



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

**October 20, 2020 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
DRAFT Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	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.
X	Doug Green	Fire Rep 4	Bend / Sisters Fire
	Vacant	Insurance Industry	
X	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
		Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
X	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
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
X	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	At Large
	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  
Alison Green – Oregon: Living With Fire  
Jeff Amaral – Bend Parks and Recreation  
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch & DRFPD#2 Board  
Doug Johnson – COFMS Fire Staff  
Lars Santana – NRCS  
Jenna Trentadue – National Fire Plan Coordinator ODF  
Sheldon Rhoden – Prineville BLM  
Kevin Stock – COFMS FMO  
Boyd Turner – Resort at Eagle Crest  
Ken Kennedy – Wild River  
Todd Peplin – Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District  
Roger Johnson – Sisters Camp Sherman Fire Chief  
Peter Gutowsky – Deschutes County Community Development  
Bert Neumaier – Tillicum Village  
Rick Unzueta – Black Butte Ranch  
Kathy Baker Katz – Wyndemere  
Nicole Mardell – City of Sisters Planner  
Scott Woodford – City of Sisters Planner  
Carl Jansen – Spring River  
Thomas Stokely – OSU Extension Services

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were done through Chat

**AGENDA, PAST MINUTES AND UPDATE**

Agenda and past minutes 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.

Boone- Gave update on program of work.

CWPP's- Sunriver CWPP has been out for review and will be entering the signature phase of the process before the 2020 revision will be complete. Had a few comments that are being addressed.

Fire Adapted Communities - 2 story maps are planned to be created. One story map to tell the story of CWPP's within Deschutes County and draw out similarities between CWPP's and provide flexibility to show uniqueness of each planning area. The second Story map would be for Firewise communities. This is aimed at sharing success stories and a place to share resources between communities.

Fall FireFree- This is an event sponsored by Deschutes Recycling and not the County unlike the spring event. This will be a half price event that will happen at Knott landfill. The dates runs October 26<sup>th</sup> –Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. This helps Bend residents who are not allowed to burn within city limits.

Firewise communities – Lots of interest from communities. Several communities that have not been interested in the past are coming forward asking about the program. Boonesborough has just become recognized after several years of working with them as they have moved through Board Members.

Firewise Grants – Announcement will be going out shortly letting communities know if they received a grant or not. There was \$20,000 available with 21 communities requesting a total of \$47,000.

## **Meeting Topic**

### **Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Council Outreach Survey –**

<https://maps.deschutes.org/custom/cdd/WildfireStoryMap/WildfireStoryMap/deploy/index.html>

### **Peter Gutowsky, Planning Manager, Deschutes County Community Development**

Ed Keith- Reminded us about the Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Council (WMAC) efforts that were ongoing starting back in 2019 and continuing into this year. He also recognized Chief Johnson and Chief Kehmna for being on the council.

Peter- Acknowledged that Tanya Sulzman, Peter Russell, Tim Berg and Ines Curland were in the room with Peter participating in the meeting.

The outreach effort was funded through a grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development. This presentation at the Project Wildfire meeting is aimed at getting feedback before the Storymap goes live.

Peter gave some background on WMAC. The county has a website dedicated to the WMAC including the final report. The WMAC was convened to consider the Wildfire Hazard Zone map as it relates to new optional code, R327. Question to the WMAC was: should R327 be required on new homes in the county along with defensible space standards. WMAC was split on where the R327 and defensible space standards should be applied. The Board of County Commissioners wanted more information on the general support of these potential requirements, this drove the need for additional outreach.

The outreach is planned to be a 2 month long community engagement effort. Community development department will also do two remote open houses Nov 19<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> both at 6pm to answer additional questions. Nov 19<sup>th</sup> will be Facebook live and recorded. There will also be a statistically valid survey by phone and text that is being planned. All of this will provide feedback to the County Commissioners.

Peter walked us through the Storymap and the 6 chapters. Chapter 1 set the stage to orientating the reader to the Storymap and set the tone for the topic. Chapter 2 provided background to the audience in regards to fire history and aimed to motivate them to journey through all chapters to the survey questions. Outlines natural hazard and vulnerability. In effort to get attention of reader Chapter 2 shows frequency of larger fires and trends along with highlighting fires in Central Oregon. This is paired with Deschutes County population growth, recreation in the outdoors, climate, wildland fuels, recent fire activity in Oregon and air quality. Chapter 3 discussed preventative efforts. These efforts included wildfire hazard zone, Project Wildfire, FireFree, and other efforts including voluntary measures and county zoning. Chapter 4 covered the additional measures that are being considered. There are two programs being

considered one being building material requirements and the other being defensible space standards. Included in this section are costs associated with the building material requirements from a Housing Cost Statement produced by the Oregon Consumer and Business Services. Defensible space was also addressed in this chapter identifying the 3 zones around structures. Chapter 6 was the survey. The survey consisted of 6 questions that included where people lived, perception of wildfire risk, support of building codes, locations where additional requirements apply, amount people are willing to pay to reduce their risk, and support to expand requirements within the county.

At this time Peter turned it over to questions and comments.

Oliver Tatom - VIA chat asked about ability to view it on a mobile device. Oliver noted it is harder to navigate on a mobile device.

Ray Miao - VIA chat had concerns about viewing the meeting on Facebook without an account. Ed explained you can view the Facebook meetings without an account.

Alison Green - VIA chat suggested using Rabbit Brush fire since it is historic in the sense of first fire in well over a decade in Deschutes County to have structure loss.

Ray Miao - VIA Chat, consider adding percentage of cost instead of dollar costs of new building requirements.

Kathy Baker Katz -VIA Chat, suggested adding B&B to the fires listed.

Chief Johnson - VIA Chat, asked if County Commissioners reviewed and approved the survey. Peter said yes they are aware of the survey, but have not seen it in its recent form.

Commissioner DeBone - commissioners are aware of what is going on and this is a community discussion and are welcoming people to think it through with them.

Ken Kennedy - VIA Chat, what do we do with the results of the survey? Ed explained that this will help inform decisions about requirements in the county.

Boyd Turner - Pointed out there is no map to see where the zones are.

Scott had a similar question.

Nick Ahnen - Provided comments regarding: Attention span may be difficult, asked how will we get the Storymap out? Peter- The hope would be to utilize communications director, Press release, emails, Facebook, HOA newsletters social media.

Ed - No matter what outreach we do it will not be 100% perfect, but encourage folks to share out the message through their channels.

Boyd - VIA Chat- How is this not weighted by focus groups? Ed- The County plans to compare this effort to a statistically valid survey that will also be conducted.

Alex Robertson- Made comments about not having fires that were significant to communities that did not make our list, but heavily threatened communities. Many fires on the list were not made a priority fire due to others being higher priority or more threatening. This allowed them to grow larger than ones that were more threatening. There are more threatening fires that did not make the news due to resource allocation and priority, not sure how to capture the fires that are higher priority and more threatening, but there is more to the story that the public deserves to understand. Ed- Great comment, not sure how to display that either.

Ed- Opened to Peter for closing comments before the roundtable.

Peter- Thanks everyone for participating. As something to note, the grant that pays for the outreach survey does not obligate the county to adopt regulation. Peter appreciated the input as this is a partnership as the efforts progress further. Look for a message later this week as the survey is finalized and a link is sent out.

Tony DeBone- State of the County will happen next week. This effort will also be shared at that time.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Dean Richardson – Thanked Peter for his presentation. Understands this is aimed at new construction, but recognizes that there needs to be continued efforts on existing construction. For UDRC, there are two grants available. With COVID there has only been a couple grant applications. UDRC has shifted funds to enable more progress with helping folks getting the work done on the ground. <https://udrc.org/>

David Morman – Has been a busy 6 weeks. The response to fires was similar to hurricane efforts. Served 231,000 meals, emphasis due to COVID has been non-congregate sheltering with over 20,000 in congregate and 82,000 hotel stays. As of today Red Cross still has over 1700 households still in shelters and hotels. In Deschutes County 35 households in shelters in Deschutes County. Work from fire efforts is still on going.

Alex Robertson – Normally into Rx fire this time of year. Completed 2900 acres on Big Summit. Have a couple more units depending on weather. This year process to burn is different, they will be getting approval at regional level to burn as part of COVID precautions. Have a few requests in to the region and waiting to hear back. California and Rockies are still requesting resources with ongoing incidents. New Mexico has a fire that just took another Type 1 team. Nationally having hard time rostering teams. California still has type 1 fires without the ability to back fill teams as they time out. Fire resources had a hard summer and going into prescribed fire season will have challenges with getting resources.

Thomas Stokely – New extension forester here in Central Oregon. Also have new fire specialist, Ariel Cowan, she will be starting in October. Feel free to reach out if you would like to connect.

Ray Miao – Thanks for the presentation. RFD number 2 has grant for fuels reduction in HOA's focused on the 0-30' from homes. <http://dcfrpd2.com/information-and-programs/fuels-reduction-small-grant-program/>

Ed - Solicited for last call for round table, and thanked everyone for participating and reminded folks if they have feedback to get it to in right after the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 am.