

# MEETING OF THE PLUMAS COUNTY COORDINATING COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Thursday, October 3, 2019

The meeting of the Plumas County Coordinating Council is called to order by PCCC Chair Bob Perreault at 1:01 PM in the Conference Room of the Plumas County Planning Department at, located at 555 West Main Street, Quincy, CA.

**1. Roll Call** is conducted by Chair Bob Perreault: In attendance are: Sherrie Thrall, County Supervisor District 3; Jeff Ingle, County Supervisor District 5; John Sheehan, member. Gabriel Hydrick, County Administrator and Tracey Ferguson, Planning Director. A quorum is present.

Bob Perrault introduced two new members to the PCCC: Gabriel Hydrick, County Administrator, appointed, and Tracey Ferguson, Planning Director, ex-officio member.

Others in Attendance: Quentin Youngblood, TNF; Chris Carlton, PNF; Kevin Correia, Facilities; John Olofson, Planning Commission; Russell Nickerson, LNF; Corky Lazzarino, SAC; Diane Uchytel, SAC; Joe Blackwell, Public Works; Stephanie McMillan, Recording Secretary.

**2. Public Comment Opportunity** – The Chair added two new items to Agenda Item #6:

- A. Chris Carlton, PNF to report on campgrounds in PNF
- B. Russell Nickerson, LNF to report on West Shore Project in LNF .

**3. Review and Acceptance of the Agenda by the PCCC**

Motion is made by John Sheehan, seconded by Supervisor Sherrie Thrall: to approve Agenda, as revised.

Roll call vote, motion passes 6-0

**4. Approval of PCCC Meeting Minutes (Draft) for the May 2, 2019 PCCC Meeting**

Motion is made by Supervisor Jeff Engel, seconded by Supervisor Sherrie Thrall: to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2019 meeting. Roll call vote: motion passes 6-0.

**5. Election of Vice-chair for PCCC**

Supervisor Jeff Engel made a motion to nominate Supervisor Sherrie Thrall as Vice-chair, Seconded by John Sheehan. Motion passes.

**6. Status Reports from each National Forest staff pertaining to each National Forest “2019 Plan of Work”**

### **A. Plumas National Forest**

PNF Forest Supervisor Chris Carlton reported that the PNF Program of Work has closed for FY 19 with 46 million board feet which is 106% of the expected target. PNF is expecting about the same for FY20 resulting from the Walker Fire salvage sale. Big Bar in Feather River district is selling well with good salvage. The Walker Fire cleanup has begun with a dozer in place. The fire severity was estimated at 24% high severity and 30 to 40% moderate severity. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Forest Supervisor Carlton remarked on the effectiveness of an available National Guard drone in seeing the fire area.

Supervisor Thrall and Bob Perreault praised the coverage of the Walker Fire in the daily reports and on Facebook.

John Sheehan requested a fire severity map be made available and inquired about the status of monitoring stations affected by the Walker Fire.

Gabriel Hydrick recommended that in the future, information should be made available to the public regarding the Forest Service intent as to whether to let the fire burn, suppress it or manage it. Supervisor Carlton reported that Antelope Lake Road remains closed due to sediment concerns resulting from the Walker Fire.

Supervisor Thrall inquired about the status of past discussions regarding the Good Neighbor Agreement. Supervisor Carlton responded that he is just becoming familiar with that information.

Bob Perreault reported on the recent updating of the 1979 Roads Agreement between Public Works and PNF, which has been presented to the Board of Supervisors. It is now awaiting appropriate signatures.

It was noted that a similar document is in progress with LNF.

Bob Perreault requested an update on the PNF campground concessioner's project. Forest Supervisor Carlton stated that 69 sites are covered by a 5 year permit for concession operations. PNF still has responsibility for 1 cabin and 10 campgrounds.

Joe Blackwell felt that communications in dealing with the Walker Fire were well organized between PNF and Public Works.

