



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 18, 2017 -- Minutes

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:** Nick Repanich, Thad Walker, Teri Faulkner, Peggy Moak
Alternates: Vance Severin, Jim Shary, Bob Gage, Angel Korte (voting Alt), Pete Moak (voting Alt)
Invited Guests: Calli-Jane DeAnda (Butte County Fire Safe Council); Janet Walther (PG&E); Katherine Carpenter (Acting District Ranger, Plumas National Forest, Feather River Ranger District); Laura Page (Congressman LaMalfa); Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee, Public Works); Kevin Wright; Kurt Jordan
- 2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public
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3.00 Consent Agenda

- 3.01 Minutes for August 28th, 2017 reviewed and approved. M-Faulkner, 2nd Pete Moak. Approved 5-0

4.00 Agenda

- 4.01 Butte County Fire Safe Council: Calli-Jane DeAnda –Cali-Jane gave an overview of the Butte County Fire Safe Council and a few of their upcoming plans. The Fire Council was established in 1998, and obtained non-profit status in 2000. They are funded mostly through grants, and only have 4 part-time employees. She spoke about the Magalia Forest Health Plan, which encompasses 1,066 acres, and has recently had the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) process completed, so they are now able to start working on the project as grant funding becomes available. The primary goal of the BCFSC's Magalia Forest Plan is to develop landscape scale projects designed to reduce fuel loads to mitigate and control the amount of damage done by wildfire should it impact the community. They are also currently applying to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for a grant for a project in the Clipper Mills area.
- 4.02 PG&E: Janet Walther-DeSabla and PG&E Roads –Janet presented on PG&E's current plans for the Desabla-Centerville project. PG&E is not pursuing license renewal with FERC, and FERC has asked PG&E to find a new owner to take over their existing license. PG&E hopes to have found a new owner in January, 2018, but it will be at least another 3-5 years until the new owner is able to take over. In the meantime, PG&E plans to continue maintaining and operating the Desabla-Centerville project. One reason she stated for PG&E not renewing the FERC license is a decline in customer base, due to several factors, including solar energy and community choice aggregates. If they maintained this project, PG&E could eventually reach a state of over-generation. Janet also addressed the increase of signage around PG&E flumes and elevated walkways, designed to deter the public from encroaching on their walkways, which are private property and also utilize easements through others' lands.
- 4.03 Plumas NF Feather River Ranger District, Katherine Carpenter (Acting District Ranger): Katherine introduced herself to the committee and gave an overview of her background in working with the Forest Service. She stated her assignment will run 120 days, after which the position of District Ranger could be filled by a permanent hire. She also gave an update on the abandoned mines project listed on the SOPA and this topic generated many questions from the committee.
- 4.04 Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District: Erick Stemmerman: Report on pending projects (include non-SOPA projects) for the District – No staff from LNF was present.
- 4.05 Angel Korte: Update on recent fire activity –Angel gave a brief update on the 10 fires still burning in California, as of this meeting, as well as an update on fire statistics from 2017 versus 2016. In 2016, there were 3,803 fires which burned 204,000 acres, and in 2017, so far, there have been 5,142 fires which have burned 229,000 acres.
- 4.06 Dennis Schmidt: Update of Butte County roads –Dennis gave updates on several roads throughout Butte County, including Middle Honcut, Dunstone Road, Powellton Road, and Concow Road. He also provided updates on upcoming work on Durham-Dayton Hwy and Hegan Lane.

- 4.07 Butte County Board Support Letter – SB 5 (Water and Trails Funding) INFORMATION ONLY
- 4.08 SOPA Review – Current Quarter: Discussion & required FAC action for projects affecting Butte County listed in 2017 SOPA Reports for Lassen and Plumas NF's. (Chair) –No new SOPA items to review at this time.
- 4.09 New Business – considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is October 23, Chico, 5:00 PM
- Sierra Club Trails Guide – invite them to make a presentation
 - Grazing studies – presentations on the science and practical application
 - Hillsliders overview – Butte Meadows Snowmobile Park/projects
- 4.10 Public Comment (THE COMMITTEE IS PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW FROM TAKING ACTION ON ANY ITEM PRESENTED IF IT IS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA.)