

LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION AUTHORITY

February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Moke Simon, County of Lake
Jessica Pyska, Lake County Watershed Protection District
Rick Bergem, Lakeport Fire Protection District
Mike Ciancio, Northshore Fire Protection District
Mike Wink, Southlake Fire Protection District
Joe Huggins, Kelseyville Fire Protection District
Willy Sapeta, Lake County Fire Protection District
Paul Duncan, Southlake Fire Protection District

Attendees

County of Lake:

Carol Huchingson, CAO
Carolyn Purdy, Administrative Analyst
Angela De Palma-Dow, Water Resources
Daniella Cazares, Water Resources

Public:

Laurel Bard, Civic Spark Fellow
Will Evans, CLERC
Cindy Leonard, Cobb Area Council
Betsy Cawn, Essential Public Information Center
Terre Logsdon, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
Magdalena Valderrama, SSCRA
Lori Hutchison, Lake County Fire Safe Council

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Simon, 3:03 p.m.
Roll Call - Present: Moke Simon, Jessica Pyska, Rick Bergem, Mike Ciancio
Absent: Joe Huggins, Willie Sapeta. Arrived late: Mike Wink, Paul Duncan
2. **Moment of Silence:** Chairman Simon dedicated moment of silence for those who have lost their lives to COVID.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Betsy Cawn
4. **Public Input:** Magdalena Valderrama reported that she had the documents for CMAT, which will be presented during item 7B. Terre Logsdon provided a link for Forest Management Survey regarding climate.
5. **Consideration of Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Risk Reduction Authority (per bylaws):**
CAO Carol Huchingson presented the item to the Board. This appointment will be for a two year term.
Action: Motion by Director Ciancio to elect Moke Simon as Chair and Jessica Pyska as Vice-Chair of the RRA. Second by Director Bergem. Roll Call: 4 ayes
6. **Consideration of Minutes from January 25, 2021 meeting:**
Action: Motion by Director Bergem to approve the minutes as presented; Second by Director Ciancio. Roll Call: 4 ayes
7. **Consideration of Action items from February 12, 2021 Strategic Planning Retreat:**
 - A. **Consideration of recommendations for amendment to the JPA to add four director seats to include the two cities and two other government entities, with direction to County staff to draft the document:** CAO Huchingson presented the item and proposed the Board make a motion to approve the 4 additional director seats with staff working on a draft of the amendment to approve at the next meeting. Invitation to the 2 cities to join and then 2 more unknown government agencies. This document

would then go to the BOS and other entities for approval. Chair Simon stated that at the retreat/workshop there was discussion to add the four additional seats. One seat for tribal government, two for the cities and it was never discussed who the fourth seat would be. Betsy Cawn asked about the Watershed Protection District's role within the RRA. Director Ciancio stated the Watershed District covers the entire county so this was included for flood control and management. Angela DePalma-Dow: The Watershed Protection District staff will still be part of each meeting. Will Evans: The Watershed Protection District covers Drinking and Wastewater facilities impacted during fires. Chair Simon: This is the beginning of the expansion of the RRA, and will cover all risks. Magdalena Valderrama: Feels it is too early to expand. Director Pyska: Would like to move ahead with Tribal seats. Terri Logsdon: Received FEMA approval for the first tribal mitigation plan last week. Lake County Environmental Directors by-monthly meeting is tomorrow, so I will bring this up as an item.

Action: Director Pyska: Motion to increase the JPA to 7 members and move forward with the addition of four Director seats, to include the two cities, two other government agencies, one being tribal government and the final seat TBD. Second: Director Ciancio. Roll call: 5 Ayes

- B. Consideration of priorities/action plan for 2021:** CAO Huchingson presented the priority/action plan list for 2021. Director Pyska noted that there is a correction to this list under the "Support CLERC" section. The current language shows, "Ongoing and *fruit* grant opportunities". The correct language should be "Ongoing and *future* grant opportunities". Chairman Simon: This is a big priorities list. The next step in the growth of RRA for 2021-22. Public Comments: Betsy Cawn: CWPP priorities, need to review contracts with the RCD. Also a schedule and the next steps to get it in place. Director Pyska: Assign strategies for implementation. Hire a Consultant to manage responsibilities once the priorities are set. Magdalena Valderrama: CMAT – I have the four documents with the application that the county has made. There is a Partner list with 42 lines. 30 Unique groups, out of that 16 folks would participate. Now there is a new PDA in the making and 2 more new Firewise Communities. We will end up with a total of 14 Firewise Communities. There is a Worksheet, including questions with answers and comments. The other two documents explain what the program is and the timeline. Director Pyska: Until we hire a consultant, there is no capacity in the Administration office for this project. I will collect the documents and spearhead this until we get that person hired. CAO Huchingson: Further discussion is needed on posting community education events. Proposals by the end of the week and few weeks to respond, by the end of March. Director Pyska: Consultant will not be in place in time. I am suggesting Cindy Leonard to help put the event together. Cindy Leonard is willing to discuss offline and this will be brought back on next month's agenda as a priority. Also include local cities and tribes in this event. Betsy Cawn: Suggests this event gets taken up in the next Standing Committee Meeting (not yet scheduled). Chair Simon: Priorities need more focus; the CWPP timeline and events for the year, dates and times.

Action: Director Pyska: Move to Adopt the Priority Action Plan for 2021, as corrected and move forward. Second: Director Duncan. Roll call: 5 ayes

- C. Consideration of scope of work for consultant support, with direction to County staff to prepare and release a request for proposals:** Chair Simon introduced the item and CAO Huchingson presented a draft of the Scope of Work for Consultant support. Public Comment: Will Evans: How do the Board of Directors envision the RRA operating? Purchasing policies, approving its own payments, Legal Counsel? CAO Huchingson: Already leveraging County services and that would continue.