### **B. Lassen National Forest**

District Ranger Russell Nickerson reported that LNF reached only 60% of their expected timber target for FY19 with 30 million board feet due to some sales not receiving bids. The Wilson Fire salvage in the Almanor region sold 85 acres resulting in 3.6 million board feet.

Ranger Nickerson reported that progress is being made in the replacement of the Pacific Crest Trail Bridge which was affected by the Chips Creek Fire. New footings have been placed.

The West Shore Community Fuel Reduction Project involves 6,000 acres with 4,600 acres in treatment of trails, boat launch areas and campgrounds. Robbers Creek project along A21 on the edge of PNF and LNF is progressing with fuel reduction and meadow improvement with 4,000 acres of treatment.

Supervisor Thrall proposed that in addition to a safe secondary alternate road in the Almanor West and Prattville area, forest thinning needs to be a priority over recreation. She has also requested that Caltrans fuel reduction along Highway 89 extend further back into the forest.

LNF is in conversation with Caltrans and PG&E regarding various projects.

LNF has a team meeting planned for October 15, 2019 to reassess all projects.

### **C. Tahoe National Forest**

Quentin Youngblood reported that 11,400 acres of Plumas County are included within the TNF. This area is SE of Portola and skirts West Sierra Valley. In 2018 TNF had two sales in the area of Saddle NE and Saddle NW by SPI. SPI chose not to proceed at that time but expected to be in operation in 2020 with an approximately 8.5 million board feet.

An approximate 7-mile non-motorized connection trail between Portola and the Carbon Valley area is proposed by the Beckwourth Ranger District, PNF. Resource surveys are completed. Approximately 6,000 acres resulted in 32.5 million board feet which is 116,000 over projection. Approximately 4.5 million of that quantity was biomass.

Supervisor Engel pointed to the difference in meticulousness between private clearing of the forest and TNF clearing in the Loyalton area. Quentin indicated that that area is planned for thinning in 2022.



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

### **A. Plumas National Forest: Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) Use Designation**

Forest Supervisor Chris Carlton reported that the Objection Period for the Draft Record of Decision ends October 7, 2019.

Bob Perreault commented on the topic. Bob presented some history about the most recent activity involving staff preparing for the Draft Record of Decision to be presented to PCCC and then to BOS. Bob stated that there was insufficient time to schedule a submittal to the Board of Supervisors. Bob reported that he has created a draft letter of recommendations. PCCC requested information or comments submitted but the deadline was so short that without map improvement it contains no new information due, in part, to the government shut down which delayed scheduled workshops planned by PNF. The available maps were not sufficient at the PNF workshop that was held in Graeagle. The report from the Graeagle workshop was not positive and the promised improvements in the maps were not received. Bob mentioned that there are still problems with the maps provided by PNF personnel. For example, larger insets are needed on the maps in order to interpret the locations of OSV trails, especially in the areas of Bucks Lake, Lakes Basin and the Pacific Crest Trail. At this time the same deadline problems make an effective letter difficult to be prepared. Bob did indicate that he felt a lack of co-ordination hindered the ability of the County to properly draft a comprehensive objection. He also pointed out that Forest rules require that the presentation of objections be accompanied by a suggestion of resolution. Bob commented that the maps available to local Search and Rescue might be helpful to PNF and others. He recommended that the Forest Supervisor not implement the Draft Record of Decision at this time.

Gabriel Hydrick suggested a meeting with Bob Perrault, Forest Supervisor Chris Carlton and Katherine Carpenter from PNF on Monday October 7, 2019 to discuss the maps, new information, Forest management representation at the workshops and tight reporting deadlines regarding the Draft Record of Decision.

John Sheehan remarked that the same use areas of Bucks Lake and Lakes Basin area continue to be the areas of contentions between motorized users and non-motorized remain.

Supervisor Thrall asserted that even though the maps were not helpful, co-ordination between PNF and the OSV sub-committee did happen.

John Sheehan pointed out a need to create an objection to the map quality presently available before the closing date of October 7, 2019. Chris Carlton pointed out that the Objection Resolution Period meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 9, 2020.

The Council recommended that Bob submit the letter after deleting any comments regarding "lack of coordination".

