

MINUTES OF THE WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
July 27, 2016  
Suncadia Resort, Cle Elum Washington

**In Attendance:**

Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair

**Committee Members Present:**

Tony Craven- Small Forest Landowner  
Cody Desautel - Tribal Nations Representative  
Rodney Smoldon - Federal Fire Agency  
Chuck Duffy - State Fire Marshal  
Dave Leitch- Fire Chief (Eastside)  
Dave Johnson - Fire Commissioner  
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt - State Land Trust Beneficiary  
Jim DeTro - County Commissioner (Eastside)  
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside) – by phone  
Dave LaFave - Fire Chief (Westside) – by phone  
J.D Marshall - Industry Landowner (Timber) – by phone

**Committee Members Absent:**

Lee Hemmer - Industry Landowner (Range)  
Tom Bugert - Statewide Environmental Representative

**Guests/Other Attendees:**

Bob Johnson, DNR, Wildfire Division Manager  
Lacey Vaughn, DNR, Wildfire Division Support Supervisor

**I. Opening, Roll Call**

The eighth meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:06 a.m. on July 27, 2016 in Cle Elum, WA. Roll was taken and two members were absent and excused. Due to travel constraints, three member participated in the meeting by phone.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the June 22, 2016 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve draft minutes made by Committee member Johnson, seconded by Committee member Craven. Motion carried with unanimous Aye's.

**III. Old Business**

**a. Operations Expectations**

Chairman Berndt shared in draft the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee Operations Expectations and Vision Statement for review. Committee members were asked to review the draft form and report back for a potential vote to adopt as written. Also on this draft

was an adaption to approve a quorum for the majority vote. Vote to approve will be at the August 24 meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee.

**b. DNR Wildfire Budget Updates**

Bob Johnson, WA DNR spoke to the committee about the upcoming budget decision packages that will be brought to the Commissioner of Public Lands from the Wildfire Division. This is an ongoing process that will continued to be developed for the needs of the Division. A report will be provided to the committee by the Department.

**c. Workgroup Report- Forest Health**

Committee member's round table discussion for forest health revolved around how the State of Washington can work with forest landowners and its impediments. The committee discussed what terms can be put to the public that will be clearly defined and understood. Committee would like to recommend a strategic plan for the issue(s) related to Forest Health, focused on fire resiliency. The workgroup members spent time reviewing with the committee the ongoing efforts on how to best provide help with the limited amount available, and evaluating where they to make the most value of change.

**d. Workgroup Report- Contracting**

Chairmen Pfeiffer-Hoyt spoke the workgroup still needs the opportunity to meet with the DNR staff to make a functional response to the contracting issues. Round-table discussion about the issue for ready response including local contractors during initial and extended attack. The workgroup would like to make sure that the correct language is built into the recommendations before presenting to the Commissioner.

**e. Workgroup Report- Employee Sharing**

Workgroup did not report.

**f. Workgroup- Training/Certifications**

Round table discussion revolved around how to provide the local/rural fire districts with answers to their questions about the training standards. Discussion about who will be the point of contact for them, and how to we educate them to the things that they need to do to be successful. This issue should be ready for prime time with the Commissioner.

**g. Academy Issues Presentation**

Three large fire training academies were successful this year for the WA State Department of Natural Resources. Bob Johnson, WA State DNR reports that the attendance to these academies grew from the 2015 academy. Question presented by the committee was, what the possibility of a fourth academy would look like or the possibility of making them Type 2 training academies.

**h. Large Fire Simulation Issue**

Roundtable discussion about making these a priority for a larger number of participants to attend, and adding capacity with higher management and other various entities. Needed more of a commitment from agencies to attend these large fire simulations to add a better understanding of the culture of fire.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **a. Chairman Report**

Chairman Berndt shared with the committee his meetings that he had this last month. Committee will receive an email copy of the activities that he participated in. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, Chairman Berndt attended a meeting that was presented by Representative Dent. He also attended a meeting with the Southeastern Washington Industrial Forest Landowners, with the conversation revolving around the needs and time needed for fire commitments.

July 11<sup>th</sup>, evening meeting of the “expectations of work” forest science lab from the Forest Service in Wenatchee. Three items that were pushed from the federal side; Prescribed Fire, Managing Wildfire, and promoting mechanical thinning of federal lands.

July 18<sup>th</sup>, he attended a meeting put on by a national group called the “silver jackets” working under the title Post Wildfire Flooding Committee. This group was enacted following Hurricane Katrina.

Chairmen Berndt is currently working on a land owner’s information list for review by the Commissioner to have an active list of names provided by the Cattleman’s Association and the Industrial Landowners for distribution to the needed authorities on active incidents.

##### **V. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10:00am, on August 24, 2016 at the Washington State Patrol Fire Training Academy. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:32 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Lacey Vaughn, approved by Gary Berndt.

Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting.