



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

**May 19, 2020 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
DRAFT Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

X	Ken Kehmna	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire Chief
X	Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 2	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	La Pine Fire Dept.
	Doug Green	Fire Rep 4	Bend / Sisters Fire
	Vacant	Insurance Industry	
	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
X	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
X	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
X	Oliver Tatom	Citizen Rep	At Large
	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
	Alex Robertson	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	Vacant	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	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	Serv pro
	Brandon Fogleman	Business	
X	Jessica Laberge	Business	
X	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
X	Boone Zimmerlee	Director	Deschutes County

Public Present:

Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Craig Letz – Fire Management Consulting
Chuck Allen – Oregon State University
Emily Troisi – Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network
Stacy Lacey – USFS COFMS Prevention Mitigation Specialist
Chad Centola – Deschutes County Waste management Operations Manager
Ariel Cowan – Oregon Department of Forestry Stewardship Forester
Bill Boos – Bend Fire Department
Rick Unzueta – Black Butte Ranch Operations Manager
Alexis Schraff – Broken Top Community Association
Alison Green – Oregon: Living With Fire
Jeff Amaral – Bend Parks and Recreation
Bert Neumaier – Tillicum Village
Peter Brewer – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch
Rick Retzman – Trout Creek Village
Jeremy Hall – Cloverdale Fire District

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were done through Chat

AGENDA, PAST MINUTES AND UPDATE

Agenda, past minutes and updates were sent out in a previous email. Ed solicited for any input and reminded folks to email Boone directly if they did find any needed changes.

Meeting Topic**FireFree, What Happens to the Collected Yard Debris****Chad Centola – Operations Manager, Deschutes County Solid Waste**

Chad-

First gave an overview of history since he started with Deschutes County. Chad started in 1999 with Deschutes County. At that time just 4 days at Knott Landfill (2 weekends). In 2001 added 1 weekend at the transfer stations. In 2006 extended Knott to 9 days. In 2008 added the west side site that is no longer in existence. In 2017 added more days bringing it to 15 days at Knott. In 2019 extended the transfer sites to 2 weekends as well. At each increase in days the volume also increased as seen in the charts Chad shared.

In 1999 the yard debris was hauled to Deschutes Recycling and turned into compost. Eventually they could not handle the volume any more. In 2005 the material went to a bio-mass plant, the material was going away for “free” essentially. This was incentivized with a tax break. In 2014/2015 the debris was coming to Knott as the tax incentive went away. Cost to haul the

material went up. Starting in 2014 this was now going to the landfill as daily cover (grinding). This caused a bump in cost. Knott is a dirt poor landfill (i.e. there is little dirt available as cells are built). Each day 6" of dirt is required to cover the landfill, instead of dirt the debris material was ground up and used as a daily alternative cover.

In 2020, with COVID. As of today 11,000 vehicles 36,000 cubic yards. This amount of material has some issues when handling it. One is the need to spread it out due to spontaneous combustion. The amount of the cover usually lasts about a year which works well, however if there continues to be more and more coming to the landfill, may need to just grind up and dispose of the debris in landfill due to the volume. Costs will be close to 400,000 for this year. Folks have been spread out fairly thin to cover all the sites including the transfer stations and the landfill.

Ken Kehmna- How long for the debris to break down?

Chad- Somewhat unknown, food and kitchen waste breaks down fairly fast. The County will watch the landfill for 30 years after the landfill closes.

Tony- Either keeping dry or recirculating in order to decompose.

Chad- Keeping waste moist by recirculating the liquid that is coming into the landfill. This would not be possible in the valley due to the amount of rain. In 2006 the landfill did a project recirculating the liquids in the landfill to help with the decompensation.

Bob Pohly- Are the costs net or gross, what about sale of Bio-fines?

Chad- The bio fines and products are from Bend recycling. The county does not see the financial benefits of the sale of the products. The costs are the true costs to the county.

Ed- Chat questions- Questions about selling compost. Clarified that FireFree material goes to Solid Waste does not go to Deschutes Recycling to make compost.

Chad- None of the debris from spring FireFree turns into compost.

Greg- Lots of debris comes in during COVID, how much is coming in because of COVID vs FireFree?

Chad- The landfill has been busy, people are at home looking for things to do so quite a bit has come in whether its FireFree or not right now. Overall not as much as anticipated, the traffic that has been coming has likely put a dent in the amount of debris coming in. Traffic has been a big deal to work with due more folks being home and working on their defensible space.

Ed- Solicit for questions- None- Thanks for sharing.

ROUNDTABLE

Alison Green- No updates

Ariel- GR did not make it. Fire crews will be on June 1st, 2 grant applications have been submitted, Three Creeks and South Prineville. Grants in Deschutes County are drying up still have funding in Southern Deschutes County.

Alexis Scharff- No Updates

Bert Neumaier- Just totaled numbers for his community (Tillicum Village), they have doubled the amount of debris gathered. Planning a small group community event for the spring or maybe this summer as things open again.

Bill Boos- Pass

Tony DeBone- Invited guest Chuck Allen, Tony introduced him-

Chuck Allen-Has an ongoing OSU project placing air quality sensors around central Oregon. East face started a network of air quality sensors. Use sensors that are 5-10% accurate. Have sensors anywhere from Elk Lake, Little Lava Lake, to the airports- Redmond and Bend. They collaborate with DEQ and share data. Would like to be able to provide areas that are clear while town is smoky.

