

MINUTES OF THE WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 11, 2016
Olympia, WA

In attendance -

Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair

Committee Members Present:

Tom Bugert
Tony Craven
Chuck Duffy
Dave Johnson
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt
Dave LaFave
Mel Tonasket
Mike Chapman (Bill Peach) (By phone)
J.D. Marshall (By phone)
Rodney Smoldon (By phone)

Committee Members Absent:

Jim DeTro (excused)
Allen Miller (excused)
Dave Leitch (excused)

Guests/Other Attendees:

Robert Johnson, DNR Division Manager, Wildfire Division
Lacey Vaughn, DNR Support Supervisor

I. Opening, Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:01 a.m. on February 11, 2016 in Olympia, WA. Roll was taken and three members were absent and excused. Due to inclement weather and treacherous travel conditions, three members participated in the meeting by phone.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 21, 2016 Committee meeting were presented and reviewed in draft form. Corrections to IV. New Business, section d. were submitted. Upon committee review, a motion to correct said section was carried to a vote of 11 Ayes, 0 Nays. A motion to approve the January 21, 2016 minutes, as corrected, was made by Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt, seconded by Chuck Duffy, and carried unanimously.

III. Old Business

a. Contractors Meeting

Committee member Smoldon spoke about the contractors' sign-up meeting in Colville, and the percentage of contractors in attendance that were on VIPR contracts. He said that he was led to believe that less than half in attendance were on contract. Chairman Berndt spoke about the contractors' meeting that he attended in Wenatchee, saying that he thought that this meeting for the contractors had mostly VIPR contractors in attendance. Communication in

the meeting centered on transportation, getting and moving equipment efficiently with state mobilization, trying to keep resources and move them to where they can be the most useful.

IV. Agency & Legislative Updates

- a. Guest Robert Johnson, DNR Wildfire Division Manager, spoke about bills that were currently pending in the Washington State Legislature, and DNR's continued commitment to work with bill sponsors. Committee member Bugert shared a summary/tracking sheet provided to him with all current bills affecting DNR this State Legislative session. Committee members showed an interest in obtaining a copy of this report, and Chairman Berndt will work with the DNR to see about obtaining copies for the committee.

V. New Business

a. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt shared with the committee that an announcement is set to be released noting that he has resigned his county commissioners' seat to focus more on his role as the Wildland Fire Liaison. He apprised the committee that he has weekly visits, either by phone or in person, with the Commissioner of Public Lands. He asked that the committee consider possible ways to bring back the committee's recommendations and statements to the Commissioner.

b. Committee discussion in regards to prescribed burns

Committee members Craven and Marshall shared findings of their prescribed fire workgroup meeting centered on prescribed burns. During discussion, all were in agreement that this is a long-term project with the goal being to assist with suggestions to DNR. The committee spoke about the need to have the message get out to homeowners and landowners. Committee member Marshall shared a bill passed in 2014, USFS "Good Neighbor Bill", for the committee to review. (<http://www.usda.gov/documents/usda-2014-farm-bill-highlights.pdf>) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/gna.shtml>)

Also shared to the committee were the following documents:

http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_fh_foresthealthreport.pdf

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ga/apps/sbcc/File.ashx?cid=847>

http://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_fh_leg_report_2014.pdf

c. ICS training for executives slide presentation

Committee member LaFave showed a slide show presentation constructed for viewing at "ICS for Executives" training. Committee members LaFave and Johnson shared that this format for executives would be easy to follow and reasonable for time constraints.

d. Tribal Concerns

Committee member Mel Tonasket shared concern from his experiences with contracting issues, tribal logging vs. DNR mandates, and finding a better way to communicate what resources are available and mobilized. Mr. Tonasket shared concerns also with the recognition of one type of fire qualifications card to another, and how sometimes that can

hold up progression of men and materials. The Committee discussed the possibility that agencies might recognize of each other's "types" of cards.

e. Committee discussion on Fire District Assistance/Training

Committee members discussed the opportunities that might be presented to hold multiple training sessions, one in Eastern Washington and one in Western Washington, with the goal of standardizing the communication between DNR and the local Fire Districts.

VI. Other Business

A suggestion was made by Chairman Berndt to begin a new work-group centered on the financial and accountability side of prescribed burns. More discussion will be determined at the next meeting.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 9:00 a.m. on March 24, 2016 in Olympia, Washington. The meet was adjourned by acclamation at 2:31 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Lacey Vaughn, approved by Gary Berndt.

Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the March 24, 2016 meeting.