

**Plumas County Coordinating Council**  
(PCCC)

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF  
October 5, 2012**

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call - 1:04 p.m.**

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

**Absent:** Randy Wilson, Vice Chair – Plumas County Planning Director

**2. Public Comment Opportunity**

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

Earl Ford, Forest Supervisor, Plumas National Forest;  
Mike Donald, District Ranger, Mt. Hough Ranger District–Plumas National Forest;  
Terri Simon-Jackson, Planning Staff Officer, Plumas National Forest;  
Deb Bumpus, District Ranger, Beckwourth Ranger District–Plumas National Forest;  
Al Vazquez, District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District–Lassen National Forest

No public comments are made.

**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 October 5, 2012. Motion is passed.

**4. Approval of PCCC Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Perreault states that the meeting minutes from September 7, 2012, are not ready at this time.

Ms. Simon-Jackson suggests the following changes to the meeting minutes from August 3, 2012:

Page 2 – Item 5 – paragraph 3 – line 1: change 204 to **2004**  
Page 7 – Item 10 – paragraph 1 – line 5: change Rural to **Resource**  
Page 7 – Item 11 – line 2: change (ACL) to **(ALC)**

Supervisor Swofford suggests the following change:

Page 3 – Item 5 – paragraph 6 – line 4: add the word **group** after Jarvis-Gann and before Amendment

A motion is made by Supervisor Thrall and seconded by Supervisor Swofford to adopt the meeting minutes of August 3, 2012, with the suggested changes made. Motion is passed.

**5. Legislative Update and Litigation Update**

Mr. Perreault asks the Council if they would like this item to remain a standing item or to put it on the agenda as circumstances arise. The Council members discuss and decide to keep it as a standing agenda item.

Mr. Sheehan states that the Governor has signed legislation to make small biomass power plants (up to 5 megawatts) eligible for certain PUC funds. Mr. Sheehan adds that this could be relevant to the projects being discussed for Greenville.

Mr. Stewart comments that on the litigation front, the '04 Framework hearing that was supposed to be on October 4<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento has been cancelled and is now set for November 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

Mr. Perreault states it is important to the County that efforts pertaining to the new OHV trail continue to move forward. Mr. Perreault advises that it would work best if preparations for trail construct are ready at about the same time that Federal Highways is ready to construct the new highway. In an effort to keep communication lines open, Mr. Perreault proposes that monthly meetings, even if by telephone, would be helpful between Forest Service (Beckwourth Ranger District) and Public Works. Ms. Bumpus responds affirmatively to this suggestion.

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

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

Ms. Bumpus reports the start of the NEPA process, specifically that needs are being developed in preparation for the scoping document that will go out to the public. Ms. Bumpus says they don't have any other public meetings scheduled at this time. Ms. Bumpus adds that they are looking at November for completion. Mr. Sheehan comments that in these tough economic times, it is essential to have an emphasis on the economic purposes of this project. Ms. Simon-Jackson asks Mr. Sheehan if there is any data at Plumas Corporation pertaining to economic aspects of the Lakes Basin Snow Park to use as a guide. Mr. Sheehan responds affirmatively.

**B. Other Projects**

Ms. Bumpus states they are working on the salvage operation for the Peak Fire (250 acres) and forest rehabilitation is in the planning stages.

Ms. Bumpus reports that they have begun a NEPA process for a two range allotments on the east side of the District.

Ms. Bumpus says they are continuing with their vegetation management project at Hayden that overlaps the old Humbug project.

Ms. Bumpus compliments the people who were involved in the success of the Crocker Guard Station Centennial that took place on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Stewart thanks Ms. Bumpus for her staff that gave an update on the Maybe project at a recent QLG meeting and suggests that the Council would also benefit from an update on that project. Mr. Stewart also compliments Ms. Bumpus on the treatment that has taken place on brush piles in her district.

Mr. Sheehan expresses his pleasure in seeing wildlife flourishing in the Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) around Sulfur Creek.

