

## **LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY 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 August 15, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m. via zoom

### **Attendees:**

Stephen Carter-Chief Deputy County Administrative Officer  
Susan Parker-County Administrative Officer  
Jonathan Portney-Lake County Public Health Services Director  
Scott Harter-Lake County Special Districts  
Frank Aebly- Mendocino National Forest  
Magdalena Valderrama- SSCRA (Seigler Springs Community Redevelopment Association)  
Betsy Cawn-EPI (The Essential Public Information Center)  
Melinda Rivera-PG&E (Pacific Gas & Electric)  
Marcus Beltramo-Lake County Code Enforcement  
John Hackett-CalTrans District 1, Landscape Specialist  
Will Evans- Clearlake Environmental Research Center (CLERC)  
Leah Sautelet- Cal OES (Office of Emergency Services) Manager  
Mari Rodin-Hopper & Rodin Associates  
Laurie Hutchinson- Lake County Fire Safe Council  
Nehoa Brad Chatten-Lake County Resident  
Angela Amoral-Lake County Resident  
Robyn Bera-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)  
Deanna Fernweh-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)  
Brook Mulligan-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)  
Angelina Fagundo-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)  
Kali Mulligan-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)  
Miranda Guardino-NCO (North Coast Opportunities, Inc.)

**Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** 3:08 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:**  
**Present:** Director Moke Simon, Director Jessica Pyska, Director Dan Grebil, Director Willie Sapeta, Director Kevin Ingram, Director Terre Logsdon, Director Mike Ciancio  
  
**Absent:** Director Mike Wink, Director Joe Huggins, Director Paul Duncan, Director Dianna Mann, Director Russ Cremer, Director Joseph Franklin Velarde, Director Robert Geary
3. **Moment of Silence:** for the Lake County residents who have lost family members in recent tragic vehicle accidents.
4. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Director Simon
5. **Public Input:** None
6. **Consideration of Minutes from:**
  - a. Lake County Risk Reduction Authority meeting minutes July 18, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

**Motioned:** Director Logsdon

**Second:** Director Pyska

**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 Teleconferenced Meetings by this Body to Continue

**Motioned:** Director Logsdon

**Second:** Director Pyska

**Roll Call Vote:** All in favor

**Motion Passed**

8. **LC RRA Financials:**

**Stephen Carter:**

- Basic budget has been created and outlined.
- Services and supplies \$53,066.40 for the NCO (North Coast Opportunities) agreement which covers the base services; does not include other additions requested by the RRA.
- Revenue is limited to the County of Lake contribution and Supervisor Pyska and Supervisor Simon’s Cannabis Discretionary Funds which total \$26,533.20. This money is to be used to fund the 6-month contract with NCO.
- Currently \$13,000.00 in the RRA account. The current amount is more than previously stated due to \$10,500.00 that has been transferred to cover the audit, and just over \$5,000.00 of that is available to cover the prior NCO contract.

**Robyn Bera:**

- The annual contract has still not been created. Currently working from a 6-month interim contract which began July 1, 2022.
- There is still a need to develop an annual budget to cover the costs of all that NCO will be providing for the RRA.

**Director Simon:**

- Requesting a director's budget meeting be agendized for September or October to discuss NCO contract funding needs.

**Director Pyska:**

- Requesting that the RRA directors bring their priorities, with dollar amounts for the budget to the next RRA meeting in September. A budget can be built around that information.

**Director Ciancio:**

- Requesting scope of work from NCO to proceed with any additional funding.

**Robyn Bera:**

- Draft scope of work issued in May.
- The annual report was issued in July, which included outcomes for the year and projections for the next fiscal year.
- Unable to complete the white paper under last contract due to contract being expired.
- Additional items in NCO scope of work to be discussed in September RRA meeting.

**Public Input:**

**Betsy Cawn:**

- Question regarding the line item described as "fringe" on 6-month NCO contract.

**Robyn Bera:**

- Explanation of fringe and base benefits; Fringe benefits include things such as medical insurance programs, employee benefits, etc. Base benefits include items such as hourly wages.

**Stephen Carter:**

- Requesting to discuss non-NCO related budgetary needs in next month's RRA meeting.

**Motion to approve the NCO 6-month interim contract:**

**Motioned:** Director Pyska

**Second:** Director Ingram

**Roll call vote:** All in favor

**Motion passed**

## **9. Consideration of Reports and Updates:**

### **A. Director's Reports:**

#### **Director Simon:**

- Looking at all risks around Lake County, not just focusing on fire related risks.
- Dip tanks are coming to Lake County later this month.
- Collaboration efforts continue to grow each month. The Middletown Rancheria has a new MOU (Materials of Understanding) with the North Shore Fire crews.

#### **Director Pyska:**

- Looking at ways to keep the RRA meetings at a higher level to keep its participants engaged.

#### **Director Grebil:**

- Board to receive the annual report at their next meeting tomorrow evening August 16, 2022, to discuss budget and member contributions.

#### **Director Ciancio:**

- Continuing to wait for equipment.
- Receiving numerous calls regarding investigating the services of the crew and what that looks like.
- Continuing to learn what is and is not working.
- Looking to become fully staffed; eight staff members currently, with two more in process and able to join the team in the upcoming weeks.

#### **Director Logsdon:**

- Conducted the Tribal Family Emergency Preparedness event which was held on August 6, 2022.
- Many tribal members from Lake Mendocino, Sonoma and further north were in attendance.
- Kelseyville Fire Department conducted a fire extinguisher demonstration.
- In the final negotiation stages of the EDA (Economic Development Agency) for the wood campus in bio energy/biochar production location in upper lake on county owned property. Awaiting a call back to complete the process.
- In need of a new aquifer capacity study to ensure the residents and the city of Lakeport have the water that they need.

### **B. NCO Update:**

#### **Angelina Fagundo:**

- August GBF (Grants Best Fit) meeting has been canceled. Will resume regularly scheduled meeting on September 15, 2022, at 9 a.m.
- Continuing to update the spreadsheet.
- 13 grants have been awarded since the start of 2021 which has brought over 17 million dollars into Lake County.
- The CWDG (Community Wildfire Defense Grant) deadline is October 7, 2022.

### **i. SGC (Strategic Growth Council) Climate Action Grant**

#### **Magdalena Valderrama:**

- There is a great amount of competition for the CWDG grant.
- CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) is not currently at the status required to use the CWDG but can use the Hazard Mitigation Plan which contains a wildfire element.
- 19 wildfire actions are specified in the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan that is held by the OES (Office of Emergency Services).
- One action includes an item called “general CWPP projects.” Another listed action is evacuation. Unsure if the CWDG includes work on evacuation.
- Will be scheduling a special Best Fit meeting for Friday August 19, 2022, at 10a to have all Firewise Communities, Fire Safe Councils, or any other non-profit organizations can come together to discuss the CWDG.

#### **Director Pyska:**

- Strategic Growth Council Grant opportunity.
- Lake County is securing Mari Rodin to help write the grant.
- The goal would be to create a climate action plan for the county.

#### **Mari Rodin:**

- With Hopper & Rodin Associates.
- In the beginning phases of the grant writing application process with another planning meeting Wednesday, August 17, 2022.
- Collaborating with group members to complete the process and create the Climate Action Plan. Grant due October 7, 2022.
- Looking for letters of support will identify which members of the RRA will be contacted for support.

### **ii. Biomass Utilization Funding**

#### **Director Logsdon:**

- In talks with the California Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR) and the North Coast Conservancy to talk about the RRA and biomass utilization funding. More to report next month.

#### **Public Input:**

#### **Betsy Cawn:**

- Questions regarding who will be paying for Mari Rodin to consult. Where is the funding stream coming from? Should this be included in the RRA budget?

#### **Director Pyska:**

- Funding for Mari Rodin to come out of the county administrative budget.

#### **Stephen Carter:**

- Funding from the county administrative budget can be transferred to the RRA to pay for grant writer Mari Rodin. Can discuss further at the next RRA meeting.

**C. County Staff Updates:**

**Code Enforcement-Marcus Beltramo:**

- Previous request for stats regarding complaints relating to hazardous vegetation. Roughly Sixty complaints thus far for May-August. 30% of people have taken voluntary action to become compliant. Code enforcement is continuing to follow up on non-compliant property owners.
- Currently able to produce statistics for the current calendar and will continue to provide data moving forward. Will be working with Brook Mulligan at NCO to provide a statistic report which is to be included in future RRA minutes.

**Sheriff Department/OES-Leah Sautelet:**

- New OES Manager (Office of Emergency Services).
- Recently hired an OES specialist, Olive Perez, who began working last Monday, August 8, 2022.

**D. LCRRRA Members Updates:**

**CLERC-Will Evans:**

- Last Friday was a farewell gathering for Kristina Linder and Laurel Bard.
- Hired two staff members to fill those job vacancies: Mark Roberts and Grant Coleman

**Cobb Area Council-Magdalena Valderrama:**

- Gearing up for the Blackberry Cobbler Festival on August 27, 2022.

**Lake County Fire Safe Council-Laurie Hutchison:**

- Meeting and discussing CWDG opportunity. Discussions involving who will be applying and how. Will be contacting a state representative for guidance on how to proceed.
- Collaborating with Tammy Alakszay and Magdalena Valderrama to plan next steps after Fire safe Lake Workshop.

**Seigler Springs Community Redevelopment Association: Magdalena Valderrama:**

- Working on the second printing of an additional 5,000 copies of the 'Living with Wildfire' booklet. The first printing was completed in May 2022 and there are no copies left.
- Expecting to receive \$5,000.00 from FAcNet when the grant cycle reopens.
- Provided two workshops; continuing to work with Tammy Alakszay to help groups understand how to create Firewise communities and fire safe councils.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> fire wise community is in its application process with two others getting started around the county. The community handing in their application is the Loch Lomond Property Owners Association.

**South Lake Fire Safe Council-Magdalena Valderrama:**

- Chipping program continues and is available from a grant through CalFire Grant that CLERC was awarded.
- New Chipping volunteer.
- Chipping on a temporary hold for the month of August due to high fire danger. Next chipping begins in September.

**US Forest Services (USFS)-Frank Aebly:**

- Hazardous tree abatement work along Bartlett Springs Road and out toward Long Valley has been completed using the CalFire funding. The Ingress/egress is now completely safe except for some privately owned land.
- Awarded the contract for hazardous tree abatement north of Upper Lake going up towards Lake Pillsbury, which should begin this fall.
- Would like the USFS (United States Forest Service) and the county to partner on the repair and maintenance of Elk Mountain Road including the ingress and egress.
- North Shore Wildland Urban Interface Restoration Project is wrapping up its objection period, hoping to have a decision signed soon. Looking to use the CalFire money to begin reducing fuel loads in the wildland urban interface.
- Save the date: 11/16-11/17 Fire Escape Mendocino will be hosting a workshop held at Robinson's Rancheria. There will be a field trip held on 11/16 and the actual workshop will be held on 11/17.

**E. Other Partner Updates:**

**CalTrans-John Hackett:**

- Investigating the fire on Highway 53 to see how to further mitigate some fire starts in that area.
- Invasive brush and thistle spraying continues.

**F. Tree Mortality and Forest Health Task Force Update:**

**Supervisor Pyska:**

- PG&E (Pacific Gas & Electric) continues to do an incredible amount of work. There are 1,000 parcels that are continuing to be unresponsive.
- There has been some mention that there is an anonymous, unsigned letter that has been distributed with a phone number on it, that is encouraging homeowners to not have their trees cut down. This letter contains a lot of misinformation, if anyone has received this letter and they have any questions, they can reach out to Supervisor Pyska directly.
- Mike Jones mentioned that insect activity is increasing with no end in sight.
- Working with Napa and Mendocino County Supervisors to take a regional approach to the tree mortality issue.
- Napa County is going to be passing their emergency very soon, with Mendocino County right behind them. Once all three counties (Lake, Napa, and Mendocino Counties) have a local emergency declared, they will then approach the state together to ask for specific needs. With the Disaster Act, funding has a 75% reimbursement that is open from the 2015 Tree Mortality disaster that was declared by the state. CalFire used to contribute a 25% match, meaning that counties would be 100% reimbursed.
- Looking to reduce the costs associated with tree mortality work.
- Met with Senator McGuire to discuss this issue. He is aware of the need and the work that is being done in Lake County.
- Napa and Mendocino County continue to follow Lake County's lead.
- Lake County continues to learn from Placer, Tuolumne, and Mariposa counties, all of whom have shared their time and documents from their experience with the tree mortality issue.

- CLERC has a contractor in the Fox Drive area who is working on taking trees down.
- Middletown Rancheria has shared that they have been awarded a grant of \$125,000.00 for tree removal.

**Magdalena Valderrama:**

- Contacted one of the researchers that is working for the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. They are creating a regional profile for climate purposes for the Sierra Nevada's, and they plan to come to Lake County next year to conduct the same survey.

**Pacific Gas & Electric, Co. (PG&E)-Melinda Rivera:**

- Continuing to conduct routine and Enhanced Vegetation Management (EVM) work.
- A report was issued with updated numbers of miles of EVM that they are looking to complete in Lake County in 2022.
- That report will also be issued to customers who have linked their email addresses to their customer accounts.
- Hoping to have updated numbers for the next Tree Mortality and Forest Health meeting.
- Another update will be coming in regarding the work winding down in the Cobb area. Work has also begun in the Rivas.

**G. CMAT Reporting Committee update:**

**Supervisor Pyska:**

- CMAT (Community Mitigation Action Team) committee meeting is tasked with identifying priorities which had been identified in the CMAT (Community Mitigation Action Team) report.
- Discussions are underway regarding ways to structure the meeting moving forward.

**H. CWPP Committee Update:**

**Director Simon:**

- The CWPP meeting has been set up at this point. Working to get a date and time set up to begin conducting meetings.

**Susan Parker:**

- Continuing to coordinate and discuss the details to schedule CWPP meeting.



**I. Director/Member's Committee:**

**Supervisor Pyska:**

- Committee has not been formed. The purpose of the committee is to do some leg work with the bylaws and make sure that the RRA is structurally aligning with the bylaws or determining if changes need to be made.
- Will push the topic to the next RRA meeting.

**10. Next LC RRA meeting:** September 19, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

**11. Adjournment:**

**Motioned:** Director Logsdon  
**All in favor**

**Second:** Supervisor Pyska

**Motion Passed**

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:40 p.m.