



# BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**June 25, 2018—Minutes**

**ITEM NO.**

1.00 Call to order 5:00 PM – 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, Trish Puterbaugh, Teri Faulkner, Peggy Moak

**Alternates:** Jim Shary, Bob Gage, Vance Severin, Angel Gomez

**Guests:** Barry Ceccon (California Fish & Wildlife); Aaron Wright (California State Parks); Matt Beatley (Plumas County Sheriff's Dept.); Jack Storne (Butte County Sheriff's Dept.); Laura Page (Congressman LaMalfa); Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee, Public Works; Public: Kevin Wright; Dan Taverner (FAC Applicant); Mark Leavenworth

2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public

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3.00 **Consent Agenda**

3.01 Review and approve minutes of 5-21-18 – M: Faulkner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Walker Approved 4-0.

4.00 **Agenda**

4.01 Roundtable discussion with law enforcement agency representatives – Butte County Sheriff (Jack Storne), Plumas County Sheriff (Matt Beatley), State Parks (Aaron Wright), Fish & Wildlife (Barry Ceccon)

- Any use of OHV Grant Funding for staffing/equipment? (both Sheriff's offices utilize the OHV grants)
- Proposed hours/days of law enforcement coverage – focus areas? Weekends and holidays? Nights?
- Coordination between USFS, Sheriff and others to ensure most robust coverage – can be done
- Citations issued last season (number and type) – numbers not available, but mostly safety citations, DUI, etc.
- Areas of concern for each agency: lack of staffing for adequate coverage, safety, DUI
- Butte County Sheriff Dept. plans on some public service announcements on KHSL about OHV program and laws to inform the public, increasing awareness for both safety and responsible land use.
- Plans for controlling resource damage via law enforcement and other actions – open discussion. Aaron Wright suggested contacting Bryan Robertson with the state OHV Division to arrange for available OHV enforcement team to come in to High Lakes for brief time to have impact as they did for Rubicon
- State Parks has 19 officers locally, focus on Lake Oroville, Sac River, 1 for Clay Pit, non-pmt of fees
- Fish & Wildlife focus on DUI, drugs, F&W code violations, stream bed alterations, marijuana, fights, gun violations, most active in Fall hunting season. F&W has 2 squads, 2 Lt. and 6 wardens
- An offer was made to Butte's Jack Storne for FAC assistance on next round of grant writing – December 2018
- The PNF has 2 active LEOs on duty (not present to comment)
- Nick Repanich commented that he has been working with a new Polaris Razor Group to turn some bad practices into more reasonable practices and encouraging adopt-a-trail for the road to Ben Lomond

4.02 Forest Projects Review – Current Quarter: Discussion & required FAC action for USFS projects affecting Butte County residents' forest management, recreational, environmental, socio-economic interests(Chair)

- Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District- Russell Nickerson (District Ranger) was not able to be present due to the Lane Fire, but emailed and indicated he had nothing new to report at this point., but LNF OHV Patrollers will be starting next week (week of July 4)
- Plumas NF Feather River Ranger District, Clay Davis, Planner: Clay provided a brief report including the 10 year plan and the Collaborators' participation in planning over the long term. Discussion of focus on fuels reduction in WUI areas, an example being the Grass Flats area near Little Grass Valley Reservoir, where they are collaborating with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council. More information on the Challenge CE will be forthcoming soon.

4.03 Ag/Timber FAC Representative – Dan Taverner, applicant: Dan reviewed his interest and qualifications. Peggy reviewed the Coordinating Committee decision that there is no inherent conflict with representatives having governmental agency affiliation or employment. Motion: Recommend Daniel Taverner to the Board for appointment to the FAC Ag/Timber position. M-Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Faulkner Approved 4-0

4.04 A brief overview of the PNF Collaborator's Meeting held on June 5 was provided by Clay Davis and Peggy Moak

4.05 Dennis Schmidt, Director of Public Works, provided updates on local road projects and OHV Grants progress. Vance Severin and Thad Walker added comments:

- An engineer has been assigned to the Four Trees feasibility grant.
- Granite Basin survey work has started and Table 2 Assessments have been completed. Some nice loops have been identified; PNF has some staffing issues for "ologists."

4.06 New Business – Considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is July 23, 2018 - Chico, 5:00 PM

- Butte County Fire Safe Council, CalFire, SNC – Restoration Grants available through SNC and elsewhere
- South Feather Water & Sewer District - Recreation and Water Projects
- Other

4.08 Public Comment:

1) Laura Page provided an update on direction from the Interim Forest Chief, and several pending legislative issues, including the Farm Bill approved by the House and next to the Senate. Peggy asked Laura if she could follow up with Randy Moore on the 24 N04

Recap of Interim USFS Chief Vicki Christiansen's visit to Northern California on May 14, 2018

- Her "theme" for managing the Forest Service is "getting back to basics".
- Vegetation management is the first priority for the Forest Service. The five years of drought and associated insect and disease epidemic that has impacted 6.6 million acres of the Region 5 National Forests must be tackled. She wants the region to move towards achieving 500,000 acres/year of fuels reduction.
- Region 5 has been averaging about 120,000 acres/year since year 2001. The break out of how many per year was in the attachment I passed out. The target for 2018 is 210,000 acres which is certainly a step in the right direction.
- Region 5 has and will continue to take advantage of 2014 3,000 acre Farm Bill categorical exclusions and is rapidly incorporating designation by spacing, description, and prescription into projects thereby substantially reducing or eliminating tree marking.
- The USFS will prioritize first tackling the acreage that is located in the WUI.

Laura also reported the 2018 Farm Bill passed out of the House. It increases the amount of acreage for a categorical exclusion under NEPA from 3,000 to 6,000 acres.

2) Mark Leavenworth shared information gleaned from a meeting he attended in Berkeley

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM