

PLUMAS COUNTY COORDINATING COUNCIL (PCCC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 2, 2019 – 1:02 PM
Plumas County Planning Department
Planning and Building Services – Conference Room
555 West Main Street, Quincy, California

1. Call to order at 1:02 PM

Roll Call is conducted by Chair Bob Perreault: In attendance are: Sherrie Thrall, County Supervisor; Jeff Ingle, County Supervisor; Randy Wilson, Planning Director; John Sheehan, member. A quorum is present.

Others in Attendance: Micki D Smith USFS PNF; Leslie Edlund USFS; Barbara Drake USAF PNF; Katherine Carpenter PNF; Joe Flannery TNF; Laura Corral LNF; Hannah Hepner PFS; Russell Nickerson USFS; Corky Lazzarino SAC; Jerry Bird PNF; Diane Uchytel. SAC; Tracy Ball; Mandy Beatty; Todd Johns, PCSO; Joe Blackwell PW; Leah Wills Consultant; Amanda Higgins, PW; Stephanie McMillan Recording Secretary.

2. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comment.

3. Review and Acceptance of the Agenda by the PCCC

Motion is made by Jeff Engel, seconded by John Sheehan: to approve Agenda.
Motion passes 5-0

4. Approval of PCCC Meeting Minutes (Draft) from February 28, 2019.

Motion is made by Sherrie Thrall, seconded by Randy Wilson: to approve Minutes as corrected. Roll call vote, motion passes 5-0

5. Status Reports from each National Forest staff pertaining to each National Forest "2019 Plan of Work"

A. Plumas National Forest

Jerry Bird, AFS, stated PNF had a difficult start of it's 2019 Plan of Work due to the 35 day Federal furlough and the Camp Fire. Jerry reported anticipating producing about 4500 feet of fuel reductions work this year and are requesting the Regional Office to provide additional funding. PNF has been aggressive in getting pile burning done as allowed by the weather. They hope to produce 44M board feet of timber this year which is approximately 10 to 15M more than last year. Contracting negotiation may delay some of it into next year. Jerry stated PNF hopes to work with the County much more in particular with planning their 2020 Program of Work. Barbara Drake reported they have a prospectus tied to campgrounds and to have one group of people manage all the recreation sites in the forest. PNF is working with partners around trail development, especially new bike trails. Each District now has Public Service staff and a RLEM (Recreation, Land, Engineering and Minerals) staff Officer.

Jerry mentioned they are on track to get most of the campgrounds opened by Memorial Day weekend. Jeff Engel asked about Lakes Basins campground which still has a lot of snow; Bucks Lake will be open by Mother's Day May 12. Joe Blackwell stated that Gold Lake road is open up to Graeagle Lodge. A bridge project is delaying the start of road clearance. Snow blowers are busy elsewhere but Joe plans to start removing snow on County Roads by May 13. Road 507 had an avalanche approximately 15 feet deep and 150 feet of snow fall to be removed near the Johnsville/McCraig Road.

B. Lassen National Forest

Laura Corral reported that 45M board feet of timber contracts are expected for the entire forest, dependent on the Whaleback salvage. The area is west of Eagle Lake with 2800 acres of salvage and 1700 acres of roadside salvage. LNF will be planting 239,000 acres. More specific to Plumas County, LNF will offer 1 timber sale out of the Creeks 2 decision of 3.6M board feet. There are three other timber sales that have been sold and are being logged. LNF is working with South Lassen Watershed Group on two planning projects, collaborating with Sierra Institute. One is Robber's Creek an West Shore Lake Almanor. Proposals in the amount of \$400,000 for new restrooms near Domingo Springs and Veneer Campgrounds are in process. The second involves the purchase of equipment to clear Lake Almanor Recreation Trail. Sherrie Thrall asked about the Almanor West project. Sherrie has received a lot of letters from residents and Fire Department, concerning the slash pile removal and asked what the timing is from planning stage to actually clearing the debris. Laura said the timing depends on the decision notice time and expected to receive that notification in one to one and a half years. Sherrie indicated it is a highly vulnerable community and she will speak to the Forest Supervisor and the Board of Supervisors about facilitating the removal. John Sheehan inquired about status for motor vehicle use map. Proposed action and map information is available on the Lassen website.

C. Tahoe National Forest

Joe Flannerly stated that 11,400 acres of Plumas County overlap with Tahoe National Forest. They were in Objection Review period regarding OSV objection which ended Feb 8. TNF had 18 objections and are meeting May 24 to discuss those objections. From their OSV process, they have some changes. There are no snow depths required. TNF recommends a depth of 12" of snow outside of groomed areas to avoid resources damage and 6" on TNF roads. Resource damage is a citable offence. TNF has 247 miles available for grooming and California State requires 12-18" of grooming. There are 34 Pacific Crest Trail crossings through high avalanche terrain. Crossings below 5000 feet are not analyzed and 300,000 acres are less than 5000 ft. Forest 71 Road is a main connection between PNF and TNF. Timber sales in Carbon Valley expect the Silo NE timber sale of 4.5M board feet in June and July 2019.

