

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2017

DNR SE Region Office

Large Conference Room

713 Bowers Road

Ellensburg, WA

Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair

Dave Johnson – Fire Commissioner – *conference call*

J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)

Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)

Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside) – *conference call*

Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside) – *conference call*

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary

Committee Members Absent:

Chuck LeBlanc – State Fire Marshal

Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative

Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside)

Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)

Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency

Tom Bugert – Statewide Environmental Representative

Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner

Guests/Other Attendees:

Aaron Schmidt, Wildfire Assistant Division Manager

Loren Torgerson, Wildfire Policy Advisor

Tami Kellogg, Executive Assistant to Deputy Supervisor Wildfire

Ken Elliott, Wildfire Division

Chad James, SE Region

Bill Slosson, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal, Washington State Patrol

Jim Passage, Lake Wenatchee

I. Opening, Roll Call

Chair Berndt call the meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. on November 29, 2017 in Ellensburg, WA. After roll call there were seven members present and seven members were excused. Due to travel constraints, three members participated in the meeting by phone, constituting a quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Berndt called for approval of the minutes from the October 25, 2017 committee meeting. Committee member Johnson moved to approve the minutes, Committee member Detro seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Old Business

- a. Forest Health Update – Loren Torgerson; Mr. Torgerson briefed the committee on the roll out of The Forest Health Strategic Plan, with Commissioner Franz

seating the Forest Health Advisory Committee. He let the Committee know the department hired a scientist to start on the process of the strategic plan by identifying priorities for treatments, which will be shared with the legislature. Mr. Torgerson noted that some of the treatments planned are tied to the yet to be approved capital budget.

- b. Request for Proposal Selection Update –Loren Torgerson; Mr. Torgerson provided information on the selection of a consultant to assist with the update to the 20-year Wildland Fire Strategic Plan and that a kick off meeting with the consultant would take place in January. He shared the concept on the involvement of the WFAC in development of the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan. Committee member Marshall asked what the due date is and Mr. Torgerson replied that it was due June 2018. Chair Berndt said he and Mr. Torgerson will work to share preliminary information with the Committee sometime in December in preparation of the meeting in January.

IV. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt provided an update for the committee on his activities over the past month and provided hard copies of his report. Chair Berndt spoke about the draft AAR document circulated earlier in November and asked for feedback:

- Prevention and Regulation:
 - Better communication throughout the counties;
 - who to communicate through
 - Localizing the burn ban reduced calls to the SFM office.
 - Improve Prevention/communication on the burn ban
 - Improve Update RCWs/WACs
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- Preparedness:
 - Prepositioning
 - Desire of fire protection districts to get aviation assets quicker
 - Coalesce fire data
 - Improve data on fire starts from the last 2-3 years.
- WFAC:
 - Bring in more presenters to share information
 - Lessons learned from fires other states
 - Reviewing BC and CA after action fire reports
- Relationships:
 - Gary to meet with timber counties at WSAC.
 - Improve CPI of PNWCG; better messaging distributed and better feedback; think about better prevention messaging
 - Improve relationships with fire agencies
 - More consistency would be better between the fire agencies/type 3 teams.
 - Traditional and successional planning.
 - Success – type 2 IC's deliberate risk management by standing teams down to ensure care of the team
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- Suppression:
 - Improvements/IPFL worked better this season, have pumper trucks on sites; do more inspections/
 - IMT participation and selection – off season agency administrator commitments, prioritization,

**MAC – Multi Agency Coordination – national level

V. DNR Update

Mr. Schmidt provided an update on Wildfire Division update of the 2017 fire season. He invited the WFAC to come to the training academies for 2018 Fire Season. He noted at 25% growth between the 2016 and 2017 training academies. Chair Berndt asked about volunteers in Fire Districts who can't commit to training academies since they have a regularly scheduled job and how they could get the training. Mr. Schmidt replied there are opportunities with ready reserve money and suggests they work with their local DNR region office. Additionally, DNR would work to provide another training opportunity to those who can't take the time off. .

VI. New Business

- a. After Action Review (AAR) 2017 – Aaron Schmidt provided an overview of the 2017 AAR he shared with the committee. During his briefing he noted three areas of success and three areas for improvement:

Items to success – top 3

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Interagency partnerships
- ✓ Preposition of assets

Items of improvement – top 3

- ✓ Safety culture
- ✓ Relationships
- ✓ Ensure all contractors who meet the criteria are on the list
- ✓ Challenges of where you fit/communication on requirements when you enroll in VIPR

VII. Final Q&A

- a. Meeting for December cancelled, Chair Berndt will follow up with the Committee in December on when a conference call will take place;
- b. Jim Passage complimented the prepositioning of the equipment during the 2017 fire season

*email charter to committee

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10 am, on January 24, at the DNR's Tumwater Compound on 88th Street. The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:05 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Tami Kellogg, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the January meeting.

