

MINUTES OF THE WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 21, 2016
Olympia, WA

In attendance -

Gary Berndt, Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair

Committee Members Present:

Tom Bugert
Tony Craven
Chuck Duffy
Dave Johnson
J.D. Marshall
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt
Dave LaFave
Mel Tonasket (by phone)

Committee Members Absent:

Jim DeTro (excused)
Mike Chapman (excused)
Allen Miller (excused)
Dave Leitch (excused)
Rodney Smoldon (excused)

Guests/Other Attendees:

Robert Johnson, DNR Division Manager, Wildfire Division
John Kaikkonen, DNR Deputy Division Manager, Wildfire Division
Karen Arnold, DNR Assistant Division Manager, Fire Prevention, Wildfire Division
Karen Ripley, DNR Assistant Division Manager, Forest Health, Wildfire Division
Lacey Vaughn, DNR Support Supervisor

I. Opening, Roll Call

The second meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:31 p.m. on January 21, 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 December 18th council meeting were presented and reviewed, no objections to carry to vote. Chairman called a vote to the committee, was seconded by Dave Johnson. Motion carries with unanimous Aye's.

III. Old Business

There was no old business discussed at this time due to time constraints.

IV. New Business

a. Wildland Fire Report

Chairman Berndt shared with the committee his report given to the Commissioner of Public Lands (as stated in ESHB 2093 (New Section 2)) on his recommendations regarding three specific issues. These being the opportunities for the Department of Natural Resources to increase training with the local fire protection districts, the have the ability to quickly evaluate the availability of local fire districts to allow local resources to be more efficiently and effectively dispatched, and finally the opportunity to increase and maintain the viability of local fire districts.

b. Committee discussion in regards to increased local Fire Department training

After discussion, committee members and the chair concluded that the committee will work on formulating a small work group consisting of committee members to articulate a plan for Fire Department training. This work group will report findings and ideas back to Chairman Berndt and the committee at the next committee meeting.

c. ICS training for executives

Chairman Berndt spoke to the committee about the ICS training for executives and was joined in the conversation by committee member LaFave and Johnson. Committee member LaFave commented that he has a small slide show presentation of ICS for executives that he would like to share with the committee at the next meeting.

d. Committee discussion in regards to seasonal fire support

Committee member Pfeiffer-Hoyt commented that the DNR also has challenges keeping up with the state timber sale program which contributes to not meeting its sustainable harvest level. He commented that there may be a need to provide training during other times of the year, not just during the main fire season. Chairman Berndt and committee members decided that this topic will be continued at the next working session.

e. Committee discussion on initial attack

Committee member Duffy asked the committees input and or ideas on how to improve initial attack plans. Committee member's discussion revolved around topics of forest health and thinning programs, checking with the Forest Service for a copy of their "action plan". Other ideas were presented and it was decided that this topic will be continued at the next working session.

In addition to these topics, conversation was had about providing committee findings to the Commissioner by the first of May, for its recommendations centered around training, initial attack, and Fire Department training.

V. Other Business

During this meeting a Wildfire Overview presentation was made to the committee by staff members of The Department of Natural Resources, Bob Johnson (Division Manager), John Kaikkonen (Deputy Division Manager), Karen Arnold (Assistant Division Manager, Fire Prevention) and Karen Ripley (Assistant Division Manager, Forest Health).

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10:00 a.m. on February 11, 2016 in Olympia, Washington. The meet was adjourned by acclamation at 5:46 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Lacey Vaughn, approved by Gary Berndt.
Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the February 11, 2016 meeting.