Action: Director Pyska: Motion to approve the scope of work for consultant support, with direction to County staff to prepare and release a request for proposals. Second: Director Ciancio. Roll Call: 6 Ayes

- D. **Consideration of additional funding needed from RRA member agencies, authorizing the Chair to move forward with discussions with the Fire District Chiefs and a request to the Board of Supervisors:** CAO Huchingson presented the item to the Board. RRA fund now has \$26,000, will not be enough to meet the scope of work over a one year period. Requesting that the BOS to appropriate another \$26,000 in matching funds from the cannabis RRA fund. Also, ask the other member agencies to contribute to this effort, starting with the Fire Districts at \$5,000 each. This would bring the fund up to \$75,000. Director Pyska: I would ask that this be an annual contribution so we have funds to do the programs we want to do and then maybe we have a mini grant program at some point. Director Ciancio: This is going to be a little tough for Fire Districts, we are in the middle of a budget year and this is not budgeted. Not considering this right at the moment and this would have to go back to our board for approval. Director Bergem: Would need to be addressed next fiscal year. Director Duncan: I support the concept but would have to go to the board. Director Wink: I support Chief Duncan. Terre Logsdon: I missed the amount, per member or vote. Chair Simon: \$5,000. CAO Huchingson: \$5,000 per district. Betsy Cawn: Confusing having numerous members (Fire Chiefs) with one vote. Will Evans: Are Local Fire Districts on fiscal year that starts in July 1? Good time to bring this up to work on budget.

Action: Director Pyska: Motion to Authorize the Chair to obtain additional funding needs and move forward with discussions with the Fire District Chiefs and a request to the Board of Supervisors and any new members to the RRA. Roll Call: 6 Ayes

8. Consideration of Reports and Updates:

- A. **Directors:** Chairman Simon reported that there was good work done at the retreat to help move us through 2021. Director Pyska reported that she had a call last week with Lori Hutchison from the Lake County Fire Safe Council. Looking at the contract with the RCD for Fire Safe Council responsibilities, as well as who is on the council and how is it organized. Setting up a meeting in early March to discuss organization and structure and will invite Mendocino and Sonoma. Another meeting later in March and then again early in April. Cobb Area Council had a meeting last week, broom buster events happening, presented at MAC. Will be happening in Middletown and South County. Chair Simon: There will be a meeting early Wednesday morning to discuss. Public Comment: Betsy Cawn: This topic should be considered by the Standing Committee. Director Pyska: Would like this meeting without the Standing Committee at this time. Small meeting to start with just Laurie and I to get things up and running.
- B. **County Staff – Water Resources, Code Enforcement, Air Quality, other:** Angela DePalma-Dow reported: Applied for a grant with some partners to investigate impacts of fire on water quality and establish some procedures for water quality managers. Partnered with Berryessa, Yolo County and Solano County to make this a stronger package. Danielle Cazares reported: Highland Springs - Flyer about Fire Fuel Reduction Service Day March 9th from 9am – 4pm. Betsy Cawn: What are we doing to develop the livestock or control burn project for Highland Springs? Danielle Cazares: This is an independent Civic Spark Fellow project. The other programs will be developed through Water Resources.
- C. **Standing Committee:** Will Evans reminded that there are formal notes from all the meetings, including CWPP and Mapping, 1st meeting of the Prescribed Burn Association, ways to do outreach during the pandemic. Rollout of the North Bay

Forest Improvement Program, went Live Feb 1st, a 4 county collaboration by the Rebuild North Bay Foundation. Discussed spending plan of the \$400,000 Lot Clearing funds from the CLERC's Fire Prevention grant. \$631,000 was requested, \$306,000 awarded by the Standing Committee to 4 different entities. Decided to hold back \$94,000 with the anticipation with over the next 6 – 12 month we will identify new communities that are not at the table. Discuss how to engage different communities with the RRA that are not coming forward on their own. Director Pyska: Funding went to? Will Evans: The bulk of funding went to Seigler Springs Redevelopment Association, the fiscal agent to distribute. Riviera West and Heights HOA's to remove trees, City of Clearlake to clear a commercial lot behind Big 5 and Habitat for Humanity. Next meeting will be held the first few weeks in March.

D. **RCD – CWPP status - Potential revisions to Chapter 8:** Director Sepata and Dr. Harry Lyons were not available for this item. Laurel Bard: On track for the March 15th deadline to report back to Dr. Lyons for community and tribal input on the CWPP. Director Ciancio: Chief Sapeta would like Chapter 8 moving, at least adopting the Wildland Fire Season Chapter. Director Pyska: I will call Dr. Lyons to see where he is with that part of the CWPP and will follow up and report back to Chiefs.

E. **Online Burn Permits:** Director Ciancio: Online burn permit process, using this with several fire districts around the county. About half of the districts are utilizing. Will Evans: South Lake Fire will collect the funds online in behalf of other fire districts. Permit users have to go to their own district first to set up. Betsy Cawn: Suggests a report to the BOS from the RRA regarding the online burn permit process.

9. **Consideration of Department Signature Authorization Form:** CAO Huchingson presented the item to the Board. The County Auditor/Controller has requested the Chairman to authorize top staff within the Administrative office to sign documents for the RRA as necessary.

Action: Motion by Director Duncan to approve the Department Signature Authorization Form. Second by Director Pyska. Roll Call: 6 ayes

10. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.