

Plumas County Coordinating Council
(PCCC)

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
May 4, 2012**

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call** - 1:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

2. **Public Comment Opportunity**

Public Attendees (*per sign-in sheet and/or by verbal introduction*):

Terri Simon-Jackson, Planning Staff Officer - PNF;
Al Vazquez, District Ranger - Almanor Ranger District / LNF;
Corky Lazzarino - Sierra Access Coalition member;
Jim Wilcox, Program Manager - Feather River Coordinated Resource Management;
Paul Roen - Sierra County Resident;
Tracy Ball - Plumas County Resident;
Nancy Francine, Ecosystem Staff Officer - PNF;
John Olofson - Plumas County Planning Commissioner, Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Executive Committee member;
Holly George, Livestock & Nat. Resource Farm Advisor - University of California Cooperative Extension;
Carol Thornton, Hydrologist - LNF;
Lee Anne Schramel-Taylor, Public Affairs Officer - PNF.

Mr. Perreault opens the Public Comment Opportunity. Lee Anne Schramel-Taylor shares information about the Saturday, May 5th, *Tire Amnesty* event. 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. Sheehan and seconded by Supervisor Thrall to adopt the meeting agenda of May 4, 2012, as written. Motion is passed.

4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Perreault states that the Coordinating Council Minutes of April 6, 2012, will be available at the next meeting of the Coordinating Council.

5. Overview Presentation on the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management (FRCRM) Group by Jim Wilcox

Jim Wilcox, Program Manager at FRCRM, briefly highlights the purpose of the following items (handouts):

- *Feather River Coordinated Resource Management 2011 Annual Report to Signatory Agencies*
- *Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Watershed Monitoring Program – 2011 Report*

Note: The above referenced documents are posted on the Plumas County website (www.plumascounty.us) at: Government → Coordinating Council → Meeting Presentations & Material.

Mr. Wilcox informs the Council that a meeting of the FRCRM was held April 26th resulting in re-instituting the FRCRM Executive Committee (the role of the Executive Committee is referenced on page 4 in the founding document titled, *Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the East Branch of the North Fork Feather River*). Mr. Wilcox explains that the Executive Committee is comprised of one County Supervisor, the Plumas National Forest Supervisor, two Resource Conservation District members, and one Member-at-Large (selected by the other Committee members). Mr. Wilcox continues that the FRCRM Steering Committee has been the lead contact point for the FRCRM process and for the various projects; but now the Executive Committee will look at the issues that go beyond Steering Committee purview. Mr. Wilcox states that the first meeting of the Executive Committee will take place in May (to be announced).

Mr. Wilcox continues with a review of the information contained in the *Monitoring Report and Annual Report* (referenced above), and the following points are raised during his review:

- Frank Stewart asks whether FRCRM receives money for QLG. Mr. Wilcox answers affirmatively and explains that some of the money received from QLG is used on local projects (e.g., Red Clover – Poco), and some for staff time;
- John Sheehan asks why there is a lack of continuous monitoring of the Middle Fork of the Feather River (MFFR). Mr. Wilcox explains that the FRCRM focus has mainly been on other areas of the watershed, and not as much on the MFFR;
- John Sheehan suggests that the FRCRM water issues/projects are included in the collaborative efforts being discussed currently among Forest Service, BLM, State, and County (possible funding connection).

6. Presentation on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) by Randy Wilson and Leah Wills

Randy Wilson and Leah Wills, representing the Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District – Planning Division, provide a handout titled; *Upper Feather River Watershed IRWMP*. Ms. Wills begins the Power Point presentation that mirrors the handout, and covers the following points:

- *Feather River Regional Water Management Group Organizational Chart*
- *Organizations (stakeholders)*

- 1985 to Present (overview)
- 2005 to Present – Regional Priorities / Prop. 50/84 IRWM Plng & Implementation
 - Restoring Natural Function: Pre-Project Last Chance Creek, Alkali Flat, 3003
 - Restoring Natural Function: Post-Project Last Chance Creek, Alkali Flat, 2005
 - New Regional Challenges: Declining Runoff
 - New Regional Challenges: Reduced Snowpack Storage
 - Regional Challenges – Collapse of Delta Fisheries
 - Headwaters solutions to regional and statewide natural resources challenges.
 - U.S. Forest Service (coordination)
 - Water Yield Opportunities From National Forests
- 2003 to 2009 – Plumas Watershed Forum
- What have we learned in 25 years?
- New Directions

Ms. Wills explains that the current emphasis is on the integration of water issues and land use issues. There is also emphasis on disadvantaged communities. Mr. Wilson contributes that what we are doing in the Feather River watershed is being looked at statewide--not only where restoration is concerned, but also where such things as snowpack changes, fishery changes, mercury, and water rights are concerned. Ms. Wills emphasizes what needs to take place now is progress on the ground; which means doing the right thing here in the Feather River Watershed to maximize the benefits downstream. Ms. Wills and Mr. Wilson conclude that the update of the *Integrated Regional Water Management Plan* is the next step; and they are hoping to receive word soon regarding grant funding to assist in that endeavor.

