



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes – March 23, 2015

ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – Butte County Public Works Facility, 44 Bellarmine Ct., Chico, CA
- 2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- 2.01 Roll Call – **Members:** Frank Stewart, Chair, Jim Shary, Vice-Chair, Teri Faulkner, Trish Puterbaugh, Vance Severin, Peggy Moak
Alternates: Nani Teves, Charlotte Ann Hilgeman
Public: Rich Faulkner, Kevin Wright, Ray Sousa, Jay Lowe, Sarah Reynolds (NRCS), Shawn O'Brien
Guests: Calli-Jane Burch (Butte FSC), Tim Holliday and Joe Tapia (Cal-Fire), Fred Pingiczer (USFS)
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3.00 Consent Agenda

- 3.01 Minutes of 2-23-15 were reviewed, discussed and approved. M-Faulkner, 2nd Severin
Vote: Motion Approved 5-0

4.00 Agenda

- 4.01 Self-Introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates and Public
- 4.02 SOPA Review – Current Quarter: Discussion & required FAC action for projects affecting Butte County listed in 2015 SOPA Reports for Lassen and Plumas NF's. Chair Stewart requested each FAC member to review quarterly SOPAs for the Lassen and Plumas NF as they affect Butte County residents for their area of interest, follow up with the USFS personnel listed in the SOPA to ask to be on their "scoping list" and report as to whether the FAC should be involved or recommend a comment letter.
- 4.03 Butte County Fire Safe Council Presentation: Calli-Jane Burch, who has been the Executive Director of the BCFSC for over ten years, provided an overview of their many programs and services, including: residential chipper (over 5000 acres treated), online public safety scanner (www.TheNet411) Residents Assistance for Defensible Space, 6th Grade "Wildfire" curriculum, Evacuation Plans, Tools, Shaded Fuel Breaks and more. Handouts and brochures were provided to those in attendance. The BSFSC collaborates with Cal-Fire and Butte County to develop the County-Wide Protection Plan which, among other things, designates priority projects to improve wildfire safety and preparedness.
- 4.04 Cal Fire Registered Professional Forester, Tim Holliday shared information on State Responsibility Area (SRA) grants available to non-profit groups, tribal entities, private landholders and local gov't. agencies for fuel reduction, planning, education, mapping, fuel breaks, road ingress & Egress, etc. Best when done as a collaborative effort and they have a 2 year timeline for completion. There are also Greenhouse Gas grants that run for four years and are focused on carbon sequestering, watershed development, conservation easements, pest control and fuel reduction but require that all fuels removed be utilized in some manner, especially biomass converted to energy. Information on grant parameters and application process are available on the CalFire website.

- 4.05 Frank Stewart spoke about the Good Neighbor Authority grant program and related grants available through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Plan, intended to spur collaborative efforts between the USFS and State Parks, local government, Fire Safe Councils and other non-profits to reduce fuels and improve watersheds. Literature was passed around. Frank commended District 5 Regional Forester Randy Moore for his stated goal of increasing the pace of fire prevention (# of acres treated).
- 4.06 The Sustainable Forest Action Coalition Roundtable on USFS Socioeconomic Issues, sponsored by SFAC and the CSUC CED was attended by Frank Stewart, Teri Faulkner, Charlotte Ann Hilgeman and Peggy Moak. The summary of the meeting results are not yet available; however Bill Wickman of SFAC circulated a letter to Barney Gyant, Deputy Regional Forester, thanking him for his support and participation and looking forward to increased attention to socioeconomic values in the development of Forest Plans (letter included in agenda packet).
- 4.07 Butte County OHV Grant application is available for public comment – deadline April 6 – at http://olga.ohv.parks.ca.gov/eograms_ohmvr/user/home.aspx. Vance Severin provided an update on an assessment he and Jim Shary did on road conditions in the Four Trees, Big Bar and Chino Creek areas over the previous weekend, and will be completing a volunteer form to document time spent and conditions noted over the 20 or so miles of road they covered. Pete Moak and Jim Shary, along with a number of Friends of the High Lakes supporters did a lot of downed tree removal on the road to the south entrance to the High Lakes, between Highway 70 and Grassy Lake.
- 4.08 The draft list of USFS contacts were included with the agenda. More names will be added as submitted, then posted on the website when considered reasonably complete.
- 4.09 Frank Stewart and Teri Faulkner will be attending the Region 5 Forest Plan listening session March 25, in Redding, covering the Lassen Forest Plan process for the Northwest Region.
- 4.10 New Business – considerations for next meeting agenda:
- New SOPAs will be available after April 1 – prepare to discuss at next meeting. On the USFS Plumas/Lassen websites, click on 2015-2016 Timber Sales Processes to get status; also, try to get information on 5 year plans from each District Office.
 - Friends of the High Lakes Presentation – Nick Repanich – 30 min + 15 min Q&A
 - Socioeconomic Roundtable –additional follow-up if available
- 4.11 Public Comment: Fred Pingiczer, Prevention Officer with Plumas NF Feather River Ranger District, said that District Ranger Randy Gould asked him to come to the FAC meeting and communicate Randy's desire to support community service projects. A presentation at the April or May meeting was suggested.
- Teri Faulkner reported that the bridges at Forks of the Butte and the West Branch of the Feather River (Jordan Hill Rd.) are now open, and inquired about maintenance on Jordan Hill Rd. (County does not maintain as it does not have right of way along that portion of the road.)
- (THE COMMITTEE IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW FROM TAKING ACTION ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED IF IT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.)
- 4.12 Discussion item: Next meeting will be Monday, April 27, 2015, at 6:00 PM – Gold Nugget Museum on Pearson Road in Paradise. The benefit of 4:00 meetings during the winter for the Paradise location was discussed.