



PLUMAS COUNTY COORDINATING COUNCIL (PCCC)

Monday, November 6, 2023

2:00PM – 4:00PM

LOCATION:

Plumas County Planning & Building Services Conference Room
555 Main Street, Quincy, California

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 2:01PM and Roll Call

Meeting of the Plumas County Coordinating Council is called to order by Interim Chair Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director, with roll call in the Conference Room of the Plumas County Planning Department (555 West Main Street, Quincy, California). In attendance are Jeff Engel, Plumas County Supervisor District 5; Kevin Goss, Plumas County Supervisor District 2; Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director; John Mannie, Plumas County Public Works Director and Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District General Manager; Debra Lucero, Plumas County Administrative Officer; John Sheehan, Public Member. A quorum is present.

Also Present: Russell Nickerson, Lassen National Forest; Dan Patterson, Tahoe National Forest; Mike Rahe, Chris Carlton, Travis Sanchez, and Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest; Lara Wheeler, Indian Valley Innovation Hub; Pamela Grant, representative for Congressman Kevin Kiely; and Rob Thorman, Plumas County Assistant Public Works Director

2. Public Comment Opportunity

A public comment was made by Jeff Greef stating he is in the process of planning and developing a light industrial biomass manufacturing facility in Plumas County to process untreated wood chips into horticultural wood fiber substrate. Greef also stated the project will be an effective way of removing biomass from the forests.

3. Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Motion is made to accept the agenda, as presented, by Supervisor Kevin Goss, seconded by Supervisor Jeff Engel. Voice Call Vote, Aye-all, Nay-none, motion passes.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Tracey Ferguson stated the meeting minutes of June 25, 2020, were not found in the County's records; therefore, no action was taken.

5. PCCC Governance

A. County of Plumas Resolution 08-7514. Informational.

County of Plumas Resolution 08-7514 was presented, which is the resolution adopting and implementing Coordinated Agency Status in accordance with federal and state laws, and notifying Federal and State agencies maintaining jurisdiction over lands and/or resources located within the County of Plumas of the intent and expectation that Federal and State agency actions shall be made consistent with all county land use plans, and other management plans affecting the natural environment, economic stability, or the public health and safety of the citizens of Plumas County, and to otherwise notify and confer with the County.

Resolution 08-7514 was approved by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors on October 21, 2008. Tracey Ferguson reads aloud excerpts, as follows: The Plumas County Coordinating Council shall represent the County of Plumas in coordinating the management plans and actions of federal and state agencies to ensure consistency with local land use plans, and provide a key component of any General Plan revisions which also must consider land outside the County boundaries which bears relation to county planning especially for matters related to fire prevention, watersheds, land use, natural resources and other related issues to ensure consistency. The Plumas County Coordinating Council shall make recommendations to the Board of Supervisor's when appropriate and as needed, or when the Board requests the committee to provide recommendations.

As Resolution 08-7514 is roughly 15 years old, Debra Lucero makes a recommendation to include the resolution on a future PCCC agenda for discussion and possible action. The objective is to review and offer any necessary or desired amendments to serve the needs and purposes of the PCCC, thus bringing the resolution current.

B. PCCC Chair Appointment. Discussion and possible action.

Tracey Ferguson states she's acting as Interim PCCC Chair, after the passing of Bob Perreault, the former Plumas County Public Works Director and longtime previous PCCC Chair.

Supervisor Jeff Engel makes a motion to appoint Supervisor Kevin Goss as PCCC Chair, seconded by John Sheehan. Voice Call Vote, Aye-all, Nay-none, motion passes. Comment by John Sheehan; staff will need to be involved if Supervisor Kevin Goss is going to take on the Chair role. Debra Lucero stated she will be support staff to Supervisor Kevin Goss.

