

MINUTES OF THE WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 24, 2016
North Bend FTA, North Bend, Washington

In Attendance:

Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair

Committee Members Present:

Tony Craven- Small Forest Landowner
Cody Desautel - Tribal Nations Representative
Chuck Duffy - State Fire Marshal
Dave Leitch- Fire Chief (Eastside)
Dave Johnson - Fire Commissioner
Dave LaFave - Fire Chief (Westside) – by phone
Lee Hemmer - Industry Landowner (Range)
Tom Bugert - Statewide Environmental Representative

Committee Members Absent:

Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt - State Land Trust Beneficiary
Rodney Smoldon - Federal Fire Agency
J.D Marshall - Industry Landowner (Timber)
Jim DeTro - County Commissioner (Eastside)
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)

Guests/Other Attendees:

Loren Torgerson, Acting Deputy Supervisor for Wildfire – by phone
Bob Johnson, DNR, Wildfire Division Manager – by phone
Tami Kellogg, DNR, Executive Assistant to Deputy Supervisor Wildfire

I. Opening, Roll Call

The ninth meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on August 24, 2016 in North Bend, WA. Roll was taken and 5 members were absent and excused and 9 members were present, constituting a quorum. Due to travel constraints, 1 member participated in the meeting by phone.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July 27, 2016 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve draft minutes made by Committee member Johnson, seconded by Committee member Craven. Motion carried with 8 Aye's. Mr. Bugert abstained since he was not present at the July meeting.

III. Old Business

a. Issues Discussion/Finalize

Chairman Berndt provided a briefing combining training issues 3, 7 and 8 into one document, Issue 11, and called for an overview from Dave Johnson on Issue 11.

Issue 11: Mr. Dave Johnson provided an overview on the process and discussion that took place to combine the training issues into one issue paper and explained the different tiers as referenced in Issue 11. Chairman Berndt called for a motion to approve Issue 11 and delete Issues 3, 7, 8; Mr. Craven moved to approve Issue 11, Mr. Hemmer seconded the motion to finalize Issue 11. The motion carried with unanimous Aye's.

Issue 5: Chairman Berndt briefed the committee on Issue 5. Chief Leitch provided an overview on the process for a grant program, including the different types of grants, separate from the FEMA grant program. Chairman Berndt committed to re-work wording under recommendations section, paragraph 2 and called for a motion to move Issue 5 forward. Mr. Johnson moved to approve, Mr. Craven seconded the motion. Motion carried with unanimous Aye's.

Wildfire Update: Bob Johnson and Loren Torgerson - an update was provided on the specific fires occurring across the state, the challenges and preparedness at potential locations at risk of fire.

Issue 2: Chairman Berndt asked committee to review this issue paper and be prepared to finalize at next meeting.

Fire Resiliency Issue: Mr. Bugert provided an overview on a possible fire resiliency/forest health issue paper and shared information on the desired outcome of legislators and stakeholders. Mr. Bugert proposed to send out a draft that considers stakeholder input via email for review and discussion with committee members and bring forward final version for approval at the September 28th meeting. Chairman Berndt made note that the committee's priority is to bring fire-related recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Lands. Commissioner Gardner, Mr. Bugert, Mr. Craven and Mr. Desautel, and Mr. Marshall will work together on this issue.

2017 Legislative Priorities: Mr. Torgerson shared with the committee appreciation for the great work done and discussed potential legislative priorities. These included expansion of fire academies, enhancing local fire district response capabilities by improving equipment and training, improve DNR's response capabilities by placing additional engines and overhead in high risk areas, evaluating DNR's systems for collecting fire information and weather data.

Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt shared with the committee his meetings that he had this last month (attached) and noted the committee will receive an email copy of his activities. Chairman Berndt reported that he had completed a list of potential landowner representatives that may be asked to assist fire managers with local information and had sent letters under Loren Torgerson's signature to each. Several of those volunteers would like to know what is expected of them.

Chairman Berndt indicated that this list was only for DNR managed incidents, which led to a discussion that some landowners have a resistance to join a fire district and property in “no mans” land, which seems to be due to paying for the cost of a fire district.

b. DNR Wildfire Budget Updates – Postponed until September.

Loren Torgerson, WA DNR

IV. New Business

a. WSP State Mobilization Fire Update –

State Fire Marshal Duffy provided an overview of the State Fire Mobilization Plan. See fire Marshals webpage: <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/firemars.htm> for information on fire mob requests.

b. Issue 10 – Rangeland Protection Association (WRA) – Mr. Hemmer provided an over view of the issue and a local desire to create an option to for WRA to assist in the event of a wildland fire. Chairman Berndt will meet with WRA to gain information and find contact info for BLM program manager who runs a similar program.

c. Issue 11 – Combined Training – discussed and approved under old business.

d. Upcoming meetings 09/28/16 – Suncadia Resort, 10/26/16 – Suncadia Resort, 11/30/16 - Olympia, No December meeting

e. Budget recommendations by 9/30

f. Other business

V. Final Q&A

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10 am, on September 28, 2016, 2016 at Suncadia Resort. The following meetings were also scheduled: October 26, 2016 – Suncadia Resort; November 30, 2016 – Olympia; December – no meeting this month. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:24 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Tami Kellogg, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt.

Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the September 28th, 2016 meeting.