



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

**January 18, 2022 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
DRAFT Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	Tom Mooney	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire
	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
X	Kyle Collins	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
X	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
	Oliver Tatom	Citizen Rep	At Large
X	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
X	Robert Newey representing Kevin Stock	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
X	Ariel Cowan	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
X	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
X	Ed Keith, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	At Large
	Brandon Fogelman	Business	
	Jessica Laberge	Business	
	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
X	Boone Zimmerlee	Director	Deschutes County

Public Present:

Andy Meeuwsen – Country Financial Insurance
Beverly Halcon – Sisters Fire
Brandie Foster – Central Oregon Realtors
Don Tschida – ODF Rangeland Coordinator
Frank Armmirata – Tillicum Village
Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Jodie Barram – Oregon Living With Fire
Todd Peplin - SWCD

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ed- Welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded folks to mute themselves and do introductions through the chat as this helps to capture attendance in notes.

Introductions were 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 covered the agenda for the meeting including the Program of Work (POW) for 2022 as the monthly topic. Ed then turned it over to Boone.

Meeting Topic

Project Wildfire Planned Program of Work 2022

Similar to December, Boone started the presentation by sharing a slide with the goals and mission of Project Wildfire. Boone discussed how the strategic objectives supported the goals of the POW. Planned projects for 2022 included; Greater Redmond CWPP revision, FireFree events, defensible space classes, grant support, Firewise communities, FACNet participation and community presentations.

Greater Redmond CWPP Revision – The revision process is expected to begin as early as February 2022. Partners will be contacted along with compiling a list of interested partners as the revision process begins. Within the CWPP Storymap you can find a link to subscribe to updates to the CWPP revision process. <https://bit.ly/DeschutesCWPPs> or subscribe at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/wpEkGqb>

FireFree Events – Project Wildfire will continue to support both, the spring and the fall events. The spring event dates are yet to be determined, but likely to be similar to last year. The fall event will also likely keep its dates near the end of October. During the work group session held between the December and January meeting, the importance of the fall event was discussed.

The fall event provides many landowners with an alternative to burning; if possible, extension of locations and dates would help to increase this benefit.

Defensible space classes – Planned for 2022 will be additional virtual offerings of the defensible space class. These classes will be targeted for early spring, March/April. If feasible, the virtual class may be converted to a self-study online course to allow for more flexibility. Other class opportunities being explored include a class focused on reaching landscapers. This class may be able to offer continuing education credits (CE). Paula Simone– Offered to assist in development of a flexible online course. Greg Bryant – Asked if we plan to include developers in with the landscaper class. Boone – Yes, the hope is that we will be able to meet the needs of both groups with the class that offers CE. Likely, we will need to work to include both groups. Brandie Foster – Could target landscaping through the Certificate to Occupy since a landscape plan is required before receiving the certificate. Ariel Cowan – Arborist could also be a target group for a defensible space class.

Grant support – There are several grants that will continue to be supported with help from Project Wildfire such as Joint Chiefs, Community Assistance, and Senate Bill 762 grants. Much of the involvement with SB 762 grants is still unknown. In addition to the grants associated with SB762, there is potential for supporting implementation of defensible space and building requirements. Much of this is also yet unknown.

Firewise communities – For 2022 we will be working to find ways to network these communities with each other. In years past, prior to COVID, in person workshops promoted networking between these communities. As the number of sites continues to grow so does the level of needed support. Oregon Department of Forestry may be looking to increase capacity; Project Wildfire will continue to work with partners to improve efficiency.

FACNet – Participation will be limited this year with additional anticipated workload coming from supporting programs like SB762. Will still plan to work with the network to explore ideas and learn about programs others are doing, but are not be directly engaged in a program of work with FACNet.

Community Presentations – Presentations continue to be an ongoing goal of Project Wildfire. We anticipate supporting presentation like Fire Ready Bend again in 2022 along with several presentations with neighborhood associations and unknown presentations that are likely to be developed over the coming year.

Boone solicited for any additional input, comments or projects missed regarding the 2022 POW. Dean Richardson – Glad to see community involvement in CWPP revisions. Agreed that arborist and builders should be included in education around home ignition. Liked the idea of continuing to do presentations and promoting Firewise communities. Greg Bryant – When will FireFree dates be available? Ed – Not sure yet, but will working to identify them soon. As a side note, we will be utilizing the same west side location this year.

At this time, Ed turned the meeting over to round table updates.

ROUNDTABLE

Todd Peplin – SWCD – Currently staying busy working hand in hand with NRCS on Joint Chiefs projects.

Robert Newey – Deschutes National Forest – Working the FY 22 work plan and beginning to look at FY 23 work plan.

Paula Simone – COCC – Offered to have students involved anytime it makes sense for any of the projects over 2022.

Kyle Collins – Deschutes Planning – Will be starting the comprehensive plan updating in the near future. Will keep the group updated as this gets underway.

Jodie Barram – Oregon Living With Fire – Gearing up for February 3 cross boundary coordination. Hoping to be ahead of the game for BRIC funding opportunities for next Sept-Oct. Will also be looking at an Rx fire tour with Warm Springs in 2022.

Gordon Foster – Oregon Dept. of Forestry – been working on SB 762 funding. Will be putting in for additional funding through SB762 with hopes to add capacity. ODF just received solicitation for Community Assistance grants and will be putting in proposals for those grants as well. In Crook and Jefferson counties, ODF is looking to help with adding a Firewise Coordinator position. ODF in in process s of hiring a NRCS Forester to help with Joint Chiefs efforts, they will be announcing that position in the next few weeks.

Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest – Eagle Crest received a Hazard Mitigation Grant from FEMA and will be starting the implementation of that grant in the coming weeks. Also using County Grant funds to work on individual lots reducing fuels.

Dean Richardson – Upper Deschutes River Communities – UDRC has funds to assist vulnerable populations, but has struggled to get the funds out to these folks. UDRC also has a new grant that will extend for 3 years.

Andy Meeuwsen – Country Financial Preferred Insurance – The way insurance companies rate properties for fire risk is changing rapidly. Andy is looking forward to being able to share this information with the group and learn from the group as well. Ed – We have been without the insurance perspective for a while and welcome the participation.

At this time, Ed thanked everyone for joining and closed out the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.