



Our mission is to prevent deaths, injuries, property loss, and environmental damage resulting from wildfires in Deschutes County.

**February 19, 2019 – Steering Committee – Regular Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
APPROVED Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	Vacant	Fire Rep 1	
X	Doug Green	Fire Rep 2	Bend Fire Dept.
x	Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 3	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
x	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	LaPine Fire Dept.
	Gary Githens	Insurance Industry	Brown & Brown
	Vacant	Business Community	
	Erica Pelley	Marketing	High Desert Museum
x	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
	Zechariah Heck	Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
	Dan Galecki	Private Forestry	Spin Drift Forestry
	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
x	Dave Gibson	HOA Rep	Black Butte Ranch HOA
x	Dean Richardson	HOA Rep	Upper Deschutes River Communities
x	Craig Letz, Vice-Chair	HOA Rep	Tree Farm
X	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
X	George Chesley	Citizen Rep	At Large - Retired
	Vacant	Citizen Rep	
x	Doug Burklo for David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
x	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
x	Doug Johnson for Alex Robertson	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	Nicole Strong	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
	Vacant	Environmental Community	
X	Ed Keith, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
x	Tony DeBone	Commissioner	Deschutes County
X	Jodie Barram	Contract Director	Project Wildfire/FireFree

Public Present:

Mel Archer, Odin Falls Ranch
Greg Bryant, Deschutes River Woods
Ron Klein, Ridge at Eagle Crest
Stella Larson, Woodside Ranch
Bob Madden, Bend Fire Dept.
Richard Mayes, Lane Knolls Estates HOA
Ray Miao, Woodside Ranch

Eric Moeggenberg, USDA/NRCS
Todd Peplin, Deschutes SWCD
Jim Phillis, Tillicum Village HOA
Marie Phillis, Tillicum Village HOA
Karen Roberts, Odin Falls Ranch
Boyd Turner, Homeowners at Eagle Crest
Helen Webre, Woodside Ranch

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened by Ed Keith, Chair. Introductions were made by those in attendance (name/affiliation).

AGENDA, PAST MINUTES AND UPDATE

The agenda was briefly reviewed. Meeting minutes from January 19, 2019 were approved by consensus.

Jodie Barram - Provided an update of her activities over the past month. She will begin using the Program of Work as a way to communicate progress and outcomes. She held an initial planning meeting with participants for the Greater Sisters Country CWPP process. She has been providing information and giving presentations to residents & Homeowners Associations. Continued identification of potential Firewise Sites has increased the list to 7-8. Weekly updating the Project Wildfire and Fire Free websites is ongoing as well as engaging in the FAC Learning Network Podio platform and posting on social media. She is working with a steering committee for a workshop on Could Central Oregon be the next Paradise.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Jodie Barram – Shared the opportunity for a **State Farm/NFPA** \$500 grant for homeowners and neighborhoods. Ray Miao and Karen Roberts have applied before. It's easy, and based on voting early and often.

Ed Keith – South County Funding is through the **Greater LaPine Basin Joint Chiefs Project**. Deschutes County prioritizes funding for roadside chipping neighborhood efforts, not just lot by lot. They've worked with neighborhoods like Fall River and Newberry Estates. They are actually meeting later today to discuss 2020 applications. There is a sweat equity match component and recipients document hours at a standard volunteer rate.

Gordon Foster – The **Oregon Department of Forestry** (ODF) utilizes its website with an interactive map. They are involved with Greater LaPine Basin Jt. Chief's Project, and work with larger landowners, while Ed works with smaller. **Western States Fire Managers Grant** changed scope so it could include more of Deschutes County, around Bend to north of Bend.

The **Whychus Grant** covers the Sisters area. The **Greater Sisters Grant** is for the Metolius Basin and Cloverdale area map online. They apply yearly for funding with about \$150,000 allocated for landowner incentives.

Karen Roberts – What about **FEMA**? Ed Keith responded that yes, there is potential for some FEMA dollars but he's not expecting to have funds until early fall. Requests are with the state emergency manager now, then they'll move onto FEMA. He's waiting to hear.

Gary Marshall – The **Deschutes Rural Fire Protection District #2** has had a small grant program for the last 20 years. Originally it was called a FireFree grant. The Board of Directors looks for small communities/neighborhoods, and wants to see it touch as many people as possible. There is no maximum amount but they like to keep grants small and focus on areas close to a home. Originally, they were doing work 300ft out or more. The Rural District has the Bend Fire Department help assess what work to do. District residents apply online or pick up an application at the Bend Fire Department Administration offices. There is no timeframe, it's a rolling grant. Gary then takes the application to a Board Meeting for approval. There is a match/sweat equity component. They've typically given 2-3 grants/year to reimburse actual costs of a project.

Ray Miao – Added to Gary's comments that grants are not just given without justification, it's a reimbursement of expenses. There are labor/volunteer hours to track and the project must meet the goals of better fire protection for homes/people.

Karen Roberts – What is available for Redmond area now? Jodie Barram explained that we are having the conversation to identify gaps and know when funding may move to a different geographic area. Ed Keith added that not all of the county is covered at any given time.

Dean Richardson – Upper Deschutes River Communities (UDRC) is comprised of over 2 dozen communities south of Sunriver. They've had different levels of success in different neighborhoods. 14-15 years ago, they got huge grants initially. He thinks they were the first CWPP in Oregon. They hired contractors to do work. Over the years grant opportunities dried up. They got a **BNSF** grant for fuels reduction on properties adjacent to the railway. It took 2 years to spend the \$5,000. They got a \$25,000 matching grant from the **Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund** spread over 5 years and have to raise \$5,000 to match each year, have done it 2 years so far. They received a **Healy Foundation**, fuels reduction grant of \$2,500 in 2018. From the **US Forest Service**, they received a \$7,500 matching grant for fuels reduction projects adjacent to Forest Service lands. They are now in phase 2 and agreed to use it for community outreach and communications. Recently they got a small **1st Interstate Bank** \$2,500 for seniors/low-income defensible space projects. They'll use the Central Oregon Council On Aging for qualifying. They have a plan/prescription for work, not just limbing up trees. UDRC is also applying for \$150,000 over 3 years to do a trial program. Three years ago **UDRC** did roadside chipping as an organization and it was a good learning experience. They had homeowners pay \$50 each and people complained because Deschutes County offered a program free to homeowners. It wasn't very efficient because the contractor had to go house to house. In 2017, a UDRC restricted grant used SB360 guidelines. UDRC would match an expenditure for fuels reduction work up to \$500. They granted over \$12,000 last year with actual money match versus a sweat equity match.

Eric Moeggenberg – The **Natural Resources Conservation Service** (NRCS) still does sweat equity. Prior to the government shutdown his agency was working on the farm bill, which funds the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program** (EQIP) which is their bread and butter program. It takes time for the manual to come out. The **Regional Conservation Partnership Program** (RCPP) has gone from an EQIP add-on to a stand-alone program. It will take 6 months to write the manual on

conservation strategy for wildfire, water quality issues, etc. He's waiting to see how Joint Chiefs' Funding comes out. Very little was taken away and some was added. He hasn't heard how they'll be laid out yet. Tentative 2019 dates are all flexible and or pushed back. Ed Keith asked if you're a landowner in Deschutes County could you apply or is it geographically constrained? Eric responded yes, there is a meeting Wednesday to discuss resource concerns, get into minutes to get into future Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS). If someone comes in the door to apply, they are ranked and places in CIS get priority. Dean Richardson asked if a property owner has questions, how do they find out, like for size. Eric answered it's generally 10 acres, and the **Greenhouse Program** can be ½ acre. He's looking forward to the new EQIP program so that they may be able to work with Home Owners Associations, not just private homeowners over 10 acres in LaPine. Gordon Foster added that ODF typically works with properties that are 1-10 acres and Ed Keith at Deschutes County works with those that are less than 1 acre. Those are not hard constraints, more of a guideline and specific to Jt. Chiefs. The only hard restriction for ODF is no industrial lands. That is the same for NRCS. It's pretty common for grants to exclude industrial lands. Bob Madden asked is there an advantage for grouping versus a single property applying? Ed Keith said yes, the County is trying to do 40-50 lot owners at a time with a project.

Todd Peplin – The Deschutes Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) is working with private landowners. NRCS is the technical arm they use. He met with Greg Sinnelli about **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board** opportunities. Education and Outreach substituted with another grant on getting workshops in neighborhoods to get awareness with the caveat that there will be implementation at the end of the grant. It's the first time Greg has looked at this. It would be a great experiment for South County. Moving forward with development of the grant, it would be good to know what button to push (wildlife, fisheries, habitat). He will keep the group abreast of what's happening. He'll also escalate what's happening with Jt. Chief's. He hopes to get something on the ground. Dean Richardson brought up the benefit of work versus a stand replacing wildfire.

Tony DeBone – Shared information about the Board of County Commissioners' **Discretionary Grant Program** which is economic development lottery funded. Most grants are \$2,000 or so. He would like to see coordination before grants are applied for. Grants are required to be awarded to non-profit organizations. He could see justifications for some fuels reduction work.

ROUNDTABLE

Nathan Garibay – It's grant season. He's got four grants pushing through the pipeline and can get back to work now.

Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods is trying to get a Firewise USA committee together.

Bob Madden – The Bend Fire Department met with City Council to talk about wildfire issues. Public safety is a council goal. They also discussed cohesive strategy. Regarding smoke management rules, Bend is a Smoke Sensitive Receptor Area (SSRA). The City is going to apply for an exemption with the County. They have to develop a response plan to submit to the State to be able to achieve the goal of putting fire on landscape. He attended a Listening Session with the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office. The State spent a bunch of unfunded monies on unprotected lands. The Feds spent millions in areas they had no responsibility for. The Governor appointed a committee with a report out in September but don't have a full committee formed yet. They will be looking at response issues.

Jeff Amaral – Bend Parks and Recreation District did fuels reduction in south bend, and burn prep at Shevlin Park for this fall.

Todd Peplin – Deschutes SWCD is working on a plan for 2020-2025; interested in south county, Indian Ford area, and has a grant in the works.

Craig Letz – He will be presenting April 16th at City Club doing a simulation at the forum with Alex Robertson, no one will know where fire is simulated.

Gary Marshall – He did not have much to report for the fire district. State building codes passed local control to enact more stringent building codes/rules in wildfire prone areas. He would like Project Wildfire to work with ODF to look at SB360 zones/mapping for Deschutes, even out of ODF purview. Wildfire hazard mapping from 1999 is outdated. Project Wildfire should convene a workgroup to update in the near future in case counties and cities adopt the rule.

Ray Miao – Dick Ridenour passed away on Sunday. Will be sorely missed. His seat on the Rural Board will be advertised. They have about a month to fill it. Let Gary know if you are interested. He'll be posting the position. Woodside Ranch won't be doing a sweat equity this year. This year they are looking at a fire education push for the community. They've asked Doug Green to speak on structure protection, and will stream NFPA videos with discussion. They have a goal of creating a detailed plan for a property (flag trees, etc.).

Doug Green – He has been working with lots of Firewise sites. City Council is interested in adopting Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) recommendations from 2 years ago, look at hazard zones in Bend, discuss regulations, and landscape/zoning. In Sisters, he's working on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update. Sisters is having a Spring wildfire symposium, with Firewise sites and prospective sites to come together, plan evacuation drill the month after that, and encourage reverse 911 sign-ups. The Board of County Commissioners talked to the Sisters City Council last week about Rule 327 and the Sisters City Council is on board with the structural part of it.

Ron Klein – They completed 70 acres of fuels reduction at the Ridge at Eagle Crest. Their HOA oversees 230 acres of common area, and have managed neighborhoods integrated into program. This ensures new standards are adhered to. They are removing 30% of junipers on common area. Phase 2 is completed, and they are now looking to sustain into the future with the idea of 50-60 acres at a time on rotation. He likes NFPA brochures.

Dan Daugherty – LaPine Fire Department is reaching out to properties that are not participating in grants and the like, taking advantage of national conversation about wildfire.

Stella Larson – Woodside Ranch is concerned about the ongoing repopulation of the area behind China Hat. She hopes the fire simulation will be that area with a south wind, and traffic situation. They have unsafe intersections, and only have Tall Pine and Pine Vista to get out. People should pay attention to development plans. Issues are starting to come out on Next Door, looking at Brosterhouse, school and how to evacuate it during a fire.

Doug Johnson – Reported that a panel with the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project discussed barriers to prescribed fire, as they look to identify barriers that the collaborative could help get past. On hiring – the Forest Service just got through temp/seasonal hirings. April 18th there will be a simulation all day at fairgrounds. All agencies are getting questions. The workshop will look at how do we recover as well as prepare. It will address top lessons learned to be thinking about scenarios and how do we recover. Regarding the Federal budget, reduced fuels hazard money was looking at \$6 million for OR/WA, but now will be \$1 million. Some funds are going to CA. The agencies will continue to burn

piles. Quantitative Risk Assessment that was done will have agencies looking at risk, Central Oregon has some cities in the top 10.

Gordon Foster – The Emergency Cost Committee awarded funding for a guard station in LaPine. He hopes to have that up and running later this year, or early next year. It will improve response time. They are utilizing detection cameras, (3 in use now) and might get one for Awbrey Butte. Cameras are a great system for early detection of fires. If they'd had a camera in Crook County could have detected the Lone Pine fire sooner. ODF is applying for additional grants, and prepping for fire season to be fully staffed.

Eric Moeggenberg – Gave an NRCS staffing update. He is new in his position. Tom Bennett's position is going to be posting in a week or two. He's working on LaPine Joint Chiefs with a local work group next Wednesday north of Redmond Airport. What comes out of that work group will affect Deschutes' long-range plan.

Dean Richardson – Shared about UDRC projects. They are looking big picture, staying optimistic but it's hard to ignore how much is not being done. More prescribed fire please.

Marie Phillis – Tillicum Village has 190 homes, with 164 in the HOA. The focus on Firewise is with the HOA. Regarding ornamental juniper throughout from 70s, the outside looks green but inside of bushes is dry, and fire prone. They are making progress on removing those. Their neighborhood is only 10 minutes from Old Mill. Over 500 homes on Brosterhaus are going in with 79 on a former ranch area. They are finding dog poop and cigarette butts.

Jim Phillis – Mentioned that Paradise could happen there.

Richard Mays – Lane Knolls in South Bend is just outside the Urban Growth Boundary. They've received 3 FEMA grants, and have cleaned up 250 acres of common land. Their current effort is how to maintain now. They would be more than happy to continue with more funding. Their neighborhood is bordered by public lands that aren't maintained (County property, camping, dogs, shooting, fireworks). Thank you for programs.

Tony DeBone – Described the Project Wildfire program, ordinance, and how the Board utilizes Ed as the County Forester. He thanked the committee. He encouraged people to please act if you see folks not taking care of their property. Educating your neighborhood is important. Project Wildfire has been doing this since the 90s in Deschutes County. If we are resilient, we have time to evacuate. The Steering Committee is a valuable group.

Karen Roberts – Odin Falls is trying to provide more education to get after those that ignore wildfire mitigation work. The HOA is addressing taking care of vacant lots. It's not fair to people living next door, and they will bill the owner for the work. They do have some residents that haven't participated. Some residents can't all do physical work because they are seniors. They have emergency alert texting for the neighborhood and established evacuation routes. The text alert program costs about \$5 for 68 homeowners.

Mel Archer – Odin Falls has 48 homes, and they want to make them as fire safe as possible. The HOA paid \$5,000 for a project, but the chipping came to \$9200. They had 80% participation. People got on board once they saw the work happening. They interviewed 4 contractors and selected Four Brothers Tree Service. They are concerned about BLM land and will talk to Doug Johnson outside of this meeting. If fire was by Hemholtz and went west they don't have exits. They invited Redmond Fire

Department out to give appreciation and the Department explained how they make a decision on what can be defended in a fire situation.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37am.