- D.** Bob Perreault commented on the improved attendance of Forest personnel at today's PCCC Meeting as compared to the February meeting. Bob inquired what the National Forests can do to advise PCCC of forests' Plan of Work. The PCCC would hope to receive information on a Project of Work in advance rather than after the fact to help facilitate the project. Jerry suggested getting together more often and to have staff level planning to occur earlier. Jerry recommended including more people and entities (Cal Fire, Cal Fish and Game, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, etc.) that have information and expertise on the forests and indicated that \$36M is available from California for forest management. It was suggested a shared calendar be created regarding projects and granting dates so that all can plan ahead.

6. Topics for Presentation/Discussion by Various County Staff, Various National Forest Staff, Other Agencies, Groups or Individuals

Jerry Bird recommends using the Tuolumne County as a template in successful local partnerships. John would like to see where we are with Master Agreements and Good Neighbor Agreements regarding the implementation of these two new authorities. Signed Supplemental Agreements (SPAS) with Mule Deer and Proscribed Fire Project make funds available for small projects. There are 18 Good Neighbor Agreements across the state. Barbara offered to assist with an agreement in our area. The new Forest Supervisor should be announced in July 2019. Joe Flannery suggests that outlining strategic goals for National Forest interests that overlap with the county interests, results in more successful grant opportunities. Sherry stated the she and Supervisor Sanchez and others are intending to take a Master Agreement to BOS for approval. Then, they will work on SPAs for specifics involving technical staff. These agreements could cover a number of issues.

7. Brief Status Reports on Active Projects or Events by Various County Staff or Various National Forest Staff

A. Katherine Carpenter, TNF reported on OSV. 2015 trails, roads, designated OS use only. TNF is publishing an OSV use map that will fulfil litigation demands. TNF held an open house event on February 27, 2019 in Oroville and April 26, 2019 in Blairsden with question and answer periods resulting in 200 unique comments. TNF had three District Rangers and support officers present at each open house.

B. California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program

Bob Perrault reported that the grant application for the Crocker Trail Project was postponed 1 year to enable additional coordination between public Works and the PNF ranger district.

C. Plumas NF: Discussion on the status of Indian Jim School

Michelle presented the plans for restoration of the Indian Jim (James Lee) School area. The concept proposes to use 2011 Story Fire funds and a RAC grant and partner with Trout Unlimited, Greenville Rancheria and Forest Service. The building and property have been vandalized and needs stewardship and rehabilitation. The area is rich in history involving the Maidu and is part of a scenic byway. Plans involve demolishing the old schoolhouse, enhancing the fisheries and adding an education center, campground, restrooms and boat access. NEPA is completed and a business plan will be created to aid in raising funds.

C. Plumas NF: Discussion on the removal of Crystal Lake "Road" and other roadway segments (yet to be identified to the County).

Mickey Smith, Mt. Hough District Ranger presented plans to deal with Crystal Lake sediment buildup. The area has been harshly used by the public and the terrain would make road building challenging. There is a very steep decline. There is \$72,000 in funds available to replace a linear feature that the public uses as road access to the lake and replace with a walking trail. The trail could be ADA accessible if engineering dollars allow. Removing vehicle access will help resolve sediment problem. John Sheehan was concerned with taking a recreation area away from the public.

John wondered if funds could be found elsewhere to create vehicular access. Bob Perreault stated this was an example of the PCCC not being involved in planning earlier in the forest process.

Motion by John Sheehan, seconded by Randy Wilson: to create a PCCC Subcommittee on Access to Crystal Lake; said subcommittee to be co-chaired by Bob Perreault and John Sheehan; accessibility options to Crystal Lake are to be explored. Motion passes 5-0

E. Lassen NF:

Bob Perreault and Joe Blackwell attended an LNF MVUM workshop meeting.

8. The future of the PCCC

9. Meetings and Activities

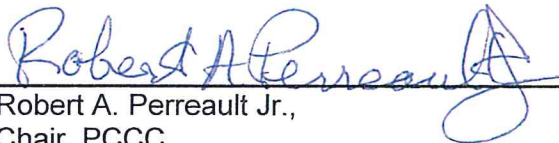
Supervisor Thrall indicated she would take a resolution to the Board of Supervisors to designate other positions to be included in PCCC, e.g., County Administrator to be added. It was noted that County Planner Randy Wilson is retiring.

10. Next Meeting Date.

July 19, 2019 at 1:30pm is the next meeting date.

11. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.



Robert A. Perreault Jr.,
Chair, PCCC

Date: OCTOBER 3, 2019