

**Plumas County Coordinating Council**  
(PCCC)

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF  
September 7, 2012**

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

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

**Absent:** None

**2. Public Comment Opportunity**

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

Jerry Bird, Forest Supervisor, Lassen National Forest  
Al Vazquez, District Ranger – Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest  
Earl Ford, Forest Supervisor, Plumas National Forest  
Kyla Sabo, District Planner – Beckwourth Ranger District, Plumas National Forest  
Mike Donald, District Ranger – Mt. Hough Ranger District, Plumas National Forest  
Larry Williams, Plumas County Planning Commissioner

*No comments are made.*

**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 September 7, 2012. Motion is passed.

**4. Approval of PCCC Meeting Minutes – *No minutes are available***

**5. Legislative Update and Litigation Update**

Mr. Perreault mentions that the intent to have County Counsel provide the Legislative and Litigation Updates is still in place; however, with the County going to a four/nine schedule, County Counsel was not able to attend the meeting today.

Mr. Perreault reports that a recent lawsuit was filed on August 13, 2012, against the 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule (Federal Forest Resource Coalition et al v. USFS). Mr. Perreault explains that he does not have any further information regarding the lawsuit at this time, but that he believes it was filed by the ranching community.

Mr. Stewart provides an update that the 2004 Framework will be heard in Judge England's court on October 4, 2012.

Mr. Stewart states that the status of the QLG Pilot Project will be available within the next few weeks.

**6. Forest Service Proposed Rule pertaining to the “Project-Level Predecisional Administrative Review Process”**

Mr. Perreault explains that the Forest Service Proposed Rule (the Rule) was published after the July Council meeting. Mr. Perreault provides handouts of backup information and a letter from the Council in support of the Rule that was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at their September 4th meeting. Mr. Stewart suggests that the following wording is added to the draft letter: *The new Rule needs to apply to emergency declarations by the Chief, or associate Chief, to Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) projects.* Mr. Sheehan makes a motion that Mr. Stewart’s suggestion is added to the draft letter as *Item #2 - Issue E.* Mr. Wilson seconds the motion. Motion passes. Supervisor Thrall suggests that the letter reflecting the change is placed on the September 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting for ratification. Mr. Perreault asks if there is a motion for the Council to adopt the letter as revised. Supervisor Swofford makes the motion, Mr. Wilson seconds the motion. Motion passes.

**7. Report by County Director of Public Works on Beckwourth-Genesee Hwy Improvements Project**

Mr. Perreault reports that a compromise has been reached whereby the proposed OHV corridor is eliminated from the Federal Highway Administration project and replaced with a corridor that will go through the forest. Mr. Perreault continues that a letter was brought to the Board of Supervisors signifying an understanding between Plumas County officials and Plumas National Forest – Beckwourth District officials regarding the new proposal. Mr. Perreault adds that Federal Highway Administration is finalizing the environmental document, and Plumas County and Plumas National Forest will work together to make sure that new corridor is constructed at the same time as the highway (in 2014). Mr. Perreault provides an explanation regarding the finer points on how the budget will be managed for this project.

**8. Forest Service Project Updates -- Reports by Various Staff**

**A. Lake Davis Summer Winter Recreation Management Plan Status Report by PNF Staff**

Ms. Sabo reports that they had a public meeting last month and now they are waiting to regroup, when employees currently on vacation return, to establish a plan of action. Mr. Ford adds that the key message on Lake Davis is that no decision has been made, all proposals are still on the table, and they are still moving forward on the project.

**B. Other Projects**

Mr. Ford states that so far they have only had one respondent at the end of the appeal period for the “On Top” and the “Grass Flat” projects.

Mr. Donald mentions the following Mt. Hough Ranger District plans/projects:

- Salvage operations for the Chips Fire;
- Work with Sierra Access Coalition and Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship for a motorized trail network up Mr. Hough and a non-motorized trail network along the Cascade area;
- Program involving work with school students on interpretive signs and trail maintenance;
- Renewed attempts concerning biomass.

A discussion ensues regarding the numerous fires in the north State and future plans for salvage logging.

Mr. Stewart reports that the saw-log component on the Creeks II project is moving forward. Mr. Bird elaborates on the Creeks II project and the need for additional analysis due to the Chips fire.

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

Mr. Stewart states there are ten QLG project in various stages of the NEPA process and five are in Plumas County. Mr. Stewart expresses his concern regarding the future of these projects in the event the QLG Pilot Project isn't extended, especially with regard to the critical wildfire problem.

Mr. Sheehan states that in regard to the Chips Fire, the reason the fire was stopped was due to the natural boundary (Lake Almanor), but also due to the work done by industrial timber owners, Fire Safe Council, and Forest Service to prepare the ground.

10. **Letter to USFS pertaining to the Moonlight Fire Settlement**

Mr. Perreault explains that a draft letter by Bill Wickman appeared on the September 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting agenda. Mr. Perreault states that Mr. Wickman comments in his letter to the Board of Supervisors, and in a separate letter to the Plumas School District, that settlement issues surrounding the Moonlight Fire should be addressed. Mr. Perreault states that discussion of the draft letter by the Board was positive and a vote of support resulted. Mr. Perreault adds that the Board of Supervisors and the School District will combine efforts and submit one letter to the Plumas National Forest and the Regional Forester.

11. **Chips Fire**

Mr. Bird provides data on the cost and containment status of the Chips Fire at day 40; and explains that a Type 2 Team is now in place and will return management of the fire to the Forest Service next week. Mr. Bird states that his stand on the Chips Fire is in opposition to Mr. Wickman's stand as stated in the newspaper in regard to the number of acres destroyed. Mr. Bird provides photos to illustrate his point. Mr. Bird states they have teams gathering information for analysis and planning. Mr. Bird mentions that public meetings and "in the field" meetings are being scheduled. Mr. Bird expresses his desire to answer questions and respond to criticisms that have been raised in the community (i.e., initial response, the effect of the Storrie Fire, and slow aerial response). Mr. Wilson expresses his concern that the first Type I team did not come to the County to gather information regarding structures. Mr. Wilson continues that the County GIS department provided crucial maps to assist the management team as the fire approached areas where structures existed. Mr. Vazquez explains that at times the functioning of the management teams can be chaotic. Mr. Wilson poses the question whether a Type I Management Team feels it is important to interact with County OES. Mr. Ford explains that County OES and the County Sheriff's Department were both on scene from the beginning. Supervisor Thrall stresses that she is hearing appreciation from the public for the hard work of the fire fighters; however, at the same time she is hearing strong criticism regarding the management of the fire. Mr. Ford stresses the concern that the Forest Service and the Management Teams had for the safety of the fire fighters in extremely difficult terrain and how that issue governed management decisions. Mr. Williams presents a handout he prepared titled; *Notes on the Chips Fire in Plumas County*. Mr. Williams explains that contained in his handout are comparisons between the Chips Fire and the Moonlight Fire, and also he lists questions he hopes will be answered. In conclusion, Mr. Williams states; *"It is time to launch an investigation into the business of wild-land fire management and forest policy in general and follow the taxpayer's money being spent by the millions and/or billions each year."*

**12. Comparison of Policies in the National Forest within Plumas County**

Mr. Perreault states he put this item on the agenda as a reminder for the Council members to keep the handout distributed at the July 6, 2012, meeting on their "to do" list. Mr. Perreault adds that it will be put on the next meeting agenda.

**13. Proposed Budget for the PCCC**

Mr. Perreault states that this item is on the agenda to inform the Council that there is a need for a formal budget for Coordinating Council. Mr. Perreault continues that the Board of Supervisors, in their budget review process, should be able to identify Title 3 funds that Coordinating Council can use for administrative support. Mr. Perreault explains that once funds are identified, the topic will be placed on the next PCCC agenda.

**14. Other Meetings and Activities**

Mr. Stewart reports that the next Sierra-Cascade Dialog will take place September 27<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento and it will relate to recreation.

**15. Reaffirmation of regular Meeting Schedule, or, Establishment of Revised Meetings Schedule**

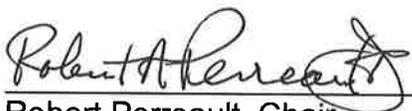
Mr. Perreault explains that the Board of Supervisor's has established a four nine-hour day per week schedule for general fund departments with many departments taking Friday off. Mr. Perreault asks the Council if they would like to change the meeting date to accommodate those affected by the change. Supervisor Thrall states that the Board will have a budget workshop on Monday, September 10, 2012, and some clarifications regarding four/nines may be forthcoming at that meeting. Discussion ensues followed by a motion by Supervisor Swofford to retain the existing meeting date/time. Supervisor Thrall seconds the motion. Motion is passed.

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

- A. Confirm next meeting for October 5, 2012, or other date to be specified.
- B. Future possible agenda items:
  - o Biomass in Loyaltan and elsewhere, and information concerning landing piles.

**17. Adjournment**

Mr. Perreault adjourns the meeting. *Adjournment time is not specified.*

  
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Robert Perreault, Chair  
PCCC