

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2016
Suncadia Resort
3600 Suncadia Trail
Cle Elum, Washington 98922

Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner
Chuck Duffy – State Fire Marshall
Dave Leitch – Fire Chief (Eastside)
Dave Johnson – Fire Commissioner
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside) – by phone
Tom Bugert – Statewide Environmental Representative
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary – by phone
Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)

Committee Members Absent:

Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)
J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)
Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative

Guests/Other Attendees:

Bob Johnson – DNR, Wildfire Division Manager
Josh Clark – DNR, Meteorologist – by phone
Tami Kellogg – DNR, Executive Assistant to Deputy Supervisor Wildfire

I. Opening, Roll Call

The tenth meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:10a.m., September 28, 2016 in Cle Elum, WA. Roll was taken and three members were absent and excused and 11 members were present, constituting a quorum. Due to travel constraints, two member participated in the meeting by phone.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 24, 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 10 Aye's. Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt abstained since he was not present at the August meeting.

III. Old Business

- a. Recap of Issue Status – Chair Berndt provided a briefing on what has occurred so far in the process. State Fire Marshal Chuck Duffy shared information about a wildfire summit on October 11, 2016, sponsored by Washington Fire Service Leadership Forum to determine how to blend services of DNR, USFS, WSP SFM

and private entities to establish a cohesive strategy for providing coverage statewide, including “no man’s land”.

IV. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt shared with the committee his meetings that he had last month (attached) and stated the committee will receive an email copy of his activities.

V. DNR Updates

Wildfire Weather Update – Josh Clark, WA DNR, Mr. Clark provided a historical briefing on weather patterns and an outlook on the weather for the next several months. A suggestion was made to share this information with the legislature in January 2017. Chair Berndt adjourned for a 15 minute break and reconvened the meeting at 11:35.

VI. New Business

- a. Issue 2 Heavy Equipment Contracting: Chair Berndt provided a short briefing on the issue. A discussion followed on ways to pay for PPE, encourage advance training, and the current process for the hire at fire agreement. Chair Berndt will make changes to the issue statement to include the following: outreach, pre-inspection, PPE, L&I, and the hire at fire form, and remove the VIPR section. Bob Johnson encourages pre and post fire season contract opportunities and equal pay rates, whether at a DNR fire State Mob fire, and the ease of transfer to different organizations when fighting fire.
- b. Issue 4 Communications: Chair Berndt provided an overview of the issue statement on radio programming and frequencies used during fire season. DNR plans to be clear and early with any changes to radio frequencies. Discussion took place resulting in the following recommendations: Radios that are easy to program and, portable. Chair Berndt will make these changes before submitting the recommendation to the Commissioner for approval.
- c. Issue 9 Information Technology: Chair Berndt provided an overview of the purpose of this issue recommendation. Recommendation should include FTE to maintain data. Chair Berndt to update issue statement before moving forward for Commissioner approval.
- d. Issue 12 Non-Academy and Prescribed Fire Training: Chair Berndt suggests including recommendation in Issue 11. Committee member Bugert moved to incorporate off-hour training in Issue #11 and move prescribed training to Issue #16 thereby dissolving Issue 12. Committee member Johnson seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously.
- e. Issue 13 Helicopter Pilot Training and Support Infrastructure: Chair Berndt provided an overview and discussion followed. It was suggested to remove the mobile issue support paragraph at the bottom of page one and the mobile support section on page 2 to create Issue #18; Committee member Bugert made a motion

to approve the changes to Issue 13, Committee member DeTro seconded the motion. After a discussion on the logistical way materials will be presented to the legislature the motion was approved unanimously.

- f. Issue 14 Initial Attack Preparedness and Response: Chair Berndt provided an overview and questioned the actual number of fire engines available, discussion followed. Committee member Bugert would like to see more detail on the costs of this recommendation and a suggestion was made to bold the entire section on enhanced leadership, and include retention in the title of bulleted section.
- g. Issue 15 Forest Inventory Data and Analysis: Committee member Bugert provided an overview of the issue statement and historical details, noting it is to be part of 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan. A language change under cost implication was suggested – add a sentence on WUI. Committee member Leitch moved to approve with the change, Committee Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- h. Issue 16 Prescribed Fire Training: Committee member Bugert provided a briefing on the paper and the intent of the recommendation. A discussion followed on qualifications, funding mechanisms, and the suggestion of a master agreement. Mr. Bugert will send a draft to the committee. Committee member Craven noted changes to document, including change item 3 to Burn Boss 2 to align with 3-10 certification, and allow for trainees to join other agency training as able, i.e. US Forest Service, State Fire Marshal and incorporate prescribed burn training from issue 12.
- i. Issue 17 Forest Health and Community Resiliency – Committee member Bugert gave the briefing for this recommendation and shared the last minute changes from DNR that are to be made to the recommendation. A discussion followed on why other agencies are included, funding and how the funding is used by other agencies. It was noted this document is seen as a guiding document. Committee member Johnson moved to approve the revised version noting the need of context on the definition of large, Committee member Craven seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee member Bugert moved to approve issues 2, 4, 9, 13, 14, 16 Committee member Craven seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10 am, on October 26, 2016 at Cle Elum Ranger Station. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:41p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Tami Kellogg, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the October 26th, 2016 meeting.