

LAKE COUNTY RISK REDUCTION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Moke Simon, County of Lake
Jessica Pyska, Lake County Watershed Protection District
Dan Grebil, Lakeport Fire Protection District
Mike Ciancio, Northshore Fire Protection District
Mike Wink, South Lake Fire Protection District
Joe Huggins, Kelseyville Fire Protection District
Willie Sapeta, Lake County Fire Protection District
Paul Duncan, Cal Fire
Dianna Mann, Representative County Water Districts
Kevin Ingram, City of Lakeport
Russ Cremer, City of Clearlake
Joseph Franklin Velarde, Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians
Terre Logsdon, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Robert Geary, Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
TBD, Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians

Meeting Date: Monday September 19, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m. via zoom

Attendees:

Matthew Rothstein-County of Lake
Jonathan Portney-County of Lake
Stephen Carter-County of Lake
Michele Dibble-County of Lake
Shannon Kimball-Auth-American Red Cross
Scott Harter-County of Lake
Frank Aebly-Mendocino National Forest
Marcus Beltramo-Lake County Code Enforcement
Mireya Turner-County of Lake
Will Evans-Clearlake Environmental Research Center (CLERC)
Mike Shaver-Middletown Rancheria Environmental Department
Magdalena Valderrama-SSCRA (Seigler Springs Community Redevelopment Association)
Mari Rodin-Hopper & Rodin Associates
Mark Tukman-Tuckman Geospatial
Kass Green-Tuckman Geospatial
Betsy Cawn-EPI (The Essential Public Information Canter)
Robyn Bera-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)
Tammy Alakszay-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)
Brook Mulligan-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)
Miranda Guardino-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)
Kali Mulligan-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Director Jessica Pyska at 3:02 p.m.

2. Roll call:

By Tammy Alakszay.

Quorum confirmed with the following seven board members in attendance:

Director Jessica Pyska, Director Mike Ciancio, Director Willie Sapeta, Director Kevin Ingram, Director Russ Cremer, Director Joseph Franklin Velarde, Director Terre Logsdon.

3. Moment of Silence:

For the deep appreciation of the recent rain.

4. Pledge of Allegiance:

By Will Evans.

5. Public Input:

None

6. Consideration of Minutes from:

- Director Pyska entertained a motion to consider the Lake County Risk Reduction Authority meeting minutes August 15, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

Motioned: Director Sapeta

Second: Director Logsdon

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Motion Passed

7. AB 361 Brown Act and Virtual Meetings:

- a. Consideration of the Findings Required by AB 361 to allow teleconference meetings by this body to continue.

Motioned: Director Cremer

Second: Director Ciancio

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Motion Passed

8. Action Items:

A. Climate Safe Lake Collaborative Grant

Director Pyska:

- Ongoing collaboration to apply for an all-area grant with the Strategic Growth Council.
- Lake County will be applying, and the partners will be the LCRRA (Lake County Risk Reduction Authority), NCO (North Coast Opportunities) and SVBPI (Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians).
- The end goal being to create a climate action plan across the whole region including the county, cities, and all tribal nations. Develop a climate plan that will be co-managed as a region to produce a priority project and increase climate resiliency across Lake County.
- Items included in the grant: the Climate Action Plan, funding the LCRRA to provide a grant writer and implementation support with project management and project support, stipend for participants of the RRA (Risk Reduction Authority) directors and collaborators.
- Funding for the biomass strategies for Lake County.
- The LCRRA is asked to sign a letter of participation and a partnership agreement to be included in the grant application.
- The CSG grant application is due October 7, 2022.

Director Logsdon:

- Noted a recommendation in the CMAT (Community Mitigation Action Team) for Lake County to have a biomass utilization working group.
- Scotts Valley Energy Corporation is working to secure biomass contracts.
- Extensive talks with Mendocino National Forest.
- In the final stages of receiving a lease for a Watershed Protection District owned property for the first wood campus in Upper Lake. The facility would process wood chips.
- Looking for two other locations around Lake County to bring biomass to be processed into wood chips and utilized.
- Eight initial locations have been identified around the county for the biomass/biochar processing facilities-two locations are in process. Working on final funding and permit process for the location in Kelseyville on tribally owned land.
- Three units in total- one unit fully completed and two others in process. Not mobile but can be moved.
- Utilized to create bioenergy and biochar, using the process of pyrolysis and gasification to extract the gasses from the wood. The gas being mostly hydrogen.
- These units are not designed to be mobile because the hydrogen produced is stored and must be removed. The system is designed to use the stored hydrogen as to power generators which creates electricity. The units have a small footprint of less than a thousand square feet.
- Units run 24/7 and produce between 200-750kw.
- Taken offline once monthly for routine maintenance and cleaning. Could potentially use backup power source for scheduled downtime (battery or power grid).
- Cost depends on the size and location of where the unit is placed.
- Preliminary contract with PG&E (Pacific Gas & Electric,) and/or their contractors for line maintenance clearing and disposal of biomass.

