

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2018

DNR SE Region Large Conference Room

713 Bowers Road

Ellensburg, WA

Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner
Dave Johnson – Fire District Commissioner (Eastside)
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary *Conference Call*
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside) *Conference Call*
J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber) *Conference Call*
Reese Lolley – Statewide Environmental Representative *Conference Call*
Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency *Conference Call*

Committee Members Absent:

Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative
Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside)
Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)
Chuck LeBlanc – State Fire Marshal
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)

Guests/Other Attendees:

George Geissler – Deputy Supervisor Wildfire
Aaron Schmidt – Wildfire ADM Emergency Operations
Julie Sackett - Forest Health Division Manager
Bill Slosson - CDSFM
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 October 24, 2018 in Ellensburg, WA. Roll was taken, 3 members were present and 6 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, 2018 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve draft minutes as corrected made by Committee member Tony Craven, seconded by Committee member Chuck LaBlanc. Motion carried with Aye's.

III. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt, provided a verbal chair report.

Gary talked about attending the Washington Fire Adapted Communities conference in Hood River. Discussed how they are buying land, cleaning and finding a way to use small wood to benefit the community but are not having great success, Reese Lolley talked about Mt. Adam Resource Stewarts – 10 year old log yard – small business incubator. Also Washington Fire Adapted Community has been around about three years and the first one state wide, now there are three. Engaging by sharing resources and lessons learned. The three day work shop held get them together and share. See Attachment A.

Tony Craven talked about LEP. Four people from the National Guard are putting together a program for emergency management and LEP. Leadership part – best practices – engaging people outside of the engaged.

Attachment A.

Gary reported on a fire that started near Leahy junction and burned all the way to Grand Coulee. Lee Hemmer and his sons were impacted but they will probably not get much relief. Nov. 6th Grand Coulee meeting.

IV. DNR/WSP Update

- a. Bill Slosson from the State Fire Marshal's office reported there have been no fires since the last meeting. There have been a total of 24 fires and only the second time ever in total mobilization. Spent an estimate of 9.1 million this fire season a push into the supplemental budget for the 5th out of the last 6 biennium. The WSP is required to submit a supplemental budget request whenever the cost exceeds the \$8 million allotment from the Disaster Account for the biennium. Legislative approval is required to increase the allotment and cover all the incurred costs
- b. Aaron Schmidt Wildfire ADM Emergency Operations reported that it's been a busy fire season. DNR had 1760 responses this year, 1062 DNR classified fires, 107316 acres burned on DNR jurisdiction. We shoot for 95% of fires 10 acres or less and we are sitting at 94%. Average 12 to 15 new starts per week, not all of them turn into big fires. We have 70 DNR engines in service. Fixed wing has been retired for the season. We have 5-7 Rotor wing in service 5 days a week. Eight teams are out about 3-5 times a week. Aviation program is robust. They assist ground forces and buy fire fighters time. In the past we were reluctant to use them because of cost. WA National Guard was successful with aviation and ground crews. 342 soldiers were activated. See attachment B.
- c. Julie Sackett Forest Health division manager reported continuing to work on SB5546, report is due December 1st. It will be directed towards the legislature, stake holders, and the general public. FHAC has made a small subgroup that is working on redefining the fact sheet. We are on the path towards getting the new division up and running. We are getting close to filling vacant positions. Went to a conference with Regions 6 and 10 there was a lot of different components of interest. What really resonated was shared responsibility across the landscape. The bottom line is communication is hard because people have so much on their plate. DNR has already signed the Good Neighbor Agreement and Fish & Wildlife is working on it now. There is concern on both Federal and State sides. There have been two successful Sold sales and we are anticipating two more by June. Oregon has had one Sold sale.

- d. Aaron Schmidt Wildfire ADM Emergency Operations reported on the Matrix highlighting pages 7.3, 8.2, 11.2, 13 and he passed the baton to Julie Sackett on page 16. See attachment C

V. New Business

- a. George Geissler Deputy Supervisor discussion on budget. There are questions on all of it. Met with OFM on engine boss request, they thought we would get all new people instead of a conversion. This one will have a lot of questions going to partners. Training.
- b. WFAC – What is the group going forward and what do we need? We have common members and common goals, we also need separate. Who is not in the room that should be at the table, conservation, mayor, Washington Counsel? Look in the area of expertise but can also see the bigger picture. Frame everything around both strategies. First time we have a chance for stability. What can we do that gives us a better tomorrow?

VI. New Business

- a. No New Business was discussed.

VII. Final Q&A

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10 am, on November 28, 2018, Southeast Regional Office in the large conference room 713 Bowers Rd. Ellensburg. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:00 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Shelly Goodwin, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the November 28, 2018 meeting.