

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

8/22/2018

DNR SE Region Large Conference Room

713 Bowers Rd

Ellensburg, WA

Committee Members Present:

Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative
Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair
Dave Johnson – Fire Commissioner – *conference call*
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner
J.D. Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside) – *conference call*
Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)
Melissa Gannie – Assistant State Fire Marshal – *conference call*
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)
Reese Lolley – Nature Conservancy

Committee Members Absent:

Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)
Chuck LeBlanc – State Fire Marshal
Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside)
Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency

Guests/Other Attendees:

Loren Torgerson – Wildfire Policy Advisor
Ken Elliott – Wildfire Division
Jim Passage, Guest
Julie Sackett – Forest Health, DNR
Hilary Lundgren – WA State Fire Adapted Community Learning Network
Aaron Schmidt – Assistant Division Manager, DNR

I. Opening, Roll Call

Chair Berndt call the meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. on August 22nd, 2018 in Ellensburg, WA.

II. Reese Lolley, Nature Conservancy

Reese Lolley was introduced as a new committee member, replacing Tom Bugert. Both of them are from the Nature Conservancy, which represent the environmental member listed in EGB 2093. Reese provided a brief bio of his experience and training.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Berndt called for approval of the minutes from the July 25th, 2018 committee meeting. Committee member Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt moved to approve the minutes, Committee member Dave LeFave seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. DNR/WSP Update

- a. Melissa Gannie, from the State Fire Marshal's office reported response to 21 state mobilization requests at an approximate cost of \$7.88 million to date.
- b. Aaron Schmidt reported that there have been 1,000 incidents to this date since 1/1/2018, and that an average year has been 817 incidents on state and private protection. Aaron also reported that there are 7 IMTs currently committed to incidents and that DNR currently has 9 small air tankers and 19 total helicopters.
- c. Loren Torgerson provided a presentation on the current 10 strategies and a discussion of each as the strategic plan will incorporate those into the plan. Committee members are requested to review and make any recommendations directly to Loren no later than 8/31. A special meeting of WFAC may be needed prior to the next scheduled meeting to make final reviews of the strategic plan.
- d. Julie Sackett, from the Forest Health Strategic plan, provided an update of the activities currently being planned for 2018-2020 that will have funding. Julie also briefed the committee about the new effort in the USDA report concerning "shared stewardship across landscapes" that could provide more ability to accomplish forest health initiatives.

V. New Business

- a. Cody Desautel gave an update on the 17 state discussion on carbon incentives. Cody will continue to participate as potential incentives or priorities develop.
- b. Lee Hemmer updated the committee on the Grass Valley Fire in Douglas County and the intention of the County Conservation District to request pursuing the FEMA funds available through the Douglas County Commissioners.
- c. Dave LeFave provided information on his participation on a FAST (Fire and Aviation Safety) team that reviewed fires in Oregon and Washington. He stated that DNR had good reports from that review.

VI. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt gave a verbal chair report.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held at the Southeast Regional Office in the large conference room, 713 Bowers Rd, Ellensburg on Wednesday, September 26th, 2018.