



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

**November 21, 2023 – Steering Committee – Hybrid - in person and virtual – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM**

**Meeting 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
	Andy Meeuwsen	Insurance Industry	Country Insurance
	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
	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
	Shawn Jaca for Kevin Stock	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
X	Ariel Cowan	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
X	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
X	Kevin Moriarty, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
X	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	At Large
	Brandon Fogelman	Business	At Large
	Jessica Laberge	Business	At Large
X	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
X	Corinne Heiner, Director	Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator	Deschutes County

### **Public Present:**

Susanne Holmes - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA  
Georgia Hill - The Ridge at Eagle Crest  
Adrianna Weickhardt - Sisters Ranger District  
Jeff Puller - SCSFD  
Lauren Street - COIC  
Heather Miller - OSFM  
Emily Curtis - Discover your Forest  
Sophia Zoll - Discover your Forest  
Craig Letz - Tamarack Consulting  
Matthew Martin - City of Sisters  
Lon Leneve - Awbrey Butte  
Jessica Smith - Elkai Woods Fractional  
Shela Boynton - Nottingham Square  
Jodie Barram - Oregon Living with Fire  
Elie Gaines - Deschutes River Woods  
Todd Peplin - DSWCD  
Toby Weiss - Whychus Creek HOA  
Gabe and Olivia - Bend High School

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Corinne - Welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an introduction to the meeting and outlined the agenda. She asked everyone to introduce themselves starting with the room and told zoom attendees to please introduce themselves via the zoom meeting chat.

## **AGENDA AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Corinne and Kevin - Covered the agenda for the meeting and gave updates and announcements which included:

- No December meeting will be held for Project Wildfire.
- Corinne will be updating steering committee members in December.
- Spring Grant is closed out and everyone reported - THANK YOU! Thanks for the great stories and photos.
- Fall Grant will have a similar process, reports will be due June 30, 2024.
  - All but two communities have signed agreements and have been awarded. Kevin is working with the two communities to finish the outstanding agreements.
- Sweat equity - bins
  - Republic and the Deschutes Landfill are working together with our department and pricing bins at \$250/bin for the 30 yard bins.
  - Questionnaire will be on the website.
  - Working with Cascade to match the cost that Republic is providing for the bins.

- We are still looking at doing other sweat equity projects such as fuel removal and chipping, more information to come.

## **MEETING TOPIC 1 - 2024 PW Topics and Program of Work**

Corinne opened up discussion for 2024 topics of interest for presentations. They included:

1. Hazard trees - ODOT
2. La Pine Fire Department update
3. Marin County outreach programs
4. Butte County - Campfire lessons learned
5. State Fire Marshal code guidelines and differences with Firewise guidelines
6. State update on SB-762 and HB-80
7. City of Ashland guest speaker
8. DCFP update
9. HOA grants - where is state funding going?
10. OSU Fire Resistant Plant Guide presentation
11. OSU Forester presentation
12. Insurance industry on homeowners insurance in Oregon
13. Bend Parks and Rec hazardous fuel reduction topics
14. Fire Weather
15. Wildfire Workforce Partnerships - COIC
16. Local Fire districts and how the committee can help assist those who can't do their own fuel reduction work.

Some other ideas that came up during the discussion was having an annual Project Wildfire BBQ, possibly in June. Another topic was to hold a Project Wildfