

MINUTES OF THE WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 30, 2016
Tumwater Fire Station
Tumwater, Washington

Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair
Chuck Duffy – State Fire Marshal
Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative – by phone
Dave Johnson – Fire Commissioner
Dave Leitch – Fire Chief (Eastside)
J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)
Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency – by phone
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary – by phone
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner – arrived at 10:57
Tom Bugert – Statewide Environmental Representative

Committee Members Absent:

Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside)

Guests/Other Attendees:

Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands
Sandra Kaiser, Communications Director
Bob Johnson, Wildfire Division Manager
Gerry Day, Wildfire Division Special Assistant
Mary Verner, Forest Health Strategic Plan Project Lead – by phone
Trevor McConchie, Strategic Advisor to the State Forester
Chuck Hersey, Acting Forest Health Program Manager
Tami Kellogg, Executive Assistant to Deputy Supervisor Wildfire
Jason Callahan, WFPA

I. Opening, Roll Call

The meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on November 30, 2016 in Tumwater, WA. Roll was taken, 6 members were present, 3 members participated in the meeting by phone due to travel constraints, and 2 members were excused, which constituted a quorum.

II. Commissioner of Public Lands

Chair Berndt on behalf of the committee recognized Commissioner Goldmark for his accomplishments during his tenure as Commissioner of Public Lands and presented him with a framed Smokey the Bear Commemorative Stamp and a tribute to fire fighters.

The Commissioner spoke to the committee and thanked them for their commitment to the committee. He spoke about the upcoming rapid response facility at the Omak airport for the eastern counties, including Okanogan County which is the most fire prone county in the state.

Commissioner Goldmark presented a DNR water bottle, shirt and hat to retired Chief Dave Leitch as recognition for his service on the committee.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 26, 2016 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve draft minutes made by Committee member Johnson, seconded by Committee member DeTro. Motion carried with 8 Aye's.

IV. Old Business

- a. Issue 18 Update** – Previously approved at the October meeting, Bob Johnson provided information the committee requested by sharing a spread sheet that indicates condition of currently-owned the helicopter fire support vehicles and details of the equipment. It was noted that none are FEPP (Federal Excess property program) and all are within the revolving fund. A discussion continued on availability of revolving account funds. Committee member Bugert suggested the department articulate the issues with the revolving fund being unable to support the replacement of support vehicles to the legislature.
- b. Amendment to the July 27, 2016 WFAC Minutes** – Chair Berndt informed the committee that no actual motion was recorded on the approval of Issue Recommendation 1: 310-1 Certification Training. Committee member Johnson motioned that the issue recommendation was approved at the July 27, 2016 meeting, Committee member Duffy seconded the motion. Approval by all except Committee member Bugert, who abstained.

V. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt provided an update for the committee on his activities over the past month and provided hard copies of his report. He pointed out the meeting with the Cattlemen's Association on November 10, a discussion with Representative Dent and discussion with a local fire chief on the need for DNR to communicate better with fire district chiefs. Discussion followed on the need for chiefs make an effort, especially during fire season, to put forth more effort to gather the information they are seeking.

Committee member Bugert stated he looks forward to the next round of recommendations and suggests sharing in advance the issues in order to facilitate stakeholder feedback prior to the meetings.

Chair Berndt shared committee member Pfeiffer-Hoyt's concerns, as a manager for trustees, regarding timber sales, fire, and trust income. Chair Berndt and Committee member Pfeiffer-Hoyt had a discussion with Angus Brodie at DNR. Committee member Pfeiffer-Hoyt will discuss further with Angus and report back to the committee.

VI. DNR Update

- a. Forest Health and Resiliency Roles** – Update and discussion lead by Mary Verner, Trevor McConchie and Chuck Hersey on the progress of the 20-year Forest Health Strategic Plan to solicit feedback from the committee.

Mr. Hersey, acting FH program manager, reviewed presentation materials, starting with the task the DNR has been assigned by the legislature, and shared the fact sheet for the 17-19 legislative budget request.

Committee member Bugert asked how the committee's work can contribute to the process. Mr. Hersey suggested as a stakeholder group to get feedback on progress. Ms. Verner posed some questions to the committee that resulted in a discussion on how to move this forward.

**Committee members Bugert, Craven, Marshall, Smolden, Desautel and Gardner will focus on this and bring it back to the committee.

**Will carry forest health/resiliency as standing agenda item over the next several months. Tami to coordinate with Committee member Bugert on time needed for monthly updates.

VII. New Business

- a. Issue 19: Pre-positioning Mobilization** – Chair Berndt provided an overview of the draft version of the issue paper presented to the committee for review and discussion.

Chief Duffy shared with the committee how this issue ties in with the State Fire Mobilization Plan. Chief Duffy said that per Washington State Patrol (WSP) Chief Batiste the WSP is neutral on this issue due to the statute restriction on funding pre-positioning. Chief Duffy will provide some editorial content to the issue paper and share with the committee.

Gerry Day mentioned another option through FEMA, who has a model of preparedness and a program, Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) where this could be reimbursable.

DeTro and Duffy left meeting 12:08

- b. Wildland Fire Advisory Committee Fact Sheet** – Chair Berndt to list accomplishments for the 2016 on the Fact Sheet.

Committee member Bugert shared he believes a work session may happen with the legislature in January 2017.

VIII. Final Q&A

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10 am, on January 25, 2017, in Olympia. No meeting will be held in December. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:50 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 25, 2017 meeting.