



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

**June 16, 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
	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
	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
X	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 Fogelman	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
Stacy Lacey – USFS COFMS Prevention Mitigation Specialist
Alexis Scharff – Broken Top Community Association
Alison Green – Oregon: Living With Fire
Jeff Amaral – Bend Parks and Recreation
Bert Neumeier – Tillicum Village
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch
Rick Retzman – Trout Creek Village
Bob madden – Bend Fire Department
Doug Johnson – COFMS Fire Staff
Erin Kilcullen – Deschutes SWCD
Jodie Barram – Ready, Set, Go
Kevin Stock – COFMS FMO
Lars Santana – NRCS
Scott Lewis – Ochoco NF Prevention

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, Numbers From 2020****Boone Zimmerlee – Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator, Deschutes County**

Boone- For the re-cap of FireFree this year Boone used a presentation to cover the event. As with all aspects and projects everyone has been working COVID impacted FireFree as well. Prior to the event, as COVID was first impacting Oregon, the future of FireFree was uncertain. As the event grew closer the decision was up to the board to decide. A burn ban that was put in place made FireFree even more uncertain. Due to COVID, people were home getting projects done including defensible space work. Solid Waste had been busy with cars lined up out to hwy 97 at the southwest site and out to 27th street at Knott. At that time with COVID, solid waste was already working under a work plan for social distancing and had been allowing for free dumping in effort to clear the traffic that had been backing up. The board had essentially 3 options before them: move forward with no change, cancel the event or add days to the event in effort to flatten the curve. At that time there were already several calls coming in from residents concerning possibly canceling the event. Given this situation, the BOCC decided to extend the

dates to May 9th-May 24th. Two of the impacts that extending the date would have on holding the event were volunteers and how new dates would impact the Westside location since it is not a county owned site and staffed by volunteers. All the other sites were planned to be staffed by Solid Waste staff, Bend Fire had staffed the Westside location the previous year. Boone, Ed, and Brooks Resources met onsite at the Westside location to discuss how to make it work. Brook Resource was open to using the site. After speaking with both, Bend Fire and Brooks Resources, it was decided to operate the Westside location on just the weekends, all other sites would be holding the event during regular business hours for the duration of May 9th - 24th. The Expectation for the extended days was to have less of an influx of people dropping off yard debris.

Boone showed a table of the year over year totals with 2020 included. Last year yard debris totaled just over 30,000 cubic yards, this is about half of the total debris that comes in for an entire year. This year totaling just over 60,000 cubic yards which was about an entire year of debris. This amount can be contributed to COVID, but also due to the extended dates allowed for better planning for our communities.

Boone offered a look at any individual site anyone wanted to see and opened for questions. Ed- Found the Southwest transfer site interesting. That site had about tripled the amount of debris that they brought in.

Boone- The activity of the southwest site also showed in the phone calls that came in from that area. Many calls were upset residents that were afraid FireFree was going to be canceled.

Tony DeBone- The phone calls tell us people are planning and counting on this event. That is a big part of why to extend the dates. SW site continually had trailers pulling in. The Project Wildfire group should understand the costs. This includes grinding and hauling the debris. Solid Waste are our partners on this event and this is a big expense to Solid Waste.

Boone- Talked with solid waste, they had been allowing free drop off in April to get people to move through the sites for safety with traffic backing up.

Ed- Question from Ray Miao via chat- The SW transfer station is off 97, halfway between Sunriver and La Pine. The communities that use that are all the Upper Deschutes River Communities. Over 10,000 taxlots out there with significant amounts of debris to come in. Some of most thickest forested lots in Deschutes County are down there.

Boone- Not sure the costs.

Ed- Yes not sure the costs. All debris is chipped on site and many of those costs are yet to be determined. Yes, chipped onsite then trucked to Knott.

Greg Bryant- Did the burn ban impact or increase the participation?

Boone- Yes I would think so. Talked with many landowners concerned with not burning and directed then to the FireFree event. There were so many phone calls about FireFree that voicemail was changed to have FireFree information on the voicemail.

Tony DeBone- A little more info on Southern Deschutes County, lots of 1 acre parcels up and down day road in a grid pattern and many other communities. It was great that we were able to extend dates, but advocates more for the ability of our residents be able to burn in spring and fall. Loading things into a trailer and taking it to a transfer site works well for smaller lots and the first 5 feet around a structure or if you missed the opportunity for burning in spring or fall.

