



BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes – April 25, 2016

ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – Chico Public Works' Facility, 44 Bellarmine Ct. Chico
- 2.00 Pledge of allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- 2.01 Roll Call – **Members:** Jim Shary, Vance Severin, Teri Faulkner, Peggy Moak, Trish Puterbaugh
Alternates: Pete Moak (voting), Lindsay Wood, Nick Repanich (Charlotte Ann Hilgeman out-medical)
Guests: Randy Gould (Plumas NF), Laura Page (Congressman La Malfa's office), Clay Davis (Plumas NF), Eric Murphy (Plumas NF), Brenda Rightmyer (Butte County FSC), Kevin Wright, Steve Roberts (SPI), Ray Sousa (SAC), Thad Walker (Chico VELO), Tom Kelly (BCFSC), Pete Sundahl (Forester)

3.00 Consent Agenda

- 3.01 Minutes of 3-28-16 were reviewed and approved. M –Teri Faulkner, 2nd Pete Moak, Motion Approved 4-0

4.00 Agenda

- 4.01 Self-Introduction of Forest Advisory Committee Members, Alternates and Public
- 4.02 Mike Crump – Future of Butte County OHV Grant Applications – deferred until May meeting
- 4.03 Butte County Fire Safe Council – Brenda Rightmyer
Presentation of Fire Safe Council activities and plans for future collaborative roadside and broad acreage fuel reduction projects, discussion of use of stakeholder influenced fuels reduction project planning at Wildfire Summits.
- 4.04 Tree Mortality Crisis – Peggy Moak – Presentation on the current bug kill tree mortality crisis facing forests in California. Butte County's forests are beginning to see widespread evidence of bug kill activity in patches throughout the forested areas. Impacts to Forest: high wildfire probability, dangerous trees, reduced recreational value, forest blight. Impacts to residents in forested areas: high cost of dead tree removal, high potential for wildfire, danger of dead trees along roadways falling, homeowner's insurance cancellations and/or increased premium costs.
- 4.05 Updates: **Lassen NF ML2/ML3 Road Project** has been canceled as no engineer is on staff to manage the project. It will be re-opened, hopefully in the Spring, once an engineer has been hired.
BLM Planning Rule: Teri Faulkner attended the listening sessions and gave a brief report on the new proposed Planning Rule, emphasizing that the BLM has stated that the approved County MOA must be in place in order for them to share information/draft plans with coordinating agencies such as the County. Comment Letters due by May 25.

Motion: Draft Comment letter to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors (after review by Coordinating Committee) to be sent to BLM by May 25. Teri Faulkner to draft the letter on behalf of FAC and send to Peggy Moak for review and edit. M-Teri Faulkner, 2nd Pete Moak Approved 5-0

4.06 FAC Review of Sheriffs' grant applications: Butte County Sheriff and Plumas County Sheriff OHV Law Enforcement grants. The FAC particularly wants to see more boots on the ground from law enforcement, and more focus on resource damage citations. Peggy Moak earlier shared responses to requests for additional information. Although there was FAC action to send comment letters addressing these issues, the comment period actually ended in April, so no letters would be accepted by the State Parks.

4.07 Jackass Creek Bridge Project: This project was discussed. The bridge must be closed in accordance with USFS policy and Region 5 direction. Gates will be installed by PG&E. Signage will be provided at top of road advising of its closure. Construction is expected to begin in summer of 2017. Desire for alternate creek crossing expressed.

Motion: Vance Severin to draft a comment letter from the Coordinating Committee to the USFS for comment (due by May 20) M-Vance Severin, 2nd Pete Moak Approved 5-0

SPI Gates: Peggy Moak indicated that a meeting was held with Congressman La Malfa's staff regarding SPI gates across roads that access public land. Some are County roads, and some are roads that may have been used of the USFS to access forested areas for logging operations. The concern is that historical routes to access public lands are now blocked. SPI's concerns are that damage to roads and SPI lands accessed by those roads is costly and can lead to other issues (fires, vandalism, unauthorized camping, drug related activities, water quality citations, etc.) Another meeting will be scheduled soon, with SPI and USFS in attendance.

4.08 Feather River HazMat Letter to Butte County Emergency Management Officer John Gulserian. Laura Page suggested asking DOT to tour the Feather River Canyon to see the challenges to safe rail transport. Provided info on SB1175.

Motion: Ask that the Board issue a letter to Senators Feinstein and Boxer in support of SB1175, which addresses the transportation of hazardous material by rail. M-Jim Shary, 2nd Teri Faulkner. Approved 4-1

4.09 Outcome: John Gulserian, Manager of the Office of Emergency Management for Butte County, indicated that they interface with the DOT regularly and that the DOT is well aware of their concerns. He is considering the request to ask for a Board letter to Feinstein and Boxer.

4.10 SOPA Review – Current Quarter: Discussion & required FAC action for projects affecting Butte County listed in 2016 SOPA Reports for Lassen and Plumas NF's. Refer to SOPA flow chart and SOPA Tracking (Chair)

New Business – considerations for upcoming meeting agendas:

- Lassen National Forest – Forest Plan Presentation
- Search & Rescue @ Philbrook – warming hut needed
- Snowplowing by County to Bucks Lake by County – any possibility?
- When available, Tom Kelly's maps of USFS roads and access roads to public lands
- Discussion of letter from Butte BOS to La Malfa, re: roads/gates/accessibility to public lands
- Sierra Club Trails Guide – invite them to make a presentation
- F&W Service – Table Mountain Trail
- Any update of Four Trees Road access?
- Gray Wolf – Henry Lomeli, F&W - June

Next meeting will be April 25 in Chico. 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.) Public comment was taken throughout the meeting,