the County did respond by submitting a letter that reflected what their testimony would have been.

14. MOA Between USFS – BLM – RCRC – CSAC

Mr. Perreault provides a reminder that PCCC recommended that the Board of Supervisors submit a letter which explained reasons why Plumas County would not be signing the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Perreault continues that the MOA was later discussed by the RCRC board whereby Supervisor Meacher reported that he voted in favor of the RCRC board creating the MOA for purposes of letting other counties participate—in doing so, there was no action to contradict the letter.

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

Mr. Stewart reports that Plumas County had a workshop last month and they discussed updating the County fire plan, and they reviewed maps and data. Mr. Stewart adds that Lassen County is updating their plan and maps as well. John Sheehan talks about the Fire Wise program and that they have a pretty good picture of what is being planned for the upcoming year as well as what was accomplished in the last year. Mr. Stewart mentions that the QLG target is to move projects forward. Mr. Sheehan shares information about a decision coming out of the federal court to throw out the lawsuit pertaining to Moonlight Fire salvaging and the Black Back Woodpecker. Mr. Stewart reports the loss of two biomass plants here in recent months. Mr. Stewart continues that he hopes that the Forest Service would look at the contracts and include wording that biomass could be removed *subject to agreement*.

16. Legislative Update

Mr. Perreault provides an update that he has had difficulty making arrangements for County Counsel to provide updates on both legislation and litigation issues pertinent to PCCC. Mr. Perreault adds that he will continue to pursue this matter.

- 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, 201.**

Mr. Stewart reports they are looking at 4 to 5 weeks for this bill to leave the House floor.

- 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**

Mr. Stewart reports that they are at 15 co-sponsors right now and they are working at getting 20.

- E. H.R. 1837 (Nunes) – San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act**

Mr. Wilson provides Council with letters: one from Diane Feinstein dated March 26, 2012, another from Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer dated February 15, 2012. Mr. Wilson states that the focus of these letters is that even though this bill may have passed the House, it will not pass the Senate.

- F. Stewardship Contracting**

Mr. Stewart reports that Congressman Herger was putting a bill together, but that bill will be pending the outcome of the Secure Rural Schools bill.

- G. Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization**

Mr. Perreault reports that this bill is attached to the new highway bill for which a two year extension has been proposed. Mr. Perreault continues that In the House, they found the two-year extension to be unacceptable; but a 90 day period was set for both houses to have an opportunity to form a consensus.

- H. Other bills – No reports**

17. Litigation Update

- A. Travel Management**

- 1. Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation v. U.S.F.S. (Eldorado National Forest) – No report**

Mr. Wilson distributes an informational handout titled, *Eldorado National Forest: Court Order Prohibits Motorized Vehicle Travel on 42 Popular OHV Routes*, which he believes relates to this court case.

- 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**
See Item 11 – fifth bullet

C. **Sierra Nevada Framework and Basin Project – No report**

18. **Meetings and Other Activities**

Mr. Wilson mentions that he and Leah Wills gave a performance at the *Mountain Counties Forum* pertaining to the Upper Feather River Watershed and it was well received.

19. **Chairmanship of the PCCC – Deferred to the next meeting**

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

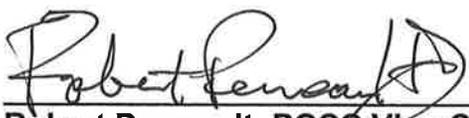
A. **Confirm next meeting for:** May 4, 2012

B. **Future Agenda Items.**

- o Presentation by Jim Wilcox on the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management (FRCRM) – For the May 4th PCCC meeting
- o Presentation by Randy Wilson on Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
- o More discussion about collaborative/coordinated processes (i.e., water, fire, Forest Service)
- o Mercury studies and TMDLs
- o Randy Wilson - discuss how the different sections of the General Plan might reinforce the PCCC position on coordination.

21. **Adjournment**

Bob Perreault adjourns the meeting of April 6, 2012, at 3:39 p.m.


Robert Perreault, PCCC Vice-Chair