

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2019

USFS Cle Elum Ranger Station

803 W 2nd St

Cle Elum WA

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)
Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside) *Conference Call*
Erick Walker – USFS Deputy Forest Supervisor

Committee Members Absent:

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary
J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside)

Guests/Other Attendees:

Loren Torgerson - Wildfire Policy Advisor
Annie Smith -
Angie Lane – Prescribed Fire Program Manager
Shelly Goodwin - WFAC Coordinator
TJ Martinell - Guest

I. Opening, Roll Call

The meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on September 26, 2019 in Cle Elum, WA. Roll was taken, 8 members were present and 4 members were excused. Due to travel constraints, 2 members participated in the meeting by phone, constituting a quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 22, 2019 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve draft minutes made by Committee member Dave Johnson, seconded by Committee member Lee Hemmer. Motion carried with Aye's.

III. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt, provided a verbal chair report. Focused on helping Annie. Happy with sub and committee. Going to be busy helping with looking at the Okanagan County Wildland Firefighter that was burned and passed away. What can be carried forward in the future from this?

IV. DNR/WSP Update

- a. Bill Slosson from the State Fire Marshal's Office reported no activity since the last report. Off standby but still available.
- b. Angie Lane discussed both Forest Health and Wildfire. Forest Health is focusing on hiring and finishing up PDF's, also putting the finishing touches on the database, Wildfire - Finalizing the budget has been a struggle but they are working through it. Training funding is the big challenge. How much has training been costing? The current training program has been doing everything for everyone. Data- fire statistics are all over the board. We need to buy in to a specific system. Define trigger points for everything fire. Resources for fire business. Fires - Where, who, when - cost. Get a handle on reporting accurate costs.
- c. Loren Torgerson, Wildfire Policy advisor gave an update. No legislature issues at this time. Wrap up report. Work session testified re. Last fire season - drought declaration. Local use of aircraft - safety - DNR can't respond to some airspace if locals are using it.

V. LEP

- a. Develop plans not recommendations. During wildfire response - aimed at DNR - Working with other stakeholders on best practices.
- b. Randy - Hard to put in the same priority as the other tasks on this committee - community issues
- c. Dave - Deaf community?
- d. Discussion on who is responsible for what and when on translation. Continue to review and refine.

VI. Community Programs

- a. Built and based on findings and recommendations from the committee. Did this capture your intent?
- b. Reese - discussion on WF and FH, who is responsible for what when it is integrated (Engine boss/Forest worker)? Building in crosswalks between divisions. Who is paying for it?
- c. Trying to find the right homes for programs in the department.
- d. Trust Annie to make changes to this - Edit and revise.

VII. Unprotected Lands

- a. Originally 5 recommendations, one had to do with a bill that didn't pass and was covered in status report and not needed.
- b. Approved - Language change to "support" instead of "would support".
- c. Addition of table #1 try to simplify how - where we have unprotected land. Table #2 criteria on how we were going to select an option. No questions on tables.

- d. Added some wording (disclosure) at the end. Consistent definition of forest land in state.
- e. Big deal for fire districts
- f. Revision (consensus) – Concur with the process used by DNR to develop administrative actions in response to the JLARK report on FFPA.

VIII. Final Q&A – Committee roundtable

- a. Annie – The draft will undergo clarification and revision. Final read on October 21st, clean draft version for sharing will be released soon.
- b. Tony – Drought is catching up now with the beetle infestation and trees dying.
- c. Tuscan Moth – Bug report discussion

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:05 p.m.

At the time of adjournment the decision was to do a Doodle Poll for the October 2019 meeting.

Draft minutes submitted by Shelly Goodwin, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the October 31, 2019 meeting.