6. Plumas National Forest. Discussion.

Chris Carlton, Forest Supervisor, stated the Plumas National Forest is one of the busiest in the region and that they have received a substantial amount of federal funding, but always could use additional resources. He stated that to increase staffing capacity, Plumas National Forest has been utilizing partners and contractors to implement project work. Travis Sanchez, Post Wildfire Recovery Manager, stated that there are two primary projects in the Plumas National Forest, including North Forest and North Fork consisting of approximately 166,000 acres. The NEPA document for the North Fork should be completed by August 2024. The Tributaries project is in partnership with Plumas Corp. and consists of approximately 152,000 acres. The NEPA document for the Tributaries project should be completed by the end of 2024 and will improve forest resilience, involve road rehabilitation, watershed health, and enhance forest recreational value. Joe Hoffman presented on wildfire protection around communities and stated there are 21 identified priority areas. The Plumas National Forest has allocated 273 million dollars to this effort. Timber companies will be helping with layout aspects. The Mule Deer Foundation is helping with the Claremont portion of the project, which is set to start in 2024.

7. Lassen National Forest. Discussion.

Russell Nickerson, Almanor District Ranger, discussed Dixie Fire post wildfire recovery projects, fuels reduction and prescribed fire projects, and trails (added 35 miles of mountain bike and equestrian) and recreation, as outlined in the Lassen National Forest SOPA. Russell Nickerson noted eleven log deck sales in the recent past. Humboldt Road is being realigned for maintenance purposes and county right of way will be maintained. John Mannle inquired, on the Butte County side, and Russell Nickerson responded, yes.

8. Tahoe National Forest. Discussion.

Dan Patterson stated much of the project efforts have been in the Carman Valley area of Plumas County, including fuels treatment work over the past three years, in addition to roadside treatments concentrated close to communities. Saddle and McNair have recently been purchased by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI). Beckworth Peak phase 1 is complete and phase 2 is ongoing.

9. Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA). Informational.

Tracey Ferguson stated the SOPAs are available on the forest websites quarterly and asked how Plumas County can support the dissemination of the information, as appropriate. Chris Carlton, Plumas National

Forest, stated there is a SOPA dashboard on the forest website that will list the biggest projects but won't have all the active projects available. Additionally, Chris Carlton stated there is information on the Plumas National Forest Facebook page. John Sheehan inquired about 'bulletproofing' the method of developing NEPA documents and the process. Chris Carlton stated that litigation is part of it. Debra Lucero inquired about the number of forest acres in Plumas County.

10. Plumas County Updates. Informational.

A. 2021 Wildfires Long-Term Recovery Planning and Activities

Tracey Ferguson stated the County has been working on long-term recovery from the Dixie Fire and Beckwourth Complex Fire under a Cal OES recovery support function (RSF) structure for over a year. The recovery functions include Housing and Commercial Buildings, Infrastructure, Economics, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Health and Social Services. Several community meetings and workshops have been held, inviting stakeholders and the public to provide comments on needed recovery projects. Currently, there are 27 recovery projects in the administrative draft plan. The public review draft plan is anticipated to be released in spring 2024.

B. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and Communities at Risk (CAR) Boundary Revision

Tracey Ferguson stated the Plumas County Board of Supervisors approved a revised WUI/CAR map on October 3, 2023, from the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, in association with the Plumas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), last adopted in July 2019. An update to the CWPP will be required to align with the revised WUI/CAR map.

C. Plumas County 2035 General Plan

Tracey Ferguson discussed the need to update the Plumas County 2035 General Plan Public Health & Safety Element and Housing Element. CAL FIRE has reviewed the Public Health & Safety Element for state law requirements and there are policy items to address, for example, including the use of fuel and fire breaks around communities. John Sheehan stated he would like to see fire breaks prioritized. The Housing Element is undergoing the 7th cycle update and is due by June 30, 2024. Due to limited staffing capacity, the County Planning Department will be soliciting consultants to assist with the updates.

11. Meetings and Activities

None

12. Date for Next Meeting

Next meeting of the PCCC will be on February 5, 2024.

13. Future Ageda Items

- Updates from Plumas, Lassen, and Tahoe national forests
- Discussion of SOPAs
- Updates from Plumas County
- Amendments to County of Plumas Resolution 08-7514
- Plumas National Forest Greenville Campground Operational Status

14. Adjournment at 3:54PM

Motion is made to adjourn the meeting by John Sheehan, seconded by Debra Lucero. Voice Call Vote, Aye-all, Nay-none, motion passes.