Mr. Stewart directs a request to Mike Donald, District Ranger, Mt. Hough Ranger District, to provide an update on the Silver Project.

Mr. Donald explains that they are continuing to work with Sierra Access Coalition regarding non-motorized and motorized uses with and one focus is on the local tourism and the economy within the County.

Mr. Donald states that the equestrian campground at Snake Lake is almost completed.

Mr. Donald reports that they have four timber sale and stewardship projects.

Mr. Donald passes out a flyer announcing the Fall Fest to take place Saturday, October 13, 2012, starting at 11:00 a.m. at the Mt. Hough Ranger District.

Mr. Donald reports that they have been working with the Buck's Lake community to get phone lines set up.

Mr. Donald states that next week, they will work with Chester and Greenville kids at Halstead Campground to help with some of the renovations. Mr. Ford mentions a financial commitment that Plumas National Forest has made to the school district (\$255,000.00) in this school cycle that has resulted from the Storrie Fire.

Mr. Donald says work at the three campgrounds at Caribou have been made a priority in the aftermath of the Chips Fire.

Mr. Vazquez mentions timber sales in Tehama County by Mineral.

Mr. Vazquez reports that they have signed the EA for Creeks II.

Mr. Sheehan asks Mr. Vazquez if the rest area south of Chester (location of the Chip Fire encampment) will be paved by LNF. Mr. Vazquez responds no, but that there will be reseeding and protection of a threatened and endangered plant in the meadow.

Mr. Perreault states that fieldwork continues for the LNF project involving Public Works Departments in five counties and the Forest Service to designate roads within LNF for OHV use. Mr. Perreault adds that there is a meeting scheduled at the end of October with Lassen Forest staff concerning this project. Mr. Perreault reports success concerning a similar project in the Shasta-Trinity Forest. Mr. Perreault says that they are further along in the process than the Lassen effort and are now in the 30 day commenting period following the environmental work.

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

Mr. Stewart states that the Plumas County Fire Safe Council will receive 35% of \$390,000.00 for three projects they have proposed. Mr. Sheehan reports that the Fire Safe Council has been conducting Fire Wise Workshops in the last month or so, and will be continuing until the onset of inclement weather.

Mr. Stewart reports that the Quincy Library Group (QLG) federal Pilot Project has terminated. However, the QLG group will continue functioning and that a meeting is scheduled October 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Stewart provides a handout titled; *A Growing Threat to Communities, Watersheds, & Wildlife*. Mr. Stewart points out the map showing nine western states with 16 new records for annual acres burned. Mr. Stewart provides a second handout titled; *H-FQLG Pilot Project Annual Accomplishment Measures*. Mr. Stewart compliments Forest Supervisors Ford (PNF) and Bird (LNF) for standing firm on nine decision notices on NEPA documents (based on objection instead of appeals). Mr. Ford states that the Forest Service has been working with QLG since 1998 and that a lot of good has resulted in the process. Mr. Ford adds that as the process moves forward, the good forest practices can still be utilized; and they can also develop new practices that they could not do under QLG.

Mr. Stewart states that since his contract with the Counties is narrowed down to working on QLG projects, he feels it is not fair to continue on the Council in this limited capacity; therefore, Mr. Stewart offers his resignation from PCCC. Mr. Stewart suggests that the Council consider asking Bill Wickman to serve on the PCCC. Mr. Stewart continues by listing the following qualities that would make Mr. Wickman a good candidate for serving on the PCCC:

- Mr. Wickman has a wealth of knowledge and understanding and considerable experience working with the Forest Service;
- Mr. Wickman has a background serving on such entities as the Sustainable Forestry Action Coalition and the QLG;
- Mr. Wickman has exhibited a commitment to work for the betterment of Plumas County.

The PCCC takes no action on Mr. Stewart's statements.

Mr. Sheehan compliments the Forest Service on reaching the goals they set out to accomplish during the last quarter in spite of the fact that the largest fire in the county also occurring during the same time.

