

# WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2020  
Natural Resources Building  
EOB  
1111 Washington St SE  
Olympia WA 98501

## Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair  
Dave Johnson – Fire District Commissioner (Eastside)  
Reese Lolley – Statewide Environmental Representative  
Bill Slosson – Assistant Fire Marshal *Conference Call*  
Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)  
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner  
Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside) *Conference Call*  
Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative *Conference Call*  
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary  
J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber) *Conference call*  
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside)  
Melissa Gannie – Assistant Fire Marshal *Conference Call*

## Committee Members Absent:

Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)  
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)  
Erick Walker – USFS Deputy Forest Supervisor

## Guests/Other Attendees:

Loren Torgerson - Wildfire Policy Advisor  
George Geissler – State Forester and Deputy Supervisor for WD and FH  
Angie Lane – Planning ADM  
Shelly Goodwin - WFAC Coordinator  
Andy Tate – Fire Prevention and Fuel Reduction Program Manager  
Tom Bugert – Senior Strategic Advisor

### I. Opening, Roll Call

The meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on January 23, in Olympia, WA. Roll was taken, 7 members were present and 2 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 September 26, 2019 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve draft minutes made by Committee member Lee Hemmer, seconded by Committee member Dave Johnson. Motion carried with Aye's.

### III. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt, provided a verbal chair report. Focused on why there was a recess on the meetings after September. Also mentioned that he will be stepping down come April, working on the PDF for the position now. Presented awards to Kirk Davis and Nicki Henke for their effort in the HB 2561 report. Also presented awards Loren, Annie and sub-committee members.

### IV. DNR/WSP Update

- a. Tom Bugert Senior Strategic Advisor – At Hilary's request wanted to express a huge message of gratitude for all the work that was done on the 2561 report. There has been positive feedback from external sources. We are at the three year mark of WFAC, It is time to take stock and I will be reaching out to each of you to touch base and see how this committee is working for everyone.
- b. Andy Tate, Fire and Fuel Manager updated on Forest Health – Forest Health has hired the Fire Risk Manager (Ana Barros) and Fire Ecologist (Kate Williams). They both start in February. The Division is starting phase 2, the Forest Health tracking database. Jen Watkins will lead this effort. This is a tool to monitor and track treatments – looking at everything in one big picture. Discussed C plus C Social Marketing and Outreach Strategy. Discussion on PODS.
- c. ?
- d. Bill Slosson from the State Fire Marshal's Office reported there is a Fire Defense Committee meeting before the end of January. Fire Marshal's office is also planning the roll out of training for 2020.
- e. Angie Lane from Wildfire Division Planning updated the committee on wildfire activities- Supporting information requests from legislature. Finished the first, in recent years the Wildfire Division Annual Report. Wildland Fire Academy dates have been set. The 2020 training will be focused on basic required courses. Due to reductions in funding from years past. There are three academies this year and the National Guard will be incorporated in them. The Regions will be involved with training and team support. Wildfire Division still has three more positions to hire for. They are also in the process of integrating Wildfire and Forest Health activities prioritize work on Strategic Plan implementation.
- f. Loren Torgerson, Wildfire Policy advisor gave an update. HB 2561 report is done and was submitted last week, there were only a few minor edits. There is no legislation action on it at this time. Gary has been hounding him to get a work plan or strategy on paper. Plan based on elements in the 10 year plan. Loren will determine at what is needed in regard to risk analysis, and would like to see the committee take those tasks and advise management on them. The Advisory committee is set up to advise or recommend. Fire Funding bill HB 2413 would place a surcharge on property casualty and liability policies of \$5 per policy. There will be more discussion on Fire Fund bill. Utilities SS 5305 Electric Utility

Fire Prevention taskforce. Where utilities cross state lands. Discussion. Also discussion on bond bill 6195.

- g. George Geissler State Forester – 30 new position permanent fire fighters are being onboarded next month. They will be working seven months in Forest Health and five months in Wildfire. DNR has purchased a type 3 helicopter (Bell Ranger) that needs to be transported from out of state. The “build out” on the type 2 is on track. DNR previously had one “belly” or internal tank and have now added two more to the fleet. These all were major parts of the decision package. Also discussed America Burning – 1973, it’s what put sprinklers in buildings. It was proposed to the Fire Leadership Council that the report be updated.

**V. Final Q&A – Committee roundtable**

- a. Discussion on how MOB is requested.
- b. April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup> Prescribed Fire training exchange
- c. Washington Prescribed Fire Council in Spokane February 27

**VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10 am, on February 27 at Natural Resources Building 1111 Washington St SE Olympia, WA.

Draft minutes submitted by Shelly Goodwin, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the February 27, 2020 meeting.