

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 27, 2017

Conference Call

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair
Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative – 10:30
Dave Johnson – Fire Commissioner
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside)
J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)
Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)
Randy Johnson, Fire Chief (Eastside)
Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency
Tom Bugert – Statewide Environmental Representative – 10:30

Committee Members Absent:

Chuck LeBlanc – State Fire Marshal
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)

Guests/Other Attendees:

Bob Johnson, Wildfire Division Manager
Gerry Day, Deputy Supervisor for Wildfire
Tami Kellogg, Executive Assistant
Melissa Gannie, ASFM, Washington State Patrol

I. Opening, Roll Call

Chair Berndt called the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee to order at 10:06 a.m. on September 27, 2017 in Olympia, WA. Roll was taken, seven members were present, participating by conference call, and 6 members were excused, constituting a quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 23, 2017 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve the draft was minutes made by Committee member LaFave and seconded by Committee member Hemmer. The motion carried with unanimous Aye's.

III. Old Business

- a. Forest Health Update – Mr. Day provided an update on the progress of the Forest Health Strategic Plan, with a roll out scheduled for October 25 in Cle Elum. Mr. Day also spoke about the progress of forming the Forest Health Advisory Committee.

- b. Charter Update – Mr. Day said Commissioner Franz has signed the Charter for the WFAC.
- c. Rangeland Fire Protection Association – Mr. Hemmer provided an update on the progress and shared details on meetings with the community and government representatives. Discussion followed on different options such as annexing fire districts; MOU's; and mutual aid agreements.
- d. 20-year Wildland Fire Fighting Strategic Plan Update – Mr. Day shared the department is hiring a contractor to complete the work on this plan.

IV. Chairman Report

Chair Berndt provided an update for the committee on his activities over the past month and provided hard copies of his report.

V. DNR Update

- a. **Wildfire Update** – Mr. Johnson provided an update on wildfire season noting the NW regional area went to preparedness level 5, which is the highest level for Oregon and Washington. He noted that many of the fires so far this season were on the federal landscape. Discussion followed on air support and the successes this fire season.

VI. New Business

- a. **After Action Review 2017 Fire Season** – Chair Berndt asked the committee about holding an after action review. Mr. Day suggested holding an AAR in October or November. Chair Berndt will construct questions for the committee to pose to their communities in regards to fire season.
- b. **Fire Suppression Budget** – Mr. Bugert suggested the committee view the CFO's presentation on fire budgeting.
- c. **Era of Mega Fires Presentation** - showing in Roslyn on October 6.
- d. **Topics for 2018**
 - i. **TREX Program**
 - ii. **More discussion on wildfire use /prescribed fires – risk and values**

VII. Final Comments

- October meeting may be facilitated Loren Torgerson and will be held in Ellensburg, WA
- November meeting will be held in Ellensburg, WA

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting

By consensus, the committee decided to schedule the next general meeting at 10 am, on October 25, 2017, in Ellensburg, WA. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:30 a.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Tami Kellogg, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the October 25th meeting.