



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

**February 15, 2022 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
DRAFT Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

| | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| X | Tom Mooney | Fire Rep 1 | Redmond Fire |
| 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 | |
| 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 |
| X | Dave Gibson | HOA Rep | Black Butte Ranch HOA |
| X | Dean Richardson | HOA Rep | Upper Deschutes River Communities |
| X | 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 |
| X | 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 |
| X | Patti Adair | Commissioner | Deschutes County |
| | Nick Ahnen | Marketing | At Large |
| | Brandon Fogelman | Business | |
| | Jessica Laberge | Business | |
| X | Robert Pohly | Citizen Rep | At Large Retired |
| X | Boone Zimmerlee | Director | Deschutes County |

Public Present:

Andy Meeuwesen – Country Financial Insurance
Beverly Halcon – Sisters Fire
Boyd Turner – Eagle Crest
Brandie Foster – Central Oregon Realtors
Cameron Scott – ODF GNA Forester
Craig Letz – Tamarack Wildfire Consulting
Don Tschida – ODF Rangeland Coordinator
Echo Murray – Walker Range Forest Protection
Frank Ammirata – Tillicum Village
Georgia Hill – Ridge at Eagle Crest
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Heather Miller – Oregon State Fore Marshals
Jane Merrow – North Rim
Jim Bennet – Sunriver Fire
Jodie Barram – Oregon Living With Fire
Mitch Lex – Heart of Oregon
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch
Rich Shortall – Fire Safe Marin
Robert Newey – Deschutes National Forest
Rod Bjorvik – Sunriver Fire
Shawn Jaca – COFMS, US Forest Service
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 and then turned it over to Boone for a program of work update.

Boone – Provided updates including FireFree, Defensible Space Class, SB- 762 funding, and Firewise Communities.

FireFree dates have been planned for Knott landfill, April 30 – May 15 and transfer stations May 21- June 4. Other sites are yet to be determined. For the full details on dates please visit <https://www.firefree.org/firefreeevents/>

Defensible space classes are moving forward with classes planned for March/April timeframe. Once dates are finalized, the specifics of the class will be shared out.

SB 762 Funding – As most folks know Deschutes County/Project Wildfire served as an applicant for the Landscape Restoration funding opportunity and that proposal was successful and is in the process of being funded through multiple agreements between ODF and the participating landowners. The grant amount is approximately \$6.2 million.

Meeting Topic

Fire Safe Marin – Rich Shortall

Rich – Gave an overview of Fire Safe Marin. Rich covered the mission, demographics, structure of Fire Safe Marin. Fire Safe Marin is centered on education and has four focus areas: hardening your home, creating a smart yard, preparing yourself and ready your community.

Fire Safe Marin has six primary programs to share information. The programs include, a YouTube channel, print medium like evacuation checklist, modern social media (twitter, Instagram etc.), Wildfire Watch TV, and a monthly newsletter. Partnerships have also played a key role in amplifying the messages.

Firewise has had mixed results for Fire Safe Marin. Often the communities start with momentum, but then run out. They have developed seven “Universal Firewise Activities” they want the Firewise sites to do to help carry their momentum.

Curbside chipping is offered to all residents in Marin have an opportunity twice a year to have the chipper come by. Prior to the chipper coming to residents, the residents have a home fire risk evaluation done. This program has grown over the years and has outgrown Fire Safe Marin it is now ran by Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) was created 2 years ago through a parcel tax that raises \$20 million a year. “People love the chipper program.”

There are several other programs that help with education and outreach. The additional programs include: a grade school fire preparedness program that is part of the science curriculum that engages parents too, an advanced handy man program, “Smart Landscaping” classes for landscapers, Red Flag warning signs, NOAA radio alert system and a “Did You Know” sign campaign with a cache of signs to be a companion to the Firewise signs.

A new program is being rolled out, “Adapt to Wildfire”. This will be a multiyear program that will have slogans like “I’m adapting to wildfire because I’m not moving back to Iowa”. This focuses on getting people to understand that living in the fire ecosystem they need to adapt to fire just like people in snowy areas need to adapt to living with snow. Outreach tools for the Adapt to Wildfire program included the local paper, website, newsletter, postcards to realtors, land agencies and open space districts sharing through networks and many community partners.

This year will be the first year of “Ember Stomp”, a wildfire prevention festival with music, food trucks, goats/sheep, partner agencies and activities for residents. They are hoping to have

vendors that sell home hardening materials and master gardeners with example landscaping. This will also be an opportunity to recognize Firewise sites and the work they have done.

At this time Rich opened the conversation for Q&A.

Boone- How many of your Firewise sites have an HOA? Rich – Very few, generally they are geographically associated, but not in an HOA.

David Morman VIA Chat – Are there other funding sources other than the tax measure? Rich – The 20 million is great but other funding sources we utilize have been grants through federal state resources.

Ariel Cowan VIA Chat – How do you reach or target lower income populations? Rich – There are grant programs folks can apply for and several of the cities also have grants that can match funds to reduce costs.

Dean Richardson – What do you do with the chips generated from the chipper program? Rich – we have three facilities that take the chips. The chips are either gasified or composted.

Bob Pohly – How extensive are the evacuation drills and how do you handle narrow roads? Rich – We use a scaled system and keep it as simple as we can. Often this is a drill to be sure you have your go kit completed and not so much a test of road capacity. Purpose is not to test traffic flow, in general if you are prepared you will be ready before most and traffic will not be a problem.

Ariel Cowan – Do you address smoke issues? Rich – This has not been a big topic for the area due to proximity of the ocean.

At this time, Ed thanked Rich for his time and turned the meeting over to round table updates.

ROUNDTABLE

Bob Pohly – Mountain High – Thanked the state for opportunity to apply for grant funding.

Kevin Stock – COFMS – There have been many moving parts with the USFS personnel, Trevor Miller will be a good contact for Project Wildfire. Locally there have been a few prescribed fires taking place.

Craig Letz – Changed business name to Tamarack Wildfire Consulting. He has been picking up clients due to insurance companies' raising rates and looking to drop folks.

Gary Marshal – Rock O the Range received a grant. Deschutes Fire District No 2 is annexing an additional 40 acres near Saddleback; the community will now have fire protection. Ed – Are the grants Deschutes District No2 offer still available? Gary – Yes, they will have another \$12,000 available. If the need is there and continues to go up, likely the amount available will go up as well.

Ed – Encouraged folks to check out www.firesafemarin.org

Boone – Next month will be Camp Fire study results <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/return-to-paradise/>

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.