

MINUTES OF THE WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 24, 2016
Olympia, WA

In attendance -

Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair

Committee Members Present:

Tony Craven-Small Forest Landowner
Chuck Duffy- State Fire Marshall
Dave Johnson- Fire Commissioner
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt- State Land Trust Beneficiary
Mel Tonasket- Tribal Nations Representative
Dave Leitch- Fire Chief (Eastside)
J.D Marshall- Industry Landowner (Timber)
Jim DeTro (By phone) - County Commissioner (Eastside)

Committee Members Absent:

Tom Bugert (excused) - Statewide Environmental Representative
Allen Miller (excused) – Industry Landowner (Range)
Dave LaFave (excused) – Fire Chief (Westside)
Rodney Smoldon (excused) – Federal Fire Agency
Mike Chapman (excused) – County Commissioner (Westside)

Guests/Other Attendees:

Mary Verner, DNR Deputy Supervisor, Wildfire Division
John Kaikkonen, DNR Deputy Division Manager, Wildfire Division
Lacey Vaughn, DNR Support Supervisor
Lee Hemmer

I. Opening, Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:04 a.m. on March 24, 2016 in Olympia, WA. Roll was taken and five members were absent and excused. Due to inclement weather and treacherous travel conditions, one member participated in the meeting by phone.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 21st council meeting were presented and reviewed. Committee member Duffy asks to have members' affiliations within the committee added to the minutes, and Chairman Berndt to review the minutes at the draft stage. Motion to approve minutes made by Committee member Johnson, seconded by Committee member Pfeiffer-Hoyt. Motion carried with unanimous Aye's.

III. Old Business

No old business was discussed due to time constraints.

IV. New Business

a. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt shared with the committee that Committee member Chapman will be unavailable to continue on the committee. The Commissioner of Public Lands will approve and appoint a replacement. Also, Committee member Miller will be unavailable to continue on the committee due to family constraints, and the Commissioner of Public Lands will appoint Lee Hemmer to represent the Industry Landowner- Range.

Chairman Berndt also shared with the committee the presentations and meetings that he has attended. Information regarding the 2016 Washington large fire pre-season meeting at Mt. Baker with John Rendergrass, on May 13th in Monroe, Washington, was provided via hand-out. Other pre-burn type meetings were also discussed within the committee.

Chairman Berndt shared with the committee his desire to report some of the recommendations of the committee sooner than October to the Commissioner of Public Lands.

b. Committee discussion regarding certification standards

Committee members' round table discussion was the possibility of all personnel meeting 310-1 qualifications and whether or not it would be possible for the committee to provide a recommendation regarding standard qualifications to the Commissioner of Public Lands.

c. Fire Training Academies

John Kaikkonen of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, shared with the committee the three upcoming Fire Training Academies scheduled for the Westside, Central, and Eastside of Washington. He shared with the committee the ongoing work between the Department of Natural Resources and the National Guard.

d. Legislative Bill Reviews

Mary Verner of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources shared with the committee final notes from the legislative session. She noted that a significant number of bill concepts were deliberated by the legislature, and that two bills important to wildfire management were passed: E.S.H.B 2928, three pilot prescribed burning efforts, some being on federal land; and E.S.H.B 2925, a livestock access bill.

V. Other Business

During this meeting 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 to be determined at the next meeting.

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 9:00 a.m. on April 27, 2016 at CWICC training center, East Wenatchee, Washington. The meet was adjourned by acclamation at 12:09 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Lacey Vaughn, approved by Gary Berndt.
Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the April 27, 2016 meeting.