



PLUMAS COUNTY COORDINATING COUNCIL (PCCC)

Monday, February 5, 2024

2:00PM – 4:00PM

LOCATION:

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

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 2:05 PM and Roll Call

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

Also Present: Russell Nickerson, Lassen National Forest; Rachel Hutchinson, Tahoe National Forest; Chris Carlton, Leslie Edlund, Travis Sanchez, Ryan Bauer, and Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest; Randy Pew and Brian West, J&C Lumber; Che Rubalcava Cunan, Sierra Institute; John Kolb, Plumas Corp.; and Rob Thorman, Plumas County Assistant Public Works Director.

2. Public Comment Opportunity

A public comment was made by Randy Pew, J&C Lumber, stating his experience working with the Plumas National Forest Service on contracting opportunities and bid proposals. Mr. Pew described how he would like a fair chance to compete for bids and does not understand Plumas National Forest methodology in selection.

A public comment was made by Biran West, J&C Lumber, stated he would like to talk to Plumas National Forest about small sales and roadside salvage, for example. There are multi-million-dollar offerings from Plumas National Forest he cannot compete with as a smaller company. He questions the selection criteria and if local and small businesses can compete. Mr. West explains a recent smaller offering that he bid on and was qualified for still went to a larger company. He is asking why and has capacity to do more and looking for work to keep the Crescent Mills mill running.

Plumas National Forest Supervisor, Chris Carlton, stated he could set up a meeting with Mr. Pew and Mr. West to understand his concerns further and provide information as to the Plumas National Forest procurement process and the upcoming needs and opportunities for public lands bids including small salvage sales.

A public comment was made by Mark Pecotich, Plumas and Sierra County Chamber Coalition, concerning the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) project for Gold Lake Forest Highway (County Road 519) and the need for federal dollars to continue maintenance of the roadway because the roadway is considered an economic generator and provides primary access to recreation lands in the Lakes Basin Recreational Area on Plumas and Tahoe national forests. He stated the Sierra County Board of Supervisors are in discussion with Congressman Kevin Kiely's office to gain support for the Gold Lake Highway Rehabilitation Project and the submittal of an application for FY2025 Community Project Funding Appropriations Request. Mr. Pecotich is asking that the Plumas County Board of Supervisors also consider supporting the application submittal, with lead support coming from Supervisor Jeff Engel, District 5.

3. Review and Acceptance of Agenda

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

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion is made to approve the meeting minutes of November 6, 2023, as presented, by Supervisor Jeff Engel, seconded by John Mannle. Voice Call Vote, Aye-all, Nay-none, motion passes.

5. PCCC Governance

A. *Motion is made by Tracey Ferguson to direct PCCC support staff to draft applicable amendments to the County of Plumas Resolution 08-7514 and bring back said revisions for PCCC consideration and comment to then recommend to the Board of Supervisors, seconded by Jeff Engel. Voice Call Vote, Aye-all, Nay-none, motion passes.*

6. Plumas National Forest.

Ryan Bauer discussed roughly 4,600 acres to-date since October 2023 has been treated with prescribed fire activities on the Plumas. Prior to that, between October 2022 and September 2023, roughly 2,000 acres were treated with prescribed fire. Continuing, Bauer stated fuels reduction projects are occurring in Butterfly Valley area with some piles and are complete at the Little Grass Valley Reservoir with roughly 400 acres cleared with piles in the North Complex Fire burned area. In winter 2023/2024 roughly 500 acres will have pile burning activities in the Lakes Basin area. Fire salvage is occurring at Frenchman Lake. 1,100 acres of pile burning at the Moonlight will have re-planting to come. Bauer explains Plumas is down three engines and the forest has contracts out with consultants for crews and engines. In fall 2024, Bauer expects a Plumas National Forest mapping tool will be available to the public to view areas that have been treated. Randy Pew inquired if the forest service sees value in a location to take and dispose of the logs versus burning piles in the forest or mastication. Bauer responds, yes, the logs need to be taken out of the forest.

John Sheehan inquired about the national forest service direction to look at old growth forest stands and how the USFS defines 'old growth.' He questions if fuels reduction projects are being affected? Bauer responds that the old growth definition is the same as it has been and projects with old growth are elevated for review through the USFS Washington DC office. Bauer states Plumas is committed to implementing the projects, as planned, and needed, for the benefit of the landscape and to gain success for defensible space around communities. Russell Nickerson explains Lassen is going through the same processes with old growth stands and is in the middle of justification of how and when to perform the fuels treatments.

7. Lassen National Forest.

Russell Nickerson, Almanor District Ranger, discussed Dixie Fire post wildfire recovery projects, fuels reduction and prescribed fire projects, and trails and recreation, as outlined in the Lassen National Forest SOPA.

8. Tahoe National Forest.

Rachel Hutchinson, Sierraville District Ranger, discussed projects as outlined in the Tahoe National Forest SOPA.

9. Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

Tracey Ferguson stated the SOPAs are provided as informational and are available on the forest websites quarterly.

10. Plumas County Updates

A. *Tracey Ferguson stated there will be a 2021 Wildfires Long-Term Recovery Plan Recovery Support Function (RSF) Working Group Session on February 23, 2024, from 9:00am-11:30am, at the Mineral Building, Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds.*

11. Meetings and Activities

John Sheehan states the Plumas County Fire Safe Council meeting on January 11, 2024, contained an update from Julie Hunter, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, regarding Rule 318, and to contact Julie Hunter for more information and questions.

12. Date for Next Meeting

Next meeting of the PCCC will be on May 6, 2024.

13. Future Agenda 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 Recreation Site Concessionaire Update*

14. Adjournment

Motion is made to adjourn at 3:41pm the meeting by John Mannle, seconded by Supervisor Kevin Goss. Voice Call Vote, Aye-all, Nay-none, motion passes.