



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 22, 2019— Meeting 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, Trish Puterbaugh,

Alternates: Vance Severin, Bob Gage, Frank Stewart (voting alt)

Invited Guests: Russell Nickerson, (District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, Lassen National Forest), David Brillenz (District Ranger, Feather River Ranger District (FRRD), Plumas National Forest), Clay Davis (NEPA Planner, FRRD); Dennis Schmidt (Coordinating Committee, Public Works); Peggy Moak, Kevin Wright, Doug Laurie, Travis Shute

2.02 Self-introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Public – 5 Min.

3.00 Consent Agenda

3.01 Minutes of 6-24-2019 were approved. M - Puterbaugh, 2nd - Faulkner, Approved 5-0

4.00 Agenda

4.01 Economic/Tourism Management Alternate – the FAC discussed the application of Carolyn Denero of Explore Butte. Reminder: Alternate vacancy remaining: Watershed/Environment

MOTION: Recommend submission to the Board for appointment as the Alternate member for Economic/Tourism

M – Walker, 2nd – Stewart Approved 5-0

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)

- Plumas NF Feather River Ranger District, Clay Davis (District Planner): Report and Q & A on pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA and Collaborator's Meeting Update.
- Clay Davis reported that the Big Bar, Concow and Magalia CEs for hazard tree removal are progressing timely, first contract is going out to bid this week, and there is interest from logging companies for the timber. Similar projects so far have had enough revenue to more than pay for cleanup after the logging operations were completed. The Granite Basin OHV Grant project generated some good comments and the RCD will next be working on submission of the Environmental Assessment. Seventeen Butte County citizens have been hired as laborers in the Camp Fire footprint, in cooperation with the Department of Labor. The Hughes Wetlands Development project was implemented the week of June 24th; the district and volunteers built two new ponds. A green sale is pending in the French Creek area. Dennis Schmidt commented that the County has plans for road work in that area and this may mesh nicely with the USFS plans for the area.
- Lassen NF Almanor Ranger District- Russell Nickerson (District Ranger): Report and Q & A on prescribed fire plans, pending, proposed and modified projects, SOPA and Non-SOPA – Russell Nickerson reported that the LNF MVUM revisions are still pending any decision; comments are being analyzed by Leslie Ross prior to submission to the Forest Supervisor. The LNF OSV Use designation still needs some revision and cleanup prior to being submitted to Region 5 for decisioning. No work planned in the High Lakes area this summer.

4.03 California Board of Forestry Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)-Comment Period Open – Comments due August 9, 2019. Executive Summary, Notice and Webinar slides included in agenda packet. Previously supported by the Coordinating Committee (see attached letter). This will be reviewed at the Coordinating Committee meeting scheduled for August 2, 2019.

4.04 USFS NEPA Streamlining Proposal – Webinar June 25 – Webinar Slides attached. Comments due August 12. The FAC discussed the pros and cons of streamlined NEPA processes, the collaborative process, and the enhanced provisions for Categorical Exemptions.

MOTION: Draft a letter for Coordinating Committee consideration, generally supportive of streamlined NEPA and recognizing the urgent call to action for fuels reduction projects in the wildland urban interface areas.

M- Stewart, 2nd Repanich Approved 5-0

4.05 New Business – Considerations for upcoming meeting agendas: Next meeting is August 26, 2019 - Chico, 5:00 PM

- CA Mechatronics Center FRoomba!! (Nick R.) (September)
- Updates from Butte County Fire Safe Council on tree removal/fuels reduction projects (August)
- Access to evacuation routes, traffic studies, in the event of wildfire (CalFire, PW, BCFSC, Nick R.)
- South Feather Water & Sewer District - Recreation and Water Projects
- Fish & Wildlife
- Bill Smith – Retired Forester – and panel on forest management

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