



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes – August 24, 2015

ITEM NO.

Call to order – Oroville Treasurer-Auditor Conference Room, 25 County Center Dr. next to Ste. 125

1.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

2.00 Roll Call – **Members:** Jim Shary, Vance Severin, Teri Faulkner, Peggy Moak
Alternates: Charlotte Ann Hilgeman

2.01 **Guests:** Randy Gould(USFS), Mike Crump (Coordinating Committee), Thad Walker(Chico Velo), Mary Sullivan(USFS)

3.00 Consent Agenda

3.01 Minutes of 6-22-15 were approved. T. Faulkner, 2nd V. Severin, Motion Approved 3-0

4.00 Agenda

4.01 Self-Introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates and Public

4.02 Randy Gould: Plans for the Feather River Ranger District-

Randy Gould gave an update on his current and future fuel reduction projects. The Forbestown Community Protection and Fuel Reduction Project planning process has started. Mr. Gould said this was becoming difficult because he has gone from 21 timber people down to 2. The next areas for Fuel Reduction that he would like to move into is the Berry Creek/Brush Creek area, the Challenge area and then up into the LaPorte area. Mike Crump asked if the intended fuel reduction areas followed the roadway and Mr. Gould stated that approximately 30% of the fuel reduction efforts would be along the road. Mr. Gould would also like to look into some recreation planning and fuel reduction efforts in Granite Basin/French Creek area. He would like to put together a trail plan for this area and would like to create a committee with representatives from all interested groups to be involved in the trail planning process.

4.03 Mike Crump & Doug Teeter: Review of status of plans for OHV Grants and future projects- Feather River Ranger District-

Mike Crump informed the committee about some of the work with the 2014/15 State OHV Ground Operation Grant on ML2 roads in the French Creek Area of the Plumas National Forest. Public Works currently has a contract with RCD and they administer Public Work's OHV grant. Public Works applied for, but did not get a 2015-2016 OHV Ground Operations Grant to continue the work on the Plumas National Forests ML2 roads. However Public Works was successful in obtaining an OHV Planning Grant for a feasibility study on Four Trees Road. The study will look at the feasibility of making the private road section off of Highway 70 into a public road for access to the Plumas National Forest. One idea discussed was to establishing an OHV staging area within the Forest that could be accessed by this section of Four Trees Road.

Mike Crump also discussed the availability of \$4.8 million dollars in Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant money for motorized trails and the Grant Application deadline is due by 9/30/15. There is also RTP grant money available for non-motorized trails in the amount of \$11 million.

4.04 Recreational Trails Grants and Grant Planning

Thad Walker and Bicycle Trails/Tourism Discussion- Thad Walker gave an update the RTP Grant workshop he attended. The non-motorized RTP grant is due in mid-September and Mr. Walker said there was not enough time to make an application this time around. Mr. Walker discussed current projects that he is involved in as well as his background. Mr. Walker would like to look at the potential for building partnerships in the community to collaboratively plan, create and maintain multi-use trails that will bring in tourism. Mr. Walker believes that creating these will bring in huge economic development possibilities. Mr. Walker would like to develop a Trails Plan that could be used for future grant opportunities.

4.05 Jim Shary provided a report on the meeting with Joe Wilson with PG&E regarding their grant program for education, economic, environment and emergency preparedness. Mr. Shary stated the grant ranges from high to low in the amount of \$200,000 down to \$1,000. Peggy Moak mentioned that Joe Wilson suggested the creation of an app for recreation of things to do. Peggy mentioned that this might be a good use of one of the smaller grants.

4.06 Comment Letter on Forbestown Community Protection and Fuel Reduction Project-Project Description – (Peggy/Mike)

The Butte Federal/state Land Use Coordinating Committee met to review a proposed USFS plan for the Forbestown Community Protection and Fuel Reduction Project. The Committee approved submission of a letter together in support of proposed plan. Randy Gould thanked the Committee for the support letter and gave an update that 8/24/15 is the last night for comments and, if there are no adverse comments (none so far), he should have the plan out by March 2016.

4.07 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)

Jim Shary reviewed SOPA list and discussed Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, Lassen National Forest ML3 Roads Evaluation, Lassen National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation, Grizzly Restoration Project Scope (follow up needed), California Department of Water Resources, Plumas National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation, Outfitting and Guiding Special Use Permit Renewal, California Department of Water Resources, Reissue Special Use Permit for Paradise Lake Picnic Area and Access Road. Feedback and updates were offered by Randy Gould and Mary Sullivan.

