

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 28, 2018

DNR SE Region Large Conference Room

713 Bowers Road

Ellensburg, WA

Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair
Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative
Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside)
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)
Reese Lolley – Statewide Environmental Representative
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner
Dave Johnson – Fire District Commissioner (Eastside) *Conference Call*
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary *Conference Call*
Melissa Gannie – Assistant Fire Marshal *Conference Call*
J.D Marshal – Industry Landowner (Timber) *Conference Call*
Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency *Conference Call*

Committee Members Absent:

Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)
Chuck LeBlanc – State Fire Marshal
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside)

Guests/Other Attendees:

Loren Torgerson - Wildfire Policy Advisor *Conference Call*
Julie Sackett - Forest Health Division Manager
Shelly Goodwin - Assistant to Wildland Fire Liaison

I. Opening, Roll Call

The meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on November 28, 2018 in Ellensburg, WA. Roll was taken, 6 members were present and 4 members were excused. Due to travel constraints, 5 members participated in the meeting by phone, constituting a quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 24, 2018 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve draft minutes made by Committee member Dave Johnson, seconded by Committee member Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt. Motion carried with Aye's.

III. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt, provided a verbal chair report.

Gary talked about talking last at a field & stream club. All about range type fires. Showed a power point called Vegetation Matters. Landscape scale then brought down to land owners. Comes down to fire adapted communities.

Stevens County Chiefs – deferred to Melissa – They reached out to Stevens County to discuss their concerns. A lot of it was about how resources were deployed. Randy Johnson stated, nothing that they brought up was new and there will be frustrations no matter what.

Gary asked how many are part of the chiefs association – Less than half. Discussion regarding that and Randy Johnson clarified the statute – Each county within the fire defense region selects a representative.

IV. DNR/WSP Update

- a. Melissa Gannie from the State Fire Marshal's office reported there have been no fires since the last meeting. They are still processing payment and reimbursement so no dollar figure for the year yet.
- b. Julie Sackett Forest Health division manager reported on both Wildfire and Forest Health. George was in DC attending meetings, Aaron is on vacation, and Chuck was in a meeting in Poulsbo with the chiefs who said they are in support of our budget and will take it to the legislature. Wildfire and Forest Health's official split will be the first of the year. Northport school district received state funding for a wood pellet stove. They will be getting pellets from Idaho but hopefully in the future it will be available here. Julie is meeting with people to try and build that network of connections. Hilary announced another 90 million dollar budget request, it's a package for environmental resilience. It is still important for Forest Health and Wildfire. Reports are coming due on December 1st there are 32 recommendations out of that report and we are already implementing 15 of them. Legislature and OFM are requesting more detail on what exactly the budget request contains. They want measurable metrics. Cody offered to send Julie information from their reports that quantifies what the legislature is looking for. There was discussion among the group regarding other SB's, also discussion on grazing. Discussion on the links Gary sent. WFAC & FHAC work together to meet goals and work closely together. DNR has a small group getting together with FHAC focus – all on the same page as to what FHAC is and how we can work together.
- c. Loren Torgerson, Wildfire Policy advisor gave an update on the Wildland Firefighting strategic plan. The final draft was finished on November 16th and it is now with DNR executive management. There is a meeting with Hilary the first week in December. It was scoped at 40 pages and it came in at 120, pretty good blueprint.

V. New Business

- a. WFAC – Who is missing? What is the task of the group? Depends on what they are advising about and what skill level is needed. What are the expectations? Will be on the agenda for January.

- b. Meeting schedule was discussed. Should it stay at monthly or go to quarterly? Depends on the role of the committee. Decided to go 3 more months in a row and decide from there.
- c. SB 2561 – response – giving draft to Commissioner and they produce interim report.
- d. Karen Arnold update was read. This program will be for the general public also. All land owner track and report.
- e. AAR – Do you want to do AAR with your constituents and bring it back to the committee? Cody stated it had improved over the last 3-4 years. Dave stated that there is still room for improvement. Tony said DNR is better involved now. Randy said it is speculative but still based on science. Incorporate – other than Wildfire – how do we do that? Discussion on timber/commercial.

VI. Final Q&A

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10 am, on January 23, 2018, DNR NRB EOB 1111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:43 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Shelly Goodwin, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the January 23, 2018 meeting.