

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2019
Cle Elum Ranger Station
Tom Craven Room
803 W 2nd St
Cle Elum WA 98922

Committee Members Present:

Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair
Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative
Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside) *Conference Call*
Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside)
Reese Lolley – Statewide Environmental Representative
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary
Melissa Gannie – Assistant Fire Marshall *Conference Call*
Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside) *Conference Call*
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside) *Conference Call*

Committee Members Absent:

Chuck LeBlanc – State Fire Marshal
Dave Johnson – Fire District Commissioner (Eastside)
J.D Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber)
Eric Walker – US Forest Service

Guests/Other Attendees:

Jim Passage -
Julie Sackett - Forest Health Division Manager
Shelly Goodwin - Wildland Fire Advisory Committee Coordinator
Mike Norris – Prescribed Fire
TJ Martinelli – Reporter
Hilary Lundgren
Todd Welker
George Geissler – State Forester

I. Opening, Roll Call

The meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on June 20 in Cle Elum, WA. Roll was taken, 7 members were present and 5 members were excused. Due to travel constraints, 4 members participated in the meeting by phone, constituting a quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May, 2018 council meeting were presented in draft and reviewed. Motion to approve draft minutes as amended made by Committee member Cody Desautel, seconded by Committee member Jim DeTro. Motion carried with Aye's.

III. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt, provided a written chair report. Attached. He also discussed Task order and the subcommittee that Annie works with. George wants the full committee involved. There needs to be developed an array of options to choose from on what we believe and our rationale. At the September meeting WFAC will present a draft to George, the next two WFAC meetings are critical. Charter amendments, Forest Health ties, tenure with committee were discussed.

IV. DNR/WSP Update

- a. Julie Sackett – Starting to bring on needed staffing capacity, introduced new ADM Mike Norris – Prescribed Fire, referred to Jen Watkins – Leading planning and monitoring, and advertising for hiring a Forest Health Analyst, Planner position posted. Folks have been very busy on the ground getting projects done. Forest Health Action Plan is high priority. Three year strategy – Counsel Meeting – a lot of new members.
- b. George Geissler – Leg session with a number of DNR asks were granted, laying out plan for implementation. Not going to have impact this fire season. Thirty new fire fighters that in off season time will be doing Forest Health work. A new Training Cadre - restructure of how. Aviation two additional ships to be added– build out of a Huey and purchase a type 3 ship. Funding for creation of Forest Health division. Prescribed fire and implementation – clarification on what this looks like and specifics. Smoke management – meeting in July with EPA. Formal submittal of plan in September then goes through Federal process. Utility Taskforce related to Wildland fire. **Would like member of WFAC involved.** Preparedness – organizational changes in DNR, Wildland fire – new personnel in place running operations, behind scene changes for efficiency. Seven positions and money for outreach funded in Forest Health budget. Good Neighbor – Change with last farm bill. Discussion for **WFAC and expectation – asking for input, feedback from group is going to become more important.**
- c. Annie Schmidt – Explained what her tasks. Presentation and discussion.
- d. Melissa Gannie from the State Fire Marshal’s office reported they activated two fire mobs so far \$600,000 cost at this time. Talked about removing the sunset date on All Risk Mobs, will have some exercises to get familiar with the process and how it works.

V. Final Q&A – Committee roundtable

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Discussed scheduling for meeting, decided on 4th Thursday for both August and September meetings. Gary will get a conference room. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:05 p.m.

Draft minutes submitted by Shelly Goodwin, approved by Chairman Gary Berndt. Formal action to be taken to approve the minutes at the July 18, 2019 meeting.