Motion made by John Sheehan proposing the Chair send a letter of objection to the Forest Service. Seconded by Supervisor Engel. Motion passes 6-0.

In regard to the TNF, Quentin Youngblood presented a TNF map from May 2019, depicting the 34 Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) crossings, ranging from 16ft, 8<sup>th</sup> of a mile and one being a quarter mile wide. Snow depth restrictions are up to the user with no TNF guidelines. There are 246 miles of PCT that need grooming.

Referring to the Tahoe National Forest, Quentin reported that there were 22 objections – still awaiting decisions – with a number of use needs to be considered. There is no date suggested for signing the Draft Record of Decision. Four stakeholder meetings were held without much being accomplished.



It was suggested that recreational rights be procured from SPI but Quentin indicated that the cost is prohibitive.

Tracey Ferguson asked if TNF insets are available, but Quentin indicated the funds were not available. Tracey inquired if phone maps like VENZA, etc. might be helpful.

Referring to Lassen National Forest District Ranger Russell Nickerson reported that the Lassen National Forest has had several objection meetings and is waiting for decisions.

### **B. PCCC: Subcommittee on Access to Crystal Lake**

Bob Perreault reported on the status of the PCCC Subcommittee activity, thus:

- The existing access road to the lake is still in use, despite the presence of minor signs, located at the top of the access road.
- Public Works staff visited the site with SAC Representative Corky Lazzarino.
- Thereafter, Public Works staff met with SAC reps and Plumas National Forest reps (including District Ranger Micki Smith) to discuss and consider the possibility of constructing a possible alternative route in addition to the existing access decommissioning.
- Corky reported that SAC produced a petition with 250 signatures in July 2019, requesting an alternative route be created before or at the same time as the closing of the old, existing road. A copy of the petition will be given to PNF Forest Supervisor Chris Carlton.
- Corky also reported that SAC has a list of volunteers that are willing to assist with the construction.
- It was clarified that the present grant (funding) scope of work includes on the decommissioning and restoration of the existing access road.
- Bob Perreault indicated that the inclusion of an alternate access would require additional funding from the Green Sticker Program and that a second project application would have to be prepared and submitted to the State.
- It was noted that environmental data acquired to date by the PNF did include an area suitable for an alternative access road.
- Joe Blackwell indicated the easiest plan would be to construct a new road and decommission the existing access at the same time in regard to scheduling crew, equipment and supplies.
- Bob suggested that Public Works could apply for a construction grant during the next grant cycle, which would result in cost savings if the County crews (and others) performed the work instead of going out to bid.
- Bob noted that a recent letter, including attachment, has been mailed to District Ranger Micki Smith..
- PNF Forest Supervisor Chris Carlton indicated an update on Crystal Lake will be completed this fall. It will be submitted to State Parks for a restoration grant with an OHV trail in the design.
- Gabriel Hydrick wondered if once the area is enhanced, has the need for parking and restrooms been addressed.

### **C. Lassen National Forest: "Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) Update Project"**

Russell Nickerson, LNF, reported that there is a new LNF Forest Supervisor. The MVUM now includes the 5 Counties' proposals to increase OHV use by adding mileage to the OHV system. A workshop was held in Almanor area to update the public about the project. As a result of that meeting, 40 additional comments and support letters were received indicating a general approval of the progress of Lassen.

**8. Meetings and Activities**

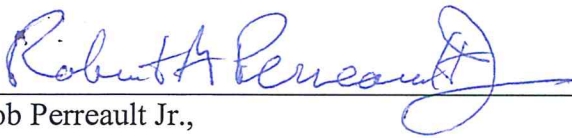
John Sheehan remarked that as PLF Forest Supervisor Chris Carlton goes forward with the Walker Fire cleanup it would be helpful to know how previous fire cleanups held up or not and how those areas related to fire severity.

**9. Next PCCC Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2020 at 1:00 PM, same location.

**10. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

  
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Bob Perreault Jr.,  
Chair, PCCC

Date: SEPTEMBER 21, 2020