Randy Gould informed Committee that he has a new Planner that was just hired and they will be working on cleaning up the SOPA back log to update descriptions and contact persons.

Peggy Moak brought up the Chips fire Salvage, stating that even though it is outside of Butte County it is in an area that a lot of Butte County Residents recreate. She is requesting feedback. Randy Gould had no negative feedback.

Pine Creek Watershed Brook Trout Control, Feasibility Study-Fish Ladder Modification. Terry Faulkner is wondering why electric fishing is being used to eliminate the brook trout in Pine Creek. Why isn't there a community event such as free fishing day or fishing derby where a Fishing License would not be required, giving this food source back to the community instead of using electrofishing to kill and dispose of the Brook Trout. Randy Gould stated that this was a Fish and Wildlife issue. Doug Teeter asked if Randy Gould would be willing to be the contact person between the Forest Advisory Committee and Fish and Wildlife regarding this issue.

4.08 Workshop - Forest roads/recreational needs: FAC to come up with a proposed plan for Coordinating Committee to work with, in preparation for a coordination session with the Plumas and Lassen NF. Forest Service Plan Considerations: Tourism/Socio-economic impacts, Forestry Management, Grazing, Water, Motorized and non-motorized recreation, access to trailheads, staging areas for horses, motorcycles, OHV. Protection of meadows, streams and other sensitive areas (Peggy/Mike)

Discussions were had regarding Cow Camp road that SPI gated off that provided access to the High Lakes area from Concow and if it were possible to get the gates opened. Peggy Moak stated that there may only be a small window of opportunity to get a road reopened. It was also noted that SPI would need indication that the Forest Service road above the gated off road would remain a viable road, that maintenance would be kept up and that the water quality issues caused by erosion and

runoff would be addressed, and that the County may need to increase their share of cost, possibly via OHV grants, for maintenance on County graveled roads and other dirt/gravel roads in the area.

Peggy Moak referenced the upcoming Forest Service Plan and the Committee would like to gather information on what we would like to see the USFS look at while preparing the plan. Discussions were had regarding increasing water flow by allowing clean up to choked off creeks. Discussions regarding creating a plan in case of a wildfire, instead of after a wildfire, to maximize efficient salvage and cleanup efforts. The FAC and/or CC will work with Randy Gould to encourage development of such a plan. It was mentioned that a great amount of the Forest Service budget gets diverted to wildfire suppression costs, and that NEPA reports and planning often take longer than burnt timber is viable to the timber market. Randy Gould confirmed this and said that 52% of the overall USFS budget went to wild fires this year and by next year he expects this amount to increase to 72%.

- Discussion/workshop of plan for USFS coordination discussion points to be proposed to CC and Board of Supervisors

Peggy Moak provided a summary of potential recommendations for the future Forest Service plan, including increased emphasis on protecting water quality through timber/brush management, protecting the National Forests ecosystems, expanding focus on socio-economic impacts to communities in and around the National Forest and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities.

After a discussion on summary, there was a motion by Faulkner and second by Shary to pass along the summary of recommendations to the Butte County Coordinating Committee to draft a letter for the Board of Supervisors to approve and sign to Regional Forester Randy Moore, Motion was approved unanimously.

- 4.09 Discussion of standardizing 4:00 – 6:00 meeting time at least through next April. Provides additional Butte County staff support and considers winter darkness coming... (Peggy)

General discussion on standardizing meeting time from 4:00-6:00pm. Earlier time is better to get various staff to participate. Later time is often better for committee members who work to 5pm. Committee decided to try the 5:00 to 7:00 time slot for a couple of months to see how it will work for everybody.

- 4.10 New Business – considerations for next meeting agenda: Submission of Letter of Interest for Alternate Motorized Recreation Alternate position received from Nick Repanich. Also one is pending from a Butte Environmental Council representative for Watershed/Environment.

Thad Walker: presentation on a Trails Plan

Next meeting will be September 28 in Paradise if the Gold Nugget Museum is available. Start time will be 5:00 PM

- 4.11 Public Comment (THE COMMITTEE IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW FROM TAKING ACTION ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED IF IT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.)