



# BUTTE COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## Minutes – May 23, 2016

### ITEM NO.

- 1.00 Call to order – Chico Public Works' Facility, 44 Bellarmine Ct. Chico 5:00 PM
- 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, Bob Gage-scheduling conflict)  
**Guests:** Dave Derby (Cal-Fire), Mike Crump (Butte County PW), Kathryn Weiss (Forbestown FSC), Bill Anderson, Kevin Wright, Ray Sousa (SAC), Thad Walker (Chico VELO)
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### 3.00 Consent Agenda

- 3.01 Minutes of 4-25-16 reviewed and approved. M –Teri Faulkner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vance Severin, Motion Approved 5-0

**Note:** Laura Page brought up consideration of HR 2647 “Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015” and mentioned that it is stalled in the Senate. This is a bill that the FAC had discussed last year, and the voted 4-1 (Puterbaugh nay) at this meeting (4/25) to ask the Board to send a letter of support to Feinstein/Boxer. However; since there was confusion on the part of the scribe (Peggy Moak), no action was taken and the text of the bill was provided for background at the 5-23-16 meeting.

### 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 – Funding for current grant starts October 2016 on Plumas NF Table II trails assessment, using CCC. Volunteers may be able to handle some of the mitigation needed, grant funds will pay for biologist/hydrologist. Future grants will need planning with all stakeholders well in advance of submission dates. (INFO ONLY)
- 4.03 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. In order to be prepared for this, and eligible for disaster assistance funding, Butte County needs to take several steps. CA Mechatronics Department at CSUC has a camera that can accurately depict tree mortality – Nick Repanich, Director, will work with Butte County to use camera during a flyover.

Motion: Request the Peggy/Coordinating Committee to work with the Office of Emergency Management for Board presentation and creation of Tree Mortality Committee with affected stakeholders to address the Tree Mortality Crisis as it impacts Butte County. M: Trish Puterbaugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Teri Faulkner, Approved 5-0

- 4.04 Paradise/Magalia Evacuation Route Challenge: Nick Repanich presented information on an analysis of traffic patterns using the upper Skyway, from the Dam at Magalia up to Inskip that

revealed significant issues. The information will be provided to the Butte County Fire Safe Council, along with a recommendation that an evacuation traffic study/drills be conducted.

- 4.05 The BLM Planning Rule Comment Letter issued by the BOS on 5-24-16 was provided.
- 4.06 Sheriffs' OHV grant applications' status will not be updated until June, with a final decision in July.
- 4.07 Jackass Creek Bridge Project: Reviewed info on the project and the comment letter drafted by Vance Severin 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. Letter from Coordinating Committee issued 5-05-2016.
- 4.08 A request was sent to John Gulserian, Butte County OEM Manager, to consider issuing a letter to the DOT, and a draft letter was subsequently provided by Lindsay Wood and provided to Gulserian for his consideration.
- 4.09 Maps of gated roads/SPI Gates: Peggy Moak indicated that a Congressman La Malfa's staff has concluded that the SPI gates across roads within their private lands that access public land are truly a private property issue. Though the public had been able to use the roads in the past, the USFS only used those roads to access forested areas for logging operations, and do not have easements in place. The public's 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.) Peggy reiterated that any discussion/requests of SPI must involve a collaborative process, respecting SPI's private property rights, and that advocating for County share of cost for maintaining/patrolling/mitigating is a more reasonable approach.
- 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)
- 4.11 New Business – considerations for upcoming meeting agendas:
- Lassen National Forest – Forest Plan Presentation
  - Sierra Club Trails Guide – invite them to make a presentation
  - F&W Service – Table Mountain Trail
  - Share updates on Four Trees Road access as available
  - Gray Wolf – Henry Lomeli, F&W – June
  - SB2647 support – June
  - State Parks Presentation - August
- 4.12 Public Comment: Kathryn Weiss from Forbestown Fire Safe Council provided information on the Forbestown Museum and advocated for non-closure of the Amador Fire Stations during the winter months – 3 outlying fire stations – due to concerns about response times and possible loss of homeowner's insurance coverage.

Next meeting will be **June 27**: Chico Public Works' Facility, 44 Bellarmine Ct. Chico - 5:00 PM