Tony- Gave an example of upset mom and air quality a couple years ago. He likes the idea of having more accurate numbers and reference to give to public like the upset mom.

Chuck- Cautioned these are not absolute numbers and sometimes the sensor pick up smoke from other sources such as campfires or fires at the Elk Lake resort and we need to be aware of those situations.

Craig Letz- Pass

Dave Gibson- Air curtain burner is up and running, "it is fantastic". Lots of material due to COVID and time on people's hands.

David Morman- Planning for emergency sheltering with county managers and Warm Springs Tribe. Emphasis is on non-congregate sheltering and coordinating beforehand.

Gary Marshall- VIA chat- Awarded 1 grant to a home owner for \$250 to assist with debris removal.

Dean Richardson- Thanks for working around "Microbe". UDRC has 2 defensible space programs- first program, property owners apply and hire contractor and submit invoice and UDRC pays first \$500- 19 applications approved so far. Second program- senior and disabled more involved need to go through an extra agency then UDRC goes out and does assessment, write prescription and hires contractor and pays up to \$1,000- so far just 3 applicants. Will be resuming assessments this week. Just 1 person at a time doing assessments. Plenty of funds to continue the work. This program also extends in to the La Pine CWPP area. Likely to extend a couple more years. Question- Lots of traffic on his road guessing it is dispersed camping. How do we mitigate fire starts from dispersed camping?

Greg Bryant- question- Saw in the newspaper we currently have around 45 fires so far this year vs 20 on a normal year.

Ed- No USFS on the call today. They may have PUR's in place earlier. Ed asked Ariel for input from ODF and what she knows about early restrictions.

Ariel- Yeah likely earlier this year, but no firm dates.

Georgia- The Ridge at Eagle Crest has had a successful spring event this year. 1791 landscape bags collected. Have 5 drop off sites, 35% of homeowners have participated. 800 cubic yards of material chipped. Did additional advertising and COVID.

Greg Bryant- Grant work is moving forward in DRW, waiting for the arborist to complete the project.

Jeff A- Green light for RX likely in the fall. Light fuels reduction work building some fire breaks. Waiting for Heart of Oregon to return and plans to use his staff as well.

Jessica Laberge- No updates

Ken- no updates

Nick- no updates

Oliver- Nice to see the amount of debris and the costs, but is there a way to know how much of an impact it has to fire.

Ed- Hard to draw direct correlation, but this is a way of promoting peoples responsibility to taking care of their own defensible space and preparing for fire season. With costs of 300-400,000 it is a small investment in comparison to costs of losses. Hard to calculate the cost, but the Camp as an extreme example which costs billions, the investment of FireFree is small in comparison. Similar to fire prevention, we can't estimate the cost of fires that don't happen.

Patti-Via Chat- LFR program is going forward with 140 acres on common areas. Residents are continuing to reduce fuels on their properties.

Paula- Via chat- Busy figuring out fall term.

Peter Brewer- Great air quality last few months. Appreciate the update from Chuck. DEQ uses the East Face sensors to collaborate data. New monitor will be going in La Pine. He has a purple air monitor at his house, but not calibrated. Others are calibrated and have a different way you handle the data. Personally, has a chipper rented lots to chip 6 large juniper trees.

Ray Miao- Thanks to the County for the grant. Built the "great wall of China" out of debris. Lots of outreach has been happening. This year residents are taking action and seeing a change in behavior. Residents that have not done work in past are participating this year. They have had 3 fires close the community recently. However, 20-30 minutes these are controlled. Thank you, thank you!

Ed- Great to hear all the communities keeping up all the work.

Rick Untzueta- Curbside pick-up is happening in Black Butte Ranch. 1800 cubic yards have come in this week alone. Incinerator has been getting used for the past couple months on a temporary permit. Very pleased with the incinerator, which is consuming approximately 325 – 350 cubic yards per week.

Rick Retzman- none

Tony- Dial system to look at communities. Dial can put a foot print to a community. Having a footprint on the ground can be valuable to seeing who is in your neighborhood and the area you

live in. COVID phase 1 has been a big lift. There are many cooperators involved, remember this is a slow reopening.

Stacy Lacey- COFMS is very aware of the increase of fires from dispersed camping. Locally and regionally they are aware. There are increased patrols as one solution, but USFS are working on it. IA is working as "family units" glad to hear they are still fast and even possibly faster at responding(in regards to Ray's comment). Messaging and education has increased.

Bob Pohly- Firewise- assessment happened in April. Looking for the assessment to come back from ODF. Newsletter has Firewise info in it. Things are going well in Mountain High.

Boone Zimmerlee- Workshops have been going well with our 3rd workshop coming on June 3rd. First 2 went well with video on YouTube for later viewing. We are looking forward to the next workshop. Trout Creek Village has received their Firewise Recognized status.

Ed- question to Dean- Where does the funds come from for the grants they handout?

Dean- Jerry Hubbard writes the applications. It would be best to get the information directly from Jerry. Some funds came from BNSF, First Interstate Bank (low income and senior), MCM (Meredith McDonald- Senior/disabled program). In last 2 years UDRC has been much more successful in securing grants.

Ed- Thanked everyone for coming and also reminded everyone to send Boone topics if you have suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 am.