



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

**February 16, 2021 – 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	
X	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
		Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
	Dan Galecki	Private Forestry	Spin Drift Forestry
	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
X	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
X	Oliver Tatom	Citizen Rep	At Large
X	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	Patti Adair	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:

Anne Pierson – Upper Deschutes River Communities
Ariel Cowan – OSU Extension Services
Bert Neumaier – Tillicum Village
Boyd Turner – Resort at Eagle Crest
Brad Mandel – City of Bend
Chase Duncan – Oregon Department of Forestry
Craig Letz – Independent Consultant
Frank Ammirata – Tillicum Village HOA
Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Jack Hamann – The Parks community
James Goff – City of Bend
Jane Merrow – North Rim HOA
Joyce Baker- Ridge at Eagle Crest
Jodie Barram – Ready Set Go
Joe McClay – City of Bend
Kevin Stock - COFMS
Kyle Collins – Deschutes County Associate Planner
Lisa Mushel – CWNA
Lorelei Mariana – DRRH6
Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan – NFPA Firewise
Nicole Mardell – City of Sisters
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch/Deschutes Fire District #2
Rick Unzueta – Black Butte Ranch
Shawn McFadden - The Village at Skyliner Summit HOA
Sheldon Rhoden – Prineville BLM
Suzanna Julber – City of Bend
Suzanne Butterfield – Awbrey Park HOA
Todd Peplin – Deschutes SWCD
Tom Bennett – Hayden Homes
Tony DeBone – Deschutes County Commissioner

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 or himself directly if they found any needed changes.

Ed- Welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded folks to mute and that the meeting was being recorded.

Boone – Covered monthly program of work update. Firewise communities continue to move forward in reaching recognition. The Greater Bend CWPP will be updated this year. FireFree

dates have been set for this year. www.FireFree.org The Westside location will be active again this year on the weekends. Similar to the Firewise Story Map we are looking at the end of meeting today, we will be creating a CWPP Story Map that will include all the CWPP's within the county. We will also be updating some of the outdated FireFree and Project Wildfire handouts.

Meeting Topic

Wildfire Mitigation Outreach Survey results- Proposed Wildfire Code Amendments [Link to Presentation](#)

Kyle Collins, Deschutes County Associate Planner

Kyle – Discussed the background of this project. This included past and expected fire activity in Deschutes County coupled with the expected population growth to enforce the need for fire preparedness by residents of the County.

In 2018 there was an audit of codes by University of Oregon, at the same time the State Building Codes Division created R-327 and made the codes available for adoption. In 2019 the Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Council (WMAC) was created by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) with 12 voting members. The WMAC was asked to review the R-327 and recommend whether and where to propose new land use regulations. The [WMAC report can be found here](#).

Community Development Department (CDD) received a Technical Assistance grant to conduct outreach with potentially incorporating the WMAC recommendations into the Comprehensive Plan and development code. Through the Fall and Winter of 2020 CDD conducted outreach in the form of an online survey and a statistically valid phone survey. Concerning the following two possible code amendments: 1)An update to the Deschutes County Building Code which would require new residential construction in a Wildfire Hazard Zone to incorporate certain types of materials and requirements for roofing, ventilation, exterior wall coverings, overhanging projections, decking surfaces, and glazing in windows/skylights and doors. 2) An update to the Deschutes County Code requiring Defensible Space for all rural residential properties.

A communications plan was developed that included, press releases, use of social media, the departments electronic newsletter, [project website](#), a story map, and an online survey. In addition to the above there were 2 open houses and a statistically valid survey.

There were six questions used in both the online survey and the phone survey ([link to presentation with questions](#)). There were 801 online survey results and 383 phone survey results. The open house events are also considered success, as of January 12, 2020 the recorded November 19 event has been viewed a total of 626 times and the recorded December 3 event has been viewed a total of 445 times.

Kyle presented several slides that walked us through the results of both surveys. These results can be found in his [Presentation with Questions and Survey Results](#).

Kyle - In conclusion there was general support for proposed code amendments. There were also several questions that were raised concerning how the standards would be implemented along with what the defensible space standards would be, who would enforce the standards and more. Much of these questions will need to be addressed if the Board pursues the code amendments further.

The next steps will be to meet with the BOCC to determine whether or not to proceed further with code amendments. This will likely happen in late February or March.

Kyle opened the discussion up for questions.

Greg Bryant – Would the defensible space standards be applied to new and existing lots?

Kyle – Not entirely clear how this would be implemented, this is a question that will need to be explored.

Oliver Tatom – Asked to clarify differences between phone and online survey. Differences were largely due to demographics. Also asked if we have a sense of how many folks have already done work to reduce their risk.

