

MINUTES OF THE WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 27, 2016
CWICC East Wenatchee, WA

In attendance -

Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair

Committee Members Present:

Tony Craven- Small Forest Landowner
Dave Johnson - Fire Commissioner
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt - State Land Trust Beneficiary
Cody Desautel - Tribal Nations Representative
Dave Leitch- Fire Chief (Eastside)
Jim DeTro - County Commissioner (Eastside)
Rodney Smoldon - Federal Fire Agency
Lee Hemmer - Industry Landowner (Range)
J.D Marshall - Industry Landowner (Timber)
Dave LaFave (by phone) - Fire Chief (Westside)
Tom Bugert (by phone) - Statewide Environmental Representative

Committee Members Absent:

Chuck Duffy (excused) - State Fire Marshal

Guests/Other Attendees:

Sandra Kaiser, DNR, Communications Director
Bob Johnson, DNR, Division Manager, Wildfire Division
Lacey Vaughn, DNR Support Supervisor

I. Opening, Roll Call

The fifth meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:12 a.m. on April 27, 2016 in Wenatchee, WA. Roll was taken and only one member was absent and was excused. Due to travel constraints, two members participated in the meeting by phone.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 24st council meeting were presented and reviewed. Motion to approve minutes made by Committee member DeTro⁷⁵², seconded by Committee member Pfeiffer-Hoyt and Johnson. Motion carried with unanimous Aye's.

III. New Business

a. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt shared with the committee that the Commissioner of Public Lands will approve and appoint a replacement to the open West Side County Commissioner position, possibly by the next committee meeting. Also, there was an introduction of Committee member Desautel who was recently appointed by the Commissioner of Public

Lands as the Tribal Nation Representative to replace Mel Tonasket. Committee member Desautel shared with the committee the items that he is responsible for as the Natural Resources Director with The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Chairman Berndt also shared with the committee his draft chair report on the meetings he has attended since the last meeting of the committee. Meetings included fire chiefs meetings, a Southeast Region Type 3 IMT refresher, and a presentation to the International Association of Wildland Firefighters in Portland. Chairman Berndt also attended, as an observer, at the Colville National Forest/DNR hosted large fire simulation, which was presented to officials from 3 counties.

Chairman Berndt handed out a “draft” mission statement of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee, asked that the committee review and possibly adopt this mission statement. The next meeting of the committee, Chairman Berndt will offer a final draft for the committee to vote. The committee provided two suggested changes.

b. Committee discussion on recommendations template

Chairman Berndt shared his draft recommendation/issue template to be utilized by the committee to determine the ongoing and possible recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Lands. Committee members are encouraged to use this for work in the positions that they hold as committee members. Work-groups within the committee have shared draft forms of this template for forest health and fuels treatment.

c. Fire Training Academies

Bob Johnson, Division Manager, Washington State Department of Natural Resources shared with the committee an overview of the three upcoming interagency Fire Training Academies scheduled for the Westside, Central, and Eastside of Washington.

d. Committee discussion regarding certification standards

A sub-group of the committee provided a discussion on training certification to the national standard (known as 310-1). The discussion revolved around establishing a standard that all agencies recognize. The discussion will be continued within the sub-group. The group consists of Chief LaFave, Chief Leitch, Commissioner Johnson, and Director Desautel also volunteered to serve on this group.

e. DNR Updates for upcoming fire season

Bob Johnson, Division Manager, Washington State Department of Natural Resources shared with the committee the anticipated use funds allocated to the department. Focus will be on getting assets on the ground, in the more fire-prone areas but also throughout the regions. A total of 12 new fire engines, with 4-person crews, will be distributed to both the Northeast and Southeast regions. New positions introduced within DNR regions called “fire technicians, historically known as “fire wardens,” will work within the communities and with the local Fire Districts. Also added are “fire foresters” for initial attack, and “fire district managers” to work with our inter-agency partners.

IV. Other Business

The Committee decided to add a standing update to the agenda for the Forest Health/Fuels Reduction work-group.

There was agreement to schedule the committee meeting date as the 4th Wednesday of each month with the exception of the need to move the May meeting to June 1st.

V. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 9:00am, on June 1, 2016 at Suncadia Resort. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:13 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Lacey Vaughn, approved by Gary Berndt.
Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the June 1st, 2016 meeting.