**9. Chips Fire**

**A. PNF schedules Chips Fire Community Meetings and Fieldtrip**

The following printed information is distributed by Forest Service attendees:

- *Chips Fire Restoration Community Fieldtrip – Saturday, October 13, 2012*
- *Chips Fire Community Meetings & Fieldtrip Scheduled*

Community Meetings

Monday, October 15, 2012 – Greenville;

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 – Quincy;

Thursday, October 18, 2012 – Gansner Bar Campground Amphitheater

Fieldtrip

Saturday, October 13, 2012

Earl Ford, Forest Supervisor – Plumas National Forest (PNF), adds that Lassen National Forest (LNF) is planning a fieldtrip to the Chips Fire area and a community meeting in Chester.

Mr. Ford states that because the Forest Service manages public land, they want to move forward with a clear understanding of what the public thinks should be accomplished in the aftermath of the Chips Fire. Mr. Ford stresses that the purpose of the community meetings is for gathering ideas and not for debate.

## **B. Opportunity to receive reports and discuss any aspect of the Chips Fire**

Mr. Ford explains that rapid assessment teams are providing data to assist in structuring the following three facets of management in the Chips Fire area:

1. High priority in terms of public safety (i.e., roads, recreation areas);
2. Economically feasible salvage opportunities; and
3. Areas to be left alone.

Mr. Stewart asks Mr. Ford whether the Forest Service plans to use Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) or Categorical Exemptions (CEs) in the process. Mr. Ford responds that they will be aggressive in treating these lands and will use all the tools at their disposal. Mr. Stewart asks Mr. Ford for a timeline, and Mr. Ford responds that he hopes to have people out in the field by December. Mike Donald, District Ranger, Mt. Hough Ranger District – PNF, states that they are already handling roadside safety with regard to hazardous trees. Mr. Ford explains the need for the Regional Forester for Region 5 to pursue an Emergency Situation Determination (ESD) with regard to Chips Fire restoration in both Plumas and Lassen National Forests. Mr. Ford adds that an ESD would allow harvesting while waiting for appeals to be heard. Mr. Stewart asks Mr. Ford whether a resolution by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors in support of an ESD would be helpful. Mr. Ford responds affirmatively. (A handout is provided titled: *Chips Fire, Initial Burned Area Emergency Response Request Approval*.)

Discussion ensues regarding Mr. Ford's comment that he recently visited the Chips Fire area with Craig Thomas of *Sierra Forest Legacy*. Mr. Stewart expresses his concern that Craig Thomas and Chad Hansen of the *John Muir Project* are the primary players of environmental lawsuits against the *Quincy Library Group (QLG)* project. Mr. Ford explains that no deals or commitments were made during the visit with Mr. Thomas. Mr. Ford adds that Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hansen have both been encouraged to participate in the Community Meetings to share their viewpoint.

Al Vazquez, District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District / Lassen National Forest, points to the maps displayed at the front of the room and explains the various delineations. Mr. Vazquez adds that he will provide copies of the maps electronically to Mr. Perreault.

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

Mr. Ford states that this topic will be discussed at the Plumas National Forest Leadership Team Meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and an update report will be ready for the November PCCC meeting.

## **11. Other Meetings and Activities – *Nothing reported***

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

**A.** The next meeting is confirmed for November 2, 2012.

**B.** Future possible agenda items.

Mr. Perreault states that the following three (3) agenda items listed are scheduled for the 11-02-20112 PCCC meeting:

1. Jerry Sipe will discuss the Plumas County Hazard Mitigation Project.
2. Bill Wickman will discuss matters involving the Plumas County Economic Recovery Committee and the Sustainable Forest Action Coalition.
3. Michelle Pillar will report on the PRS Biomass Power Plant Project.

**13. Adjournment**

Mr. Perreault adjourns the meeting at 3:12 PM.



---

Robert Perreault, Chair  
PCCC