

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 23, 2017

Suncadia Resort

3600 Suncadia Trail

Cle Elum, WA 98922

Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair
Chuck LeBlanc – State Fire Marshal
J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)
Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner

Committee Members Absent:

Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative
Dave Johnson – Fire Commissioner
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside)
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)
Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside)
Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency
Tom Bugert – Statewide Environmental Representative

Guests/Other Attendees:

Gerry Day, Wildfire Deputy Supervisor – *conference call*
Loren Torgerson, Wildfire Policy Advisor
Tami Kellogg, Executive Assistant to Deputy Supervisor Wildfire
Dr. John Bailey, Oregon State University

I. Opening, Roll Call

Chair Berndt called the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on August 23, 2017 in Cle Elum, WA. Roll was taken, 7 members were present and 7 members were excused, constituting a quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Berndt called for approval of the minutes for the June 28, 2017 council. Committee member Pfeiffer-Hoyt moved to approve draft minutes, Committee member DeTro seconded the motion. The motion carried with Aye's.

III. Old Business

- a. **Forest Health Resiliency Update** Mr. Torgerson informed the committee on the progress on the draft strategic plan for forest health and establishment of a Forest Health Advisory Committee. He shared that until approval of the capital budget by the legislature, forest health treatments are delayed. Discussion followed on acres treated and removal of industry timberland owner's property from treatable acres as well as any other managed timber property.

- b. **Rangeland Protection Association Update** – Committee member Hemmer provided an update on the progress on establishing a Rangeland Protection Association. He will meet with BLM. on September 8 and has been reaching out to senators and representatives to invite them to the meeting. He has also gathered information in order to move this forward. Discussion followed on authorities and reimbursement in regards to fighting wildfire.

Committee member DeTro commented on the progress and success of the WFAC achieving goals and seeing that be implemented on the ground.

Committee member Pfeiffer-Hoyt looks forward to hearing proposed solutions and options Mr. Hemmer brings back to the committee.

- c. **Charter and Review of 2006 Strategic Plan Update** - Mr. Day provided an update on the strategic plan for fighting wildfire and noted the WFAC charter is under legal review.

IV. **Chairman Report** – Chairman Berndt provided his chair report to the committee.

V. **DNR Update** – Mr. Day provided an update on wildfire season.

Chair Berndt adjourned for a break, the meeting resumed at 11:10.

VI. **Wildfire Management Presentation** – Committee member Marshall introduced Dr. John Bailey, Oregon State University, who provided a presentation on wildfire management.

VII. **Final Q&A**

VIII. **Adjournment and Next Meeting**

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10 am, on September 27, 2017, in Ellensburg, WA, at the airport. The August 23rd meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:04 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Tami Kellogg, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to approve the minutes will occur at the September meeting.