



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

**February 18, 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 | |
| | Vacant | Business Community | |
| | Vacant | Marketing | |
| | Chris Perry | 911 Service District | Deschutes County |
| X | Zechariah Heck | Community Development Dept. | Deschutes County |
| X | 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 | 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 |
| X | Doug Johnson for 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 |
| | Tony DeBone | Commissioner | Deschutes County |
| X | Boone Zimmerlee | Director | Deschutes County FAC Coordinator |

Public Present:

Julie Spor Sisters-Camp Sherman FD
Stella Larson, Woodside Ranch
Hellen Webre, Woodside Ranch
Stacy Lacey, USFS
Georgia Hill, Ridge at Eagle Crest
Ray Miao, Woodside Ranch
Jeff Amaral, Bend Parks and Recreation
Bill Boos, Bend FD
Carol Becker, Aubrey Glenn
Dick Maunder, in for George Chesley
Craig Letz, Consultant
Nick Ahnen, ServPro Bend
Gregory Bryant, Deschutes River Woods #1
Marna Griffin, Indian Ford East
Bert Neumaier, Tillicum Village
Boyd Turner, Eagle Crest HOA
Lars Santana, NRCS
Eric Jacobs, ODF
Ariel Cowan, ODF

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

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. La Pine CWPP is in process going into final revisions for review then it will be ready for signatures. Will be discussing open house possibilities at today's meeting.
- FireFree – Dates are identified for Knott and the transfer sites first 2 weeks of May with Transfer sites on following weekend. Westside location agreement and planning is happening. Most dates are updated on website. Sunriver dates are still to come.
- Outreach/Education/Networking – Firewise workshops are planned for March and April. Recruiting cooperators to participate. Agenda is being refined. Fire Ready Bend is planned for April 18th. Looking to put on defensible space classes at COCC first part of April (2-3). Already people are asking about dates and being added to the class email list.
- Firewise USA – Trout Creek Village is being finalized in Sisters area. Indian Ford East and Wyndemere are also in process.
- Steering Committee – Appointments for the vacancies are pending. Ed updated that he will have more info by next meeting.
- FAC Net –As mentioned above classes at COCC, Fire Ready Bend events

Meeting Topic

Online Burn Permits

Julie Spor and Doug Green – Sister Camp/Sherman Fire Department

Doug Green: Started off by giving background-trying to regulate and minimize false alarms, increase accountability and know where people are burning. The database gives the ability to see where and who was burning. This is also a way to reach out to people who are burning for example it can be use it to educate and reach out on subjects like FireFree events. The District also wanted an easy way to track and use for community outreach.

Julie: Alpine Internet did the project, still working on creating a mobile device app. Launched in April of last year, prior to the launch they did lots of public outreach. Currently there are 900 users in the system. Camp Sherman has internet availability issues and required additional outreach. People without internet or are technologically challenged, usually come in each year for permits. Some folks still need to come in to register in the system and Julie helps to walk them through the process. The system enables you to see who often burns, this helps to have immediate outreach to those users on subjects including burn bans and season closures.

Doug G.: We try not to overload with push notifications. Most people have been receptive so far and have not complained about the notifications that have come through.

Julie: PublicFireSafety.com is the website you can access the permit program from either the Sisters page or directly from the website.

Doug G.: Reiterated, so far it works well, but he still does some direct phone calls to help folks that don't want to be tracked or no internet or whatever the case may be.

Julie: Began to give us a demonstration of the system- Once logged in (as administrator) you have many tabs and viewing options including contacts, planned burning list for the day and more. You can plan the day well in advance. Can send out text to people, view a Map with who is burning for the day of choice.

Doug G.: This feature has been good for shift commanders and cooperators.

Julie: "District update" tab tells user whether it is a burn day, from there an Administrator can issue warning about wind or close burning. "Users" tab, is a list of users signed up in system. Administrator has the ability to search users. Administrator can also help people with username, users can reset their own passwords. You can switch to the user account with the "switch" tab as well. The "send text" tab hasn't been used yet, but you can send text to entire user group. Alpine Internet group is working to build in more pieces like "memberships". Developer is also working with Western Fire Chiefs to make it larger program that can be used across the western states. Crooked River Ranch FD are also looking to launch the system as well. So far, Sisters is first fire department to use it.

Doug G.: Users create a User Profile that stays in the system.

Julie: switched from the admin role to user role- In this process she filled in the application as if she was going to burn. There were a few simple questions like: type of burn, plan burn date.

Gary Marshal asked if there would be definitions to go along with the questions like types of burning.

Doug G.: believed they were working on that

Julie: Location- can pull your location from your device or drop a pin. Dropping a pin is meant for larger owners that may not be burning right at their house address.

Julie: In order to submit your permit application user must review the Rules and Regulation then check the “I agree” box. Someone asked what if you call the burn line.

Julie: If someone does call the burn line it will direct caller to the webpage.

Dean: had a couple questions: “Recreational burning? Sounds funny, typically a fire pit?”

Doug G.: Yes we have always had it, but adding definitions will be helpful for confusion.

