



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

**January 21, 2020 – Steering Committee – Regular Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
DRAFT 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
	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	La Pine Fire Dept.
	Vacant	Insurance Industry	Brown & Brown
	Vacant	Business Community	
	Vacant	Marketing	High Desert Museum
	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
	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
	George Chesley	Citizen Rep	At Large - Retired
	Vacant	Citizen Rep	
X	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
X	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
	Alex Robertson	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	Vacant	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	Boone Zimmerlee	Director	Deschutes County FAC Coordinator

Public Present:

Nick Ahnen, ServPro Bend
Gregory Bryant, Deschutes River Woods #1
Marna Griffin, Indian Ford East
Bert Neumaier, Tillicum Village
Boyd Turner, Eagle Crest
Bob Pohly, Mountain High
Gerry Griggs, Ridge at Eagle Crest
Jeff Amaral, Bend Parks and Rec
Vicki Sandness, Clear Pine
Richard Sandness Clear Pine
Lars Santana, NRCS

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

Ed introduced Boone to the group. Boone gave background and experience with ODF, prior was a wildland firefighter, has worked with many attendees before looking forward to continuing to work with everyone on various projects. Previous meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Boone Zimmerlee updated the committee on the Program of Work in the following areas:

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) – Sisters CWPP is complete with signatures, and will go to annual meetings until the next revision. La Pine CWPP is in process with a couple more meetings before it will be ready for signatures.
- FireFree – Dates are identified for Knott and the transfer sites first 2 week of May. Working with Romy to use the west-side location again this year, nothing set for Sunriver yet, dates to come for those sites.
- Outreach/Education/Networking – COCC classes went well with good turn-out. Shy of 40 folks each day. Presented at La Pine/Sunriver Chamber Breakfast.
- Communications – No updates at this time
- Firewise USA – Nothing new, working to finalize a couple sites
- Steering Committee – Recruitment for vacancies is ongoing. Will be nominating Chair and vice chair today.
- FAC Net –As mentioned above classes at COCC
- Evacuations – No updates at this time
- Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project – No updates at this time

Program of Work Review for 2020

Boone went over the revised program of work.

CWPPs, added annual check-ins. FireFree look ahead to Westside location for 2021. Outreach and communication consolidated redundant activities. Bob – add prescribed fire to coordinated messaging.

Firewise continue as written. Steering Committee recruitment and retain – elect chair and vice chair today.

FAC Network activities – attend workshop in Utah. Will work on the current workplan and implement new one in fiscal year 2020/21. Went through ongoing items for the group.

Dean asked about ‘teachable moments’, using fires to show people what to do. Boone agreed on using local fires for learning lessons. Gary mentioned prescribed fire messaging and sharing what we are doing.

David Morman brought up a couple Red Cross items that intersect with the program of work. They have programs for the business community that can be used. Evacuations involve the Red Cross and shelters are a piece of that effort. Boone will add Red Cross.

Bob Pohly said that Mtn High has a welcoming committee that shares information with people on Firewise. Jodie mentioned that is a part of the FAC workplan for the 2019/20 fiscal year. The Firewise meetings in March and April will be a learning exchange opportunity.

Dean Richardson mentioned absentee owners and vacant properties. He’d like to learn how to reach out to that group. How can we warmly encourage property owners to take action? Sometimes it’s a road district, HOA, or unorganized.

Call for Suggested 2020 Meeting Topics

CPAW - Doug,

What happens to the FireFree debris, - Chad/Susan Baker

WUI conference topics of interest,

WMAC update – Ed/Zechariah,

Follow-up to simulation – Status check in on Long Term Recovery Plan - Alison/Hayley,

Relatable life stories from fires,

Back to basics project wildfire history, goals, steering committee expectations etc.,

CWPP structure in county – Ed/Boone,

HOA welcome packet or topics from spring meetings,

Re-evaluate 4-star program (Gary),

How do firefighters triage homes during an incident

How to work with Absentee landowners

Potential Operational Delineations (PODS)- may be timely later this year depending on progress with DNF

Marna asked about how the assessment (4 star) is done. Ed explained the questions that are answered. Gary gave the history of the program starting with being defensible for firefighters. The heads of the forest service prevention program liked it, but Firewise adopted a different program called sites of excellence. Marna would like to see examples of what neighborhoods have survived fires because of defensible space. How are insurance companies looking at things like this? Gary mentioned USAA discount.

Dean said Fall River was the first Firewise site and their neighborhood leader, Stu Otto & Oregon Department of Forestry required 80 percent participation. They have since lost ground on the work. How much work is actually done on the ground matters. Gary updated on the change from 80% to the current model. Took it down to what the other sites in the state were doing. It's easier with smaller sites than larger sites. The group discussed the nuances of the program and how to improve it. Bob talked about teams working on fires and it depends on the day of the fire what can be done to protect a community. Gerry asked if a topic could be "how do firefighters triage homes during a fire"? Bob talked about its how we build the houses, how we landscape, and imagine your house is standing alone in a worst-case scenario.

Bob Pohly wondered about getting a grant to get a drone for assessing if a community is truly Firewise. Bob said you can do that with Google Earth now. Boone discussed the Joint Chiefs Project that used drones to show work done from individual home to looking across the landscape.

Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair

Gary Marshall nominated **Doug Green for Vice-Chair.**

David Morman nominated **Ed for Chair.**

Gary moved that nominations be closed. Passed unanimously.

ROUNDTABLE

Bert – got grant, starting off well

Bob – City will do a City specific CWPP. Hazard mapping will be a big deal

David – no report

Jeff Amaral – burned about 80 acres in Shevlin Park. Will burn another unit this spring. Robert Newey has been great to work with. Fuels reduction project at Sawyer Park just wrapped up.

Marna – looking forward to getting together with other Sisters communities to see what they've been doing for outreach package

Greg Bryant – got a grant and has contacted the owners of vacant problem lots.

Tony DeBone – Happy New Year, PW has a long history, it's great that we're here. Taking notes about things to talk with his neighbors about.

Zechariah – WMAC is going well, one more meeting next Monday wrapping up discussion on land use standards. Secondly, received second master plan for a subdivision in the Westside Transect Zone.

Gerry – Georgia mentioned last month that they'll be doing last Juniper thinning, also have approval for a new emergency access route gate.

Vicki – Just received Firewise recognition this last year. Working with Phil Drew for a welcome package. During December HOA meeting, there was concern about adjacent properties to neighborhood. Will contact other neighborhood and Forest Service. Made changes to design guidelines. Right on edge of UGB.

Ed – Thanked Jodie for her past 13 months. No update on Steering Committee member applications.

Dean – UDRC had meeting last Thursday with Holly Jewkes and Kevin Larkin from USFS. They listened to a lot of complaints. Holly said 2020 is the first year where they aren't going to be doing 'fire borrowing'. Hard to get resources for forest management and restoration when it was taken for suppression. Smoke Management Plan will allow more prescribed fire. Still have a challenge with private property. UDRC will go from Monthly meetings to Quarterly.

Bob Pohly – Mtn High is in process to become Firewise. They have a committee and will do some work this spring. Will set up educational materials near the pool.

Gordon Foster – Vacancy with ODF since Boone is with the County. Interim will have developmental person; Eric Jacobs will be here for a month and a half then Ariel Callen will fill in. Then hope to have filled in March. Presenting today for 2 Community Assistance Grants, one for Deschutes and one for Jefferson.

Jodie will be transitioning Boone for two weeks

Gary said DCRFPD2 will be offering grants to people in the district. They budget \$10,000 each year and trying to allocate \$1,000 per grant. The money can go a long way towards transportation removal costs, a bbq or a chipper. It's something to get them started and not be an ongoing grant.

Doug – Bob covered Bend so he updated on Sisters-Camp Sherman. Encouraged with so many Sisters communities represented in the room. City Council wants to move forward with codes. Will work with Patrick Davenport on that.

Nick Ahnen from Terrebonne where they are notoriously resistant to change. Wants to work to educate and make progress engaging on wildfire mitigation.

Patti – no report

Boyd – New to Central Oregon. Has fought fire all over western us and this group is unique. The care and feeding of this group is important. Encourage all partners to be here. Federal partners and Redmond Fire.

Boone – thanks and excited for opportunity to work with everyone.

Adjourned 9:26 a.m.