



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

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

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	Vacant	Fire Rep 1	
	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
X	Zechariah Heck	Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
	Dan Galecki	Private Forestry	Spin Drift Forestry
x	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
	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
	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
X	George Chesley	Citizen Rep	At Large - Retired
	Vacant	Citizen Rep	
x	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
x	Chase Duncan for Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
x	Jeff Bishop for Alex Robertson	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	Nicole Strong	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
x	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:

Greg Bryant, Deschutes River Woods  
Georgia Hill, Ridge at Eagle Crest  
Stella Larson, Woodside Ranch  
Romy Mortensen, Brooks Resources  
Ray Miao, Woodside Ranch  
Todd Peplin, Deschutes SWCD  
Jim Phillis, Tillicum Village HOA  
Marie Phillis, Tillicum Village HOA  
Peter Russell, Deschutes County  
Kevin Stock, USFS, Newberry Division  
Doug White, South County

### **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 February 19, 2019 were approved by consensus.

**Jodie Barram** - Provided an update of her activities over the past month by reviewing the Program of Work. She is gearing up for FireFree this spring. Gary Marshall asked if the change in ownership of Bend Garbage would affect the partnership. Jodie responded that all of the franchises are still on board and will be engaged. 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.

### **LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

**Zechariah Heck** and **Peter Russell** presented a PowerPoint. They reviewed the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan. There is a possibility that it will be updated in 2020. It was explained that planning looks long term, typically to a 20-year horizon. Deschutes County has mapped primary and secondary access for neighborhoods. This helps those with one way in and out to receive grants for mitigation work. One household equals ten trips. If a land use application will generate 50 trips, a traffic study must be done. The Westside Transect Zone is a recent acknowledgement of wildfire influenced land use planning in Deschutes County.

**Gary Marshall** mentioned Paradise, California and asked about planning for choke points during evacuations. Cities look to narrowing streets for traffic calming and he wondered if the County has a similar view. He brought up congestion on arterials and collectors. Regarding roundabouts and the amount of property they take up he asked if they are helpful or a hinderance in the scope of wildfire.

**Peter Russell** said that the County doesn't narrow roads, those decisions are more common at the City level. The County plans and builds for average daily use not the peak. They use what is known as the 30<sup>th</sup> highest hour as a financially prudent projection. Topographically, Deschutes County is not the same as Paradise. We also have very different evacuation routes. **Gary Marshall** mentioned the workshop happening that he is invited to on April 18<sup>th</sup> that will be interesting to look at as a comparison.

**Dean Richardson** asked about the 'X' figure on a map near Vandevent Road. **Peter Russell** explained that is where a road can no longer be accessed except times of emergency. Vandevent was supposed to disconnect at one point, but no longer. Changes to access like having gated access have to have a hearing. Dean also brought up the F2 Zone has quite a few pages of requirements to 100 feet. Many neighbors are not aware or don't care. He wondered if it was a guideline. Peter clarified that it is a part of conditions of approval for land use and is complaint driven. **Zechariah Heck** added that some are grandfathered and not required to comply because they developed before the requirements. Peter said that redevelopment does trigger updated requirements.

**Ray Miao** mentioned the Headwaters Study and asked if people are becoming more educated. **Zechariah Heck** responded that some are and to talk to electeds to do studies locally. Gary Marshall included that the Insurance Institute for Business and Safety (IBHS) has a good study out as well.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

**Jeff Bishop** shared that COFMS is bringing on prevention specialists on Forest Service and on Bureau of Land Management. Right now prevention techs don't have time. They **will** be permanent hires this fall and build as they go.

**Kevin Stock** shared that Bend, Sunriver and LaPine will see quite a bit of prescribed burning this spring/fall. They are looking at west and south of Bend, east and west of Sunriver, and east of La Pine. Communication tools for that are being developed to explain strategy and natural barriers. Informing the public going forward, they hope to outreach better.

**Paula Simone** said there will be a lot going on at COCC, and she is giving a presentation this Thursday. In May she will do outreach to students about wildfire in our area and Project Wildfire.

**Craig Letz** encouraged people to register for the City Club simulation April 16<sup>th</sup>. The panel discussion will highlight collaboration and coordination responding to wildfire

**Ray Miao** reported that Woodside ranch is focusing on education. They'll be doing a series of in-home presentations, videos from NFPA and the Insurance Institute, then have experts come in for Q & A. To make things fun they will have 'fire water' (cocktails). He came across a grant from IAFF through NFPA, and has questions about codes. The grant is \$5,000. **Ed Keith** mentioned that you have to be a Ready, Set, Go member. While the applicant doesn't have to be a fire department, questions are more oriented to fire departments.

**Georgia Hill** shared that the Ridge at Eagle Crest is having May 1-12<sup>th</sup> Events. A winter storm assessment is looking at downed limbs and trees. Regarding evacuation from Eagle Crest to 126 they are working on keeping the right of way clear on the route.

**Dean Richardson** reflected on looking at minutes from last meeting, he realized the Upper Deschutes River Communities (UDRC) was the first Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in Oregon. UDRC is working on warmly encouraging large property owners to take care of properties where owners live out of state. There might be traction now. They are working with Ed and Tony. The

California wildfires might have helped. He's getting a trial program for senior low-income mitigation work going, and partnering with Central Oregon Council On Aging (COCOA).

**Marie Phillis** said Tillicum Village has April 13<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup> for Fire Preparedness days – 3 Community partners including Cascade Disposal, Cascade Natural Gas, and the Bend Fire Department. They are having a big day on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There are 12 people on the task force. Momentum is there and people were talking about doing projects monthly. Homeowners are investing in maintaining their properties.

**Chase Duncan** shared that ODF is getting seasonal hiring done, engine rebuilds, and working on grants throughout 3 counties. Boone & he have been busy with that.

**Tony DeBone** updated the group on HB2222, a SB360 follow up, which is a reporting update for fuel reduction and responsibility. He talked yesterday about the cohesive strategy and partnerships between public & private sectors. We don't want to be in the middle of bad situations. He encouraged neighborhood meetings. Lazy River south neighborhood where he lives needs a meeting. He may start that.

**Doug White** lives where the Awbrey Fire jumped the river, he wants to remove bitterbrush, and is interested in the group.

**George Chesley** invited people to Bend Church having a preparedness fair March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Todd Peplin** shared that the Deschutes Soil Water Conservation District (DSWCD) is starting to develop an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant and would like to involve Ed and UDRC. OWEB replaces the outreach grant with stakeholders to engage landowners to have an action plan for fuel reduction. The concept is to have workshops in south county. They will submit a grant at the end of April. It will involve a 2-year process to engage people. **Dean Richardson** asked if DSWCD is still Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Todd explained it is more of a support to NRCS.

**Ed Keith** discussed the Smoke Management Plan revision. There is a new addition, a community response plan, where the State is saying there needs to be an enhanced explanation of why you are burning, when, etc. With a plan, there's a possibility to burn near a Smoke Sensitive Receptor Area (SSRA). He is working with Pete Caligiuri this week then will forward a plan to the City of Bend and the Board of County Commissioners. He gave an update to the Board last week thus the recent Bulletin article. There is a 30-day review so he hopes to move quickly because of prescribed fire season. This is the first one in the state. He will have more to report next month.

**Gary Marshall** said the Governor appointed two people from Bend to the Wildfire Response Council (Mayor Sally Russell and Bend Fire Captain Trish Connolly) and both people haven't even been to Project Wildfire meetings. He would like to see Project Wildfire involved.

**Kevin Stock** highlighted private/public partnerships that they've been involved with like the High Desert Museum and the Tree Farm. They have future planning areas on the south end of Bend and Tumalo/Bull Springs area and are looking for large lot owners near Federal lands want to work together.

Adjourned 9:27am