Julie: Any comments made through the system come directly to Julie. Outgoing comments can be directed to individual users, a community or the whole user group.

Doug G.: In closing Doug reminded us the purpose of the system, and stated people are finally realizing it’s easy and using it. Should help reduce workload in the long run.

Ed: Is there a way to share info between cooperators? Such as GIS layers of locations.

Doug G.: Stated he was not sure where they are on it, and at least now they can coordinate the lookouts and smoke.

Julie: said they currently coordinate with ODF, specifically Ben Duda.

Gary: asked if it is necessary to have recreational burning as an option.

Doug G.: said they don’t regulate that now, and that it may not be necessary.

Julie: Said she would get Brian’s (the developer) info to send out as folks needed it.

ROUNDTABLE

David Mormon: reminder, there are free smoke alarm testing and installing. It’s a great partnership he wanted everyone to be aware of and to publicize through our networks. Also mentioned Umatilla flood work is ongoing.

Stella Larson: Defer to Ray for an update on Woodside Ranch

Gregory Bryant He is reaching out to a three vacant lot owners in his neighborhood and has heard back from one so far. He is hoping to get fuels reduced on those properties.

Dean: “more Rx fire please”

Doug Johnson: Pile burning on BLM is happening and will continue. Gearing up for RX burn boss refresher. The forest is hosting TREX again this year coming up in May. Alex Robertson is still in Australia. So far there has been over 330 folks sent in support.

Ed Keith: Closely watching legislature. Three bills have passed out of committee not sure how far they will make it. Continue to track those bills and will know more end of month DJ added to what Ed said - there is a project area that the Forest Service provided to the Governor’s staff that may receive funding if that legislation passes. Those areas made it into the Governors presentation for possible projects.

Helen: So far Woodside Ranch has put out 4 fire e-newsletters, residents can access through their website. Working on getting evacuation info out to the community from Nathan, doing this in small pieces as to not create too much for folks to take in all at once.

Lars: NRCS had a work group meeting last week in an effort to gather local resource issues. First half of the meeting was focused on Forestry. Past work has been focused in Southern Deschutes. The new focus will be more north (Bend to Sisters). Oregon explorer website was utilized to identify priorities on a watershed scale and issues related to mule deer and migration corridors were discussed along with other resource concerns.

Gordon Foster: Grant proposal update, current proposal was not successful. The Prineville ODF unit is to recruit 2 new positions. One Forest Officer in Prineville, and the Stewardship Forester in Sisters. The current plan is to have Eric Jacobs fill the Stewardship Forester position, then Ariel Cowan will come in mid-March until recruitment announcement comes out (not sure of timing). Seasonal recruitment is ongoing. Getting ready for season.

Doug Green: Bend and Sisters trying to get regulations in place. Doug said both cities are waiting for legislature to end before moving forward with any possible regulations. Sisters fire department utilizes a team of volunteers has a team to do home assessments. . The team also offers senior home safety assessments, if the team needs additional support the fire department can send out additional support as well.

Nick: Thanks for the presentation

Ray: Thanks as well. Woodside has safety concerns about dispersed camping out China Hat Rd. "Astounded" by the number of camping off road. Looks to be a real fire hazard given ignition source and lots of bitter brush. USFS has scoping for new burn regulations, Ray asked, "Can we make China Hat one of the areas that will be more regulated as well?"

Ray also added, other communities can feel free to plagiarize from e-news. Fire stations are open. Opening ceremonies were a great time. He wielded a giant key. Encourage people to see the Pilot Butte Station.

Patti: Sunriver has a new general manager, James Lewis. Hugh and James will overlap by 3 months.

Craig: Tree farm activities continue. Working on a new community to North of Discovery West. Things are busy on the west side of Bend.

Bert Neumaier great weather with new landscaper things are busy. Grant money has people moving and very excited. Appreciated Jodie's presentation with the video. Looking for info on home assessments, example from other HOA's, a way to make strong suggestions that won't come at people in their face. Dean: experimenting with homeowners "suggestions" Bert: something more simple than COCC assessment Ray: stated that having been through the class is more important than the form for trust issues. Boone will send form back out and will include the Firewise assessment forms too.

Jodie: Has taken a position with Ready Set Go (RSG), working with 4 fire departments. The application period for fire departments is nationwide and still open so she does not know who she will be working with yet. Late February the fire departments will be selected then RSG will fill positions in the first March.

Jeff A: Bend Parks and Recreation has just finished work along river in north end of Bend. Work to prepare for prescribed fire in Shevlin Park is completed and they have blocked out time for burning this spring.

Zechariah Heck Wrapped up the Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee work last month. Zechariah will present their recommendations at the March meeting. All material is on the website (deschutes.org/wildfirecommittee) if people want to look at it before the next Project Wildfire meeting.

Nathan: Just returned from California where he toured Paradise, chatted with Chief Hawks about evacuation planning. Paradise area wants to resume prescribed burning, however people feel nervous seeing smoke. He has also been assisting with recent flooding in Umatilla County and noted they were trying to build a recovery plan on the fly which was very challenging.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 am.