Kyle – There are several reasons folks believed they were not at risk from fire. Comparing phone survey to online survey, this could be due to having fuels reduction work done and/or the phone survey did not have information about fire history to educate folks on fire occurrence so their perceived risk may be lower.

Ariel Cowan – Interesting that there may be portions of our population that are not aware of the risks of wildfire. How was phone survey weighted?

Kyle – 75% rural and 25% urban and ~380 residents to make it statistically valid and distributed across the county.

Ariel Cowan – Will there be any incentive program that would go along with any new codes? The fear would be for low income not being able to afford to do work.

Kyle – This would be one of the implementation questions that need to be explored.

Ray Miao – Thanks for the presentation. Are there plans to share and coordinate these results with urban areas?

Kyle – We won't be working directly with them, but we are willing to share anything they are interested in seeing. We have talked some with Sisters so far.

Ed – There are few folks on the call today from the City of Bend listening in and hearing it first hand.

Boone – Invitations were extended to the Bend Wildfire Resilience Committee and several of those committee members are on the call today listening in.

Ray – Seems it would be less confusing if the County and Cities adopted codes together and aligned with one another. Ray had heard that most contractors were already building to wildfire standards and there would essentially be no additional costs. Is that true?

Kyle – We heard answers across the board in putting together cost estimates of incorporating all the standards anything from no cost because much of the energy code meets the standards and there would be little to no additional costs, to hearing costs estimates as high as \$15,000.

Ray – Concerns from the public will likely be affordable housing costs and how much this could impact the housing market. Affordable housing has been part of City Council races this year.

Ed – Solicited for additional questions. Hearing none Ed turned the discussion over to Boone to walk us through the newly created Firewise Story Map.

Boone – Presented the recently created Firewise Story Map. The target audience is existing Firewise Recognized sites and sites that are interested in the program. Not always is the work being done shared outside of the community and this Story Map helps to bridge the gap between sites with the hope communities will see they are not alone in their efforts within Deschutes County.

The Story Map started with a statement covering wildfire in our environment, the need for action and referencing Firewise as part of the greater solution. The Story Map walks residents through a short description of fire and forest history in Deschutes County.

An interactive fire history map tours several fires around the County and further enforces that we live in a fire environment and it is not a question of if, but when a fire will impact you. Two data sets are used for display one being large fires from 1900- 2010 and the other dataset is 10year fire history of fires under 10 acres.

The Story Map reminds residents they have a responsibility to take action in preparedness too.

A second interactive map of Firewise Sites throughout Deschutes County profiles a few select communities with short descriptions of projects and links to finding contact information for the communities. Similar to the fire history map, you have the ability to interactively navigate within the map.

The Story Map concludes with the benefits of becoming Firewise recognized, steps to recognition, and contact information for finding help.

Boone added, if you would like to have your community profiled on the story map contact Boone and he will discuss with you what he would need to add your community.

Edits will be happening to the Story Map in a week or two. One of the edits will be an attempt to create actionable items for communities to walk away with to further their Firewise efforts. Other edits include navigation and grammar.

At this time Boone solicited for inputs and thoughts.

Oliver Tatom – Thanks, this looks good.

Ray Miao – What would you like to get from our community to get it on the Story Map? Boone – We can chat through email, but it would be a couple paragraphs about the community and projects that you would to mention along with a couple photos.

Dean Richardson – Are you promoting complete communities or are you looking at communities that are discontinuous for example Deschutes River Woods. Boone – Talked through Deschutes River Woods and how it came to be two separate pieces of the greater neighborhood. Sundance on the southeast side of Bend is another neighborhood that doesn't have an HOA to provide a means of communication. Boone and Oliver Tatom plan to outreach through a mailed letter to build a network as they proceed with Firewise.

Ariel Cowan – Can we add something saying that not everyone in the neighborhood needs to meet Firewise standards at the time of recognition? Boone – Good comment, it would be possible to add something to clarify.

Dean Richardson – Do you incorporate guidelines for structural hardening? Boone – We do include as part of the talks when assessing a community, but we haven't called it out as an issue for a community to address because of costs associated with structure changes. As a resource to the Story Map, it would be possible to add a link. Dean – Structure to structure ignition can be a big deal and it would be a good thing to add.

Greg Bryant – May be good to add something about insurance. USAA may be the only one to mention having a discount. Boone – It would be possible to add something to the Story Map.

Boone – Reminded folks they are free to send edits to him VIA email.

Ed – Turned the discussion over to the roundtable.

ROUNDTABLE

Tony DeBone – The Story Map will be great tool to share between our neighborhoods. The USFS has also used Story Maps as a tool. It has been a great way to share information.

Gordon Foster – Western States Fire Managers grant was awarded for Three Creeks grant and another grant was awarded for Crook County. Both of these grants target fuels reduction.

At this time Ed thanked everyone and concluded the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.