

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2019

DNR NRB EOB

1111 Washington St SE

Olympia, WA

Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair
Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside) *Conference Call*
Reese Lolley – Statewide Environmental Representative
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary
Melissa Gannie – Assistant Fire Marshal
J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)
Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range) *Conference Call*
Erick Walker – USFS Deputy Forest Supervisor *Conference Call*

Committee Members Absent:

Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner
Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative
Dave Johnson – Fire District Commissioner (Eastside)
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside)

Guests/Other Attendees:

Loren Torgerson - Wildfire Policy Advisor
Chuck Turley - Wildfire Division Manager
Shelly Goodwin - Wildland Fire Advisory Committee Coordinator
Jim Passage - Guest
Ashley Blazina - Natural Resources Specialist 3
Kirk Davis - Information Technology Specialist 4
Andy Tate - Natural Resources Specialist 4
Trevor McConchie – Federal Lands Program Manager

I. Opening, Roll Call

The meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on February 22 in Olympia, WA. Roll was taken, 5 members were present and 6 members were excused. Due to travel constraints, 3 members participated in the meeting by phone, constituting a quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 23, 2019 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve draft minutes as amended made by Committee member Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, seconded by Committee member J.D Marshall. Motion carried with Aye's.

III. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt, provided a written chair report. Attached. Cattlemen's Association states in their newspaper that Wildfire Contractors are needed. He also discussed that Erick Walker will replace Rodney Smoldon on the committee, Erick gave a brief introduction of himself. Gary had news on Dave Johnson dealing with health issues and provided a card for everyone to sign.

Think about who is missing from the committee? IAFF requested an appointment to the committee that has been forwarded to George. Invite as needed? Who might support/help outside of committee? Committee charter – there is no “term limit”.

Who is interested in joining? How are we representing LEP? Charter – Attendance – hold accountable – annual renewal?

IV. DNR/WSP Update

- a. Melissa Gannie from the State Fire Marshal's Office reported there were no new incidents since the last meeting. Dan Johnson moved to Esther's position and they are recruiting for a Deputy State Fire Marshal, this position supports Mobilization and inspections.
- b. Chuck Turley discussed the current actions of the legislature. Also on moving forward on breaking out Forest Health from Wildfire. Aaron Schmidt is leaving and it's a huge hole to fill. Prescribed Fire Program Manager still needs filled. We are gearing up for training, Incident Commanders have been chosen. No movement on budget request.
- c. Trevor McConchie, Discussed a little bit of budget and strategic plan. There are three targets tied to the strategic plan, 20 year plan, treatments of all lands. Since 2012 approximately 200,000 acres of Eastern Washington have been treated. Moving into Western Washington, approximately 10,000 acres of federal lands have been treated and moved 20 million board feet of timber. It is anticipated that by June 2021 there will be some form of Western Washington assessment of forest health. Budget – Operating budget currently \$ 12 1/2 million, plan to make project level employees permanent, to work on land owner, fed lands, outreach, and realignment. Current Capitol Budget \$17.7 million, less ask than before. Eastern Washington treatments funded through timber sales. State trust treatment 10,000 acres– Private lands treatment 5,500 acres– Collaboratives 15,000 acres. The Goals to reach targets – Money, economic monitoring studies, watershed, and stream related work. There was also Discussion on Forest Action Plan going statewide.
- d. Loren Torgerson, Wildfire Policy advisor gave an update on what bills in legislature effect Wildfire and what our stance is on them. 1188 Range land – Support – WF Strategy - fire association- training requirements. 1894 add to 2561. Additional duties to the task assigner under 2561. Addressing Eastern Washington unprotected lands, final report in November – issues with how the funding lines up with deadline. 1334 – Element in strategic plan. 5305- Look at utilities specifically. 1784 – Discussion on increasing fires on trust lands to develop fire breaks on those lands. Moved to what would be useful in a suppression scenario. 1941 – Support – WSU and DNR to look at two previous fires Carlton and Okanogan Complex “true” costs, interim report due September,

final due next year, potentially not enough time. Can provide us information to show “under” estimating in various areas of true impact of fires. Significant financial impact. 1958 – Requests a process for fire service to be reimbursed prior to mobilization for aviation – other concern – doesn’t specifically say these aircraft meet standards. Discussion on good language. 5279 – Prescribed burn within established UGA’s. Difficulty of disposing of the aftermath – option to allow to burn within the UGA or city less than 10,000. HB2561 – Funding running out. Requirements of this committee – finalizing the report – hire a contractor to work with Wildfire and WFAC to finalize report – Russ, Reese, and Tony to make a subcommittee.

V. New Business

- a. WUI presentation – Ashley Blazina, Kirk Davis and Andy Tate. Powerpoint attached.

VI. Final Q&A – Committee roundtable

- a. Reese Lolley – Wildfire Caucus – Effective fire response – Treatments on the ground – Fire preparedness – Washington is being seen nationally as a leader.
- b. Jim Passage – South Ponderosa Estates – 500 lots, 400 built, one way in one way out. 80% second homes and 20% permanent residence. Suggestions on how to prepare for a major fire. Widen and straighten the road, put a siren in for notification, sign up for phone notifications, and fire district has a roll to educate people on the risks.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:50 p.m.

At the time of adjournment the decision was to schedule the regularly set meeting of March 28 at the NRB 1000-1300 hours

Draft minutes submitted by Shelly Goodwin, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the March 28, 2019 meeting.