



PLUMAS COUNTY COORDINATING COUNCIL (PCCC)

Monday, May 6, 2024

LOCATION:

Plumas County Planning & Building Services Conference Room
555 Main Street, Quincy, California
Virtual Option Also Available

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 2:03 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; Rob Thorman, Acting Plumas County Public Works Director and Acting Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District General Manager; and John Sheehan, Public Member. A quorum is present. Absent is Jeff Engel, Plumas County Supervisor District 5; and Debra Lucero, County Administrative Officer.

Also Present: Russell Nickerson, Lassen National Forest; Rachel Hutchinson, Tahoe National Forest; Chris Carlton, Travis Sanchez, Mike Rahe, and Erika Brenzovich, Plumas National Forest; Michelle Abramson and Greg Williams; Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship; Elizabeth Ramsey, Plumas Audubon Society; Eric Ewing, CAL FIRE – Lassen/Modoc; Zachary Gately, Plumas County Grant Manager; Preston Allen, Kevin Danaher, Lane Labbe; Jeff Greef, Nan Cayler.

2. Public Comment Opportunity

A public comment was made by Eric Ewing, CAL FIRE – Lassen/Modoc, stating that CAL FIRE has flown and Assistant Chief position to be based in Plumas County. The current timeline has the position starting July 1, 2024. A question was asked about age restrictions and Eric answered by stating that anyone over the age of 18 years old is eligible.

3. Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Motion is made to accept the agenda, as presented, by John Sheehan, seconded by Tracey Ferguson. Voice Call Vote, Aye-all, Nay-none, motion passes.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion is made to approve the meeting minutes of February 5, 2024, as presented with amendment of typo indicating Supervisor Engel's District was District 1 rather than the correct District 5, by John Sheehan, seconded by Kevin Goss. Voice Call Vote, Aye-all, Nay-none, motion passes.

5. PCCC Governance

Tracey Ferguson stated no progress was made to review and amend the PCCC governance Resolution 08-7514, however, efforts to have a draft by the next quarterly meeting was indicated with the possibility of having a committee to work on the update. No action was taken at this time. If no progress has been made by the next quarterly meeting, PCCC will discuss the possibility of having a specific subcommittee work on edits to the resolution.

6. Plumas National Forest. Discussion**A. Recreation Site Concessionaire Update**

- *Chris Carlton spoke on a new concessionaire – Royal Elk Park Management. Discussed update on sites management and opening dates. He made sure to note that the new concessionaire is aware of requirements around transient occupancy tax (TOT) and the forest is facilitating the improvement of this process with the County Treasurer/Tax Collector.*

B. Post Wildfire Recovery Projects

- *Travis Sanchez spoke about the North Fork and Tributaries NEPA projects. Public Comment to begin at the end of May 2024, with the environmental report anticipated to be completed in August 2024.*
- *He also overviewed the Resource Damage Assessment of the Dixie Fire and highlighted the Camp Fire Recovery Project and North Fork Project.*
- *400 acres of new tree planting west of Frenchman Lake.*

C. Community Protection Projects

- *Travis Sanchez also continued to discuss the North Quincy Project, Central and West Slope Project, and Eastside Central Community Project. All projects are either out for comment or under review.*

D. Trails and Recreation

- *Highlighted two new bridges: Chamber Creek Recreation Bridge and Pacific Crest Trail Bridge near Belden; both damaged during the 2021 Dixie Fire.*
- *Mentioned Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship work, both in and outside of the 2021 wildfire affected areas.*
- *John Sheehan asked about OSV (over the snow vehicle) program and Tahoe Forest mentioned they signed an OSV subpart C in April 2024, and there have been changes to the objection process, in addition to limitations due to staff capacity issues.*

E. Timber Sales

- *Timber sales continue. There are some settlement sales occurring with PG&E and Caltrans. Discussion around IRTC or Integrated Resource Timber Contracts.*
- *Tracey Ferguson asked for more information on Timber Sales and contracts. Is there a mailing list? The forest will find out where the public can find more information.*
- *Nan Kailer asked what is the difference between recovery projects and community projects? Forest said it has to do with funding and how the project is put together. Further described as community projects take place in unburned areas and recovery projects take place in areas that were already burned. John Sheehan clarified that NEPA designation doesn't denote if it is a recovery project or a community project. Nan wanted to know why Taylorsville is listed as a recovery project when it did not burn. Forest made a note.*

7. Lassen National Forest. Discussion

No update at this time.

8. Tahoe National Forest. Discussion**A. Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscape Projects**

- *Rachel Hutchinson, Sierraville District Ranger, discussed North Yuba Watershed Project and prescribed fire project within south Plumas. John Sheehan asked how far east? Rachel responded Gold Lake Basin down to Yuba Pass.*

B. Fuels Reduction and Watershed Restoration Projects

- *Discussed Carmen Valley Primary Watershed project, near Calpine. John Sheehan asked if there was significantly more fuel density reduction around Calpine. Rachel said they are keeping some density and adding volume to replace dead trees.*

C. Trails and Recreation

- *Working with Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship on the Connected Communities Sierra Valley Project (68 miles). Should be through NEPA by 2025.*
- *OSV had objections in 2019 however was signed in 2023 inclusive of 414,000 acres, 247 miles of groomed trail and 373 miles total, though not all are groomed.*

D. Timber Sales

- *Timber sales are occurring, however, not in Plumas County but in Calpine.*

9. Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) – April 2024-June 2024. Informational.**A. Plumas National Forest**

- *On Claremont, discussed OHV and Spotted Owl. John Sheehan asked if there was any progress on the old growth definition and Chris Carlton responded that it has been routed up through the Washington Office for final approval.*

B. Lassen National Forest

No update at this time.

C. Tahoe National Forest

No additional update.

10. Plumas County Updates. Discussion.**A. Plumas County, in partnership with the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, Off Highway Motorized Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Grant Program on Plumas National Forest lands**

- a. *Lane Labbe made comments of his concern on the part of Plumas County, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship and the Plumas National Forest in the development of OHV trails. Feels that they are not for all uses nor were appropriate studies done or considered. Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship and the Plumas National Forest ensured that all regulations at all levels are diligently followed.*

B. Plumas County 2035 General Plan Goals/Policies and US National Forest Plan Alignment

- a. *Tracey Ferguson discussed conservation and open space coordination in relation to the County's General Plan goals and policies. The group discussed how to stay ahead of the curve with programs and support needs, specifically around NEPA and CEQA. More plan and activity alignment is necessary and the PCCC should continue conversations around such coordination.*

C. 2021 Wildfires Long-Term Recovery Plan Recovery Support Function (RSF) Working Group Session (May 23, 2024, 9:00am-10:30am, Mineral Building, Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds)

- a. *Discussed overall goals of Recovery Support Functional Working Groups and meeting dates and times. The goal is to have Long-Term Recovery Plan out for Public Review sometime in the summer with a full adoption by the Plumas County BOS by January 2025.*

11. Meetings and Activities

2nd Thursdays of every month – Plumas County Fire Safe Council

12. Date for Next Meeting

Next meeting of the PCCC will be on August 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 inclusive of Recreation and OHV*
- *Policies related to Plumas County's General Plan and the Forest Service*
- *Wildfire Recovery*

14. Adjournment

Motion is made to adjourn the meeting at 3:44 pm by Tracey Ferguson, seconded by Rob Thorman. Voice Call Vote, Aye-all, Nay-none, motion passes.