- Opportunities to partner with waste haulers to utilize and process green waste.

Director Pyska:

- Review of the CSG letter of participation and partnership agreement.
- These documents have been included in these minutes.
- Lake County to manage the fiscal responsibility of the grant.
- The RRA will be the partner implementing the work.
- SVBPI has agreed to the terms of the partnership agreement.

Public Input:

Frank Aebly:

- Offered a letter of support to SVBPI (Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians) to add to the CSG application.

Betsy Cawn:

- Question: Where is the Upper Lake Watershed Protection Agency property located?
- Comment: The CSG application should be reported to the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan).
- Comment: The LCRRA does not adhere to its bylaws.

Director Logsdon:

- Responded to Betsy Cawn's question: The Watershed Protection Agency property is located at the old Robinson Lake vineyard located in the Middle Creek project restoration area.

Director Pyska:

- Entertained a motion to set a meeting for Monday 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. to sign and complete the CSG documents.

Motioned: Director Cremer

Second: Director Ciancio

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Motioned Passed

B. Formation of the CWPP Committee

Director Pyska:

- In the process of adopting the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) by having the government-to-government meetings
- The first meeting was held September 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.
- Next meeting scheduled for October 5, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.
- Working towards implementation of CWPP

Will Evans:

- Explained his recommendation to streamline and reorganize the meeting structure to reduce redundancies.
- Could potentially create a standing committee of the LCRRA to focus on fire resiliency projects and meet concurrently with the LCFSC (Lake County Fire Safe Council). Merging the two groups would make the LCFSC a county wide group that is a subcommittee of the LCRRA.
- Doing so would create a standardized agenda for the monthly LCFSC meetings. Each meeting would consist of three standing parts, with a rotating geography. Allowing more focus on a specific area of the county.
- This model would allow discussions regarding updates from the Firewise communities, fire councils, and community leaders while focusing on the subset of CWPP projects in each specific area.
- The information discussed would be brought back to the LCRRA and the RCD (Resource Conservation District) as the main host committees. The next six months would be spent collaborating with the community to develop more implemental projects in the CWPP.
- The end goal being to get projects into a grant application, get an environmental analysis and issue contracts.
- Converting the CMAT committee into a membership committee of the LCRRA. Refine the government structure, determine the needs and requirements of member agencies while shifting the risk focus to all risks. Mainly comprised of the government agency representatives that are the JPA members.
- Modify the current fire safe council coordinator contract, which is between the county and the RCD. Focus more efforts on outreach and communications.
- The current contract is from 2010 and does not address everything that is currently needed.
- Modify that contract to remove the CWPP tracking and implementation and then have a separate agreement with CLERC to facilitate and develop projects in the CWPP.
- CLERC would manage the project tracking and development, while LCFSC and NCO would work on communications, outreach, and meeting facilitation.
- Map review (www.clerc.co)

Director Logsdon:

- Question: Will funding from the secure rural school's act go to the RCD (Resource Conservation District) or will it follow the LCFSC (Lake County Fire Safe Council)?

Director Pyska:

- The CWPP committee will be tasked with investigating that question.

Director Velarde:

- Continuing to finalize the details of the Lake County Trex training.
- Middletown Rancheria will be co-hosting an event with TERA (Tribal Eco Restoration Alliance) October 15-16.

Public Input:

Betsy Cawn:

- Expressed support of Will Evans' recommendations, but strongly encourages focusing on defining communities with local bodies of decision makers and bringing it to the implementation level.

Frank Aebly:

- In agreement that utilizing geographic focus is an effective way to keep things streamlined and keep members engaged.

Director Logsdon:

- Suggested having a representative from each of the municipal advisory councils on the CWPP committee.

Director Ingram:

- Expressed his support and appreciation of the recommendations from Will Evans as well as the mapping provided by CLERC.

Director Cremer:

- Expressed interest in being a CWPP committee member.

Director Pyska:

- Entertained a motion to establish the CWPP committee.
- Nominated Director Cremer to be on the CWPP Committee.
- Director Pyska and Director Cremer will be the CWPP Committee members from the LCRRA.

Motioned: Director Logsdon

Second: Director Ciancio

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Motion Passed

C. Director/Member Committee

Director Pyska:

- Bylaws need to be updated and reviewed to ensure the LCRRA is in accordance with said bylaws. Looking for Board members who may be interested in helping with the bylaw review.

Public Input:

Betsy Cawn:

- Suggests that existing directors not be a part of the Director/Member committee.
- Advocating for one representative from the fire chiefs, cities and the LCRRA to be on the director/member committee.

Director Pyska:

- Nominated Director Ingram to establish a LCRRA bylaw review committee.

Director Ingram:

- Nomination accepted.

Director Logsdon:

- Nominated Director Velarde.

Director Velarde:

- Nomination accepted.

D. Board Reporting Process, Timeline and Template

Tammy Alakszay:

- NCO proposes a board packet for LCRRA members to utilize for reports and updates.
- Reporting packet to be issued to the LCRRA members and directors on the last day of each month.
- Members and directors have been asked to complete their written report and return it to Brook Mulligan by the 7th of each month.

Director Pyska:

- Entertained a motion to move forward with the Board Packet Process.

Motioned: Director Sapeta

Second: Director Cremer

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Motion Passed

9. Lidar Mapping Presentation

Guest presenters: Kass Green and Mark Tukman of Tukman Geospatial.

- Funding opportunity for Lake County.
- USGS (United States Geological Survey) 3DEP (3D Elevation Program) Funding for Lidar Acquisition
- The first week of October the USGS will release a Broad Area Announcement (BAA) for co-funding new acquisitions of Lidar data nationwide.
- Lake County has an opportunity to participate in this funding.
- Lidar can help support the LCRRA through wildfire planning, response, and recovery.
- Lidar = Light Detection and Ranging
- Uses of Lidar data include, disease occurrence, disease vector mapping, fuels management, as well as health and safety planning.
- 3DEP Requirements:
 - a. The applicant must demonstrate co-funding of at least 25% of the cost of the collection.
 - b. Co-funding can be pending at the time of the proposal but must be secured by Spring of 2023.
 - c. Part of the application package must include validation of the funding partners which include a form that each anticipated co-funding partner must sign.
 - d. Proposals are usually due a month after the announcement is released.
- **Estimated costs for QL1 (Quality Level One) Lidar for Lake County:**
- \$575,354.00 or \$433/sq mile
- Which would require a minimum of \$142,839.00 (25%) of local or state co-funding.
- The more co-funding, the more likely the project will be funded by USGS.

Director Pyska:

- Requesting Directors feedback regarding Lidar mapping for Lake County.
- There is an urgent need for Lidar Mapping.
- Willing to discuss funding options with the board to proceed.

Director Logsdon:

- In support of Lidar mapping for Lake County.
- Proposal for funding would not be available until the Spring of 2024.

Director Cremer:

- In support of Lidar mapping for Lake County.
- Question: How was the 2016 Lidar mapping utilized by Lake County?
- Is there money available in the CAL Fire grants to utilize for Lidar Mapping funding?

Will Evans:

- 2016 Lidar Mapping was used extensively by CLERC.
- Used to develop the landscape scale forest health grant and to identify roads and trails on privately owned lands.
- Used to redevelop the flood plain map in Lake County.

Kass Green:

- Co-funding is an option.
- If funding for Lidar Mapping does not come through, there is no obligation to continue funding. The Lidar Mapping project would simply be halted.
- Other sources of funding are available.
- A small amount of money would help to get the project in motion.
- CLERC could write a letter stating the overall objective and that this project is pending.
- Less time pending and more money equals more opportunity for funding.
- Tribal involvement is important and encouraged.
- Organizations should submit letters of support even if they cannot support financially.
- No final due date currently.
- Likely to be due the first or second week of November.
- Will submit a template for the letter of support.

Director Ingram:

- In support of Lidar Mapping for Lake County.

Public Input:**Frank Aebly:**

- Gave a background on his work with Lidar program with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.
- Forest service relies heavily on Lidar Mapping data.
- Brought up post processing and grounding point data sets.
- Regarding ladder fuels-there is a lot of post processing that goes into determining what goes in to those two returns.
- Asking for letters of support for the rebuilding of the High Glade Fire Lookout.
- No deadline for the support letters as of now.
- Submitting the proposal package to the RO on 9/20/2022.

Kass Green:

- This project would be using the current standard QL1 Lidar. (Quality Level 1).
- QL1 uses eight points per square meter.
- The post-processing burden has been reduced significantly. The cost is \$11,000.00.

Director Pyska:

- Items not discussed at this meeting that need to be added to the next LCRRA agenda:
 - i. LCRRA Financials-budget workshop

10. Next LC RRA Meeting: October 17, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment:

Director Pyska:

- Entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motioned: Director Cremer

Second: Director Ingram

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned:

By Director Pyska at 5:10 p.m.