Mr. Stewart encourages Ms. Wills to attend the Sierra Cascade Dialog Session (#6) slated for May 10, 2012. Mr. Stewart also suggests to Mr. Wilson and Ms. Wills that they give their presentation to Randy Moore, Regional Forester – Pacific Southwest Region / USDA Forest Service, and also to the Herger – Feinstein Quincy Library Group.

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

Mr. Stewart states that Mike DeLasaux and Jerry Hurley of the Fire Safe Council could not make the meeting today. Mr. Stewart reports that they now have an updated base map.

Mr. Stewart states that the Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group (HFQLG) bill is still before the Committee and then will go to the floor. Mr. Stewart reports that he attended a clarifying session dealing with the “On-top Project” on the Feather River Ranger District. Mr. Stewart expresses his fear that if the HFQLG Pilot Project isn’t extended, then this project won’t move forward. Mr. Stewart explains that at a stakeholders meeting Monday, May 30th, there was more dialog about modifying the alternative or developing another alternative. Mr. Stewart expresses concern that if another alternative is explored, then the NEPA decision won’t be signed and this project won’t move forward. Mr. Sheehan reports that Congressman McClintock asked for a one-page description of the extension/expansion along with a map showing the expanded area. Mr. Sheehan elaborates about the potential for the areas outside of the QLG forests to use QLG strategies for the wild fire problem.

8. Report by County Director of Public Works on Initial Roads Meeting Between Lassen National Forest staff and DPWs from 5 Counties – April 26, 2012 (Butte, Plumas, Lassen, Tehama and Shasta Counties)

Mr. Perreault states that the meeting of the five counties on April 26th with LNF staff discussed re-classifying some existing forest roads to enable OHV use in the future was positive and the Lassen National Forest (LNF) staff is willing to take a look at this issue. Mr. Perreault lists the following “next steps:” 1. Mapping will be updated; 2. LNF will identify the environmental issues that may come into play; and 3. Roadway visits will take place later in the summer.

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

o **Lake Davis Summer Winter Recreation Management Plan – Plumas National Forest**

Mr. Perreault reports that the project lead person for this project, contacted Public Works and wanted to find out the position of Public Works on this project. Mr. Perreault responded that a field meeting would be necessary in order to get a better appreciation of the project scope of work. Mr. Perreault adds that Public Works will want to focus on the roadway crossing at the Lake Davis Dam and the different alternatives being proposed. Ms. Schramel-Taylor says she is aware of several groups that are enthusiastic about promoting winter recreation. Mr. Sheehan provides a handout and reads six suggestions he has developed concerning this project. Ms. Schramel-Taylor states that she will make sure Ms. Bumpus receives his suggestions. Discussion ensues about the need to have a more in-depth report on this subject at the next PCCC meeting.

o **Creeks II Project – Lassen National Forest**

Mr. Stewart asks Al Vazquez, District Ranger - Almanor Ranger District / LNF, to provide an update on the Creeks II project. Mr. Vazquez reports that the project is still moving forward and they are still on track for a decision in August.

10. Legislative Update

Mr. Perreault states that he is still in the process of working out the arrangement whereby County Counsel provides legislative and litigation update information.

Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization: Ms. Schramel-Taylor, PNF, provides a handout pertaining to Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization.

11. Litigation Update

Ms. Simon-Jackson, PNF, reports that a snowmobile lawsuit has been filed against the Forest Service.

12. USFS Pacific Southwest Region – Sierra Other Meetings and Activities

Mr. Perreault states that the next Sierra Cascade Dialog Session (#6) will take place on May 10, 2012.

13. Meetings and Other Activities – No report

14. Chairmanship of the PCCC

Supervisor Swofford nominates Mr. Perreault for the position. Mr. Sheehan seconds the nomination. Motion passes. Mr. Perreault states that the Vice-Chairmanship position will be an agenda item at the next PCCC meeting.

A brief discussion ensues about improved understanding and communication among various entities, particularly Forest Service and County Board of Supervisors, as a result of the PCCC meetings.

15. Date and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

A. Confirm next meeting for: June 1, 2012

B. Future Possible Agenda Items.

- o Vacancy position - Vice-Chairmanship of the PCCC
- o More detail on the Lake Davis project
- o Presentation on Biomass Potential by Bill Wickman
- o Final Forest Service Land Management Planning Rule
- o Eastern Plumas recreation
- 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.

16. Adjournment

Bob Perreault adjourns the meeting at 3:30 p.m.


Robert Perreault, PCCC Chair