Alison Green- There have been a couple of escaped debris burns in recent years that have made people hesitant to burn. Spike of debris collected in 2015 was due to burning being shut down in 2015.

Tony DeBone- Acknowledged the fires in recent years and reiterated- If you have all precautions in place, still advocate for backyard burning in spring and fall. Project Wildfire as a group needs to make sure we are clear on what our message is.

Ed- Question from Bob Pohly via chat, "Is there a use for the debris?" Ed- Unfortunately there is not. There once was a tax subsidy that did help to offset costs of using the debris, but it is a low quality product and hard and expensive to use.

Boone- Recognized communities for getting lots of work done this year during FireFree. Mentioned all the communities that are working on becoming Firewise. Then shared location on Project Wildfire website with all the Firewise Workshop resources.

Ed- Solicit for questions- None-

ROUNDTABLE

Zechariah Heck- CDD is discussing how Deschutes County can share info on WMAC. Received a grant to do community outreach concerning WMAC recommendations and what the community will support. No plans made yet.

Tony DeBone- Had been getting ready for a community meeting this spring when COVID happened. This stopped his progress some. Slow and steady is the answer.

Bob Pohly- Thanks for the Firewise workshops. Received their Firewise Assessment, this will be going before their HOA board in near future.

Ray Miao- FireFree went well in Woodside. Ray reminded us that the rural fire department has a 50% match grant. In Woodside Ranch, they are concerned about homeless out China Hat and the risk of fire. Tony- stated he understands the frustration and reminded everyone that even if we don't have an answer right now we need to communicate on the issue.

Paula Simone- Working on committee to re-open COCC. Likely not open until spring or winter. Thanks to Boone, Alison, and Chief Craig for helping teach S-215.

Patti Gentiluomo- VIA Chat- Recovering from wind storm, had quite a bit of wind damage.

Oliver Tatum- He is organizing Firewise for Sundance. Doesn't have an HOA, used Nextdoor app to reach out, but has had no response so far. Boone- Said he will put him contact with another resident in Sundance as well.

Lars Santana- Been coordinating with USFS on a Joints Chief fuels reduction proposal. This will target private and federal lands. Also been coordinating with ODF on a Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS). This CIS will help forest owners to write and implement forest management plans.

Jodie Barram- Working with IFAC. Will be working with Medford Oregon, Leavenworth Washington, Monument Colorado and Forest Hill California on table top evacuations. RSG guides are getting updated. Been busy with COVID working in the joint information center.

Jeff Amaral- Heart of Oregon will be stating up on some fuels reduction work in the near future.

Greg Bryant- County grant is going well. Would like to meet with Tony as well to discuss homeless from Juniper Ridge moving into their neighborhood.

Erin Kilcullen- New Deschutes SWCD manager. She is excited to meet the group just came from USFS has some experience in fire form previous years. Todd Peplin will be doing another stakeholder grant in July for South County.

Dean Richardson- Glad to hear FireFree went well. UDRC have 2 programs for defensible space. One program has been allocated out. The program for low income seniors and disabled

is still going, not a lot of applications. Looking to do more outreach. Did some property appraisals in Ponderosa Pines. Impressed by the work they have done.

Doug Johnson- National preparedness level is 3 of 5. The Southwest and Alaska have been busy. Thursday is a talk with local partners in preparation of fire season. Lots of lesson learned for how to bring in an IMT given COVID.

Bob Madden- City is going through budget cut exercises. Bob retires at the end of the month, he will be staying busy in many work groups in Central Oregon.

Alison Green- Having pre-season discussion this Thursday for firefighting and COVID. Prescribed fire tours did not happen. Been busy giving presentation.

Alex Robertson- Canceled Rx was a big hit to the program and fire readiness. Working with Deschutes County Health Authority on how to bring large amounts of firefighters into the region if needed. Lots of lessons learned as teams are being deployed around the states. Will be working to keep our community safe and our firefighters safe as we enter into the fire season.

Ed- Solicit for anyone who was missed or needed a go back- None- Added that we have been working on Joint Chiefs projects, 2 neighborhood projects this spring DRRH 6 and Forest View Estates. Good response from those neighborhoods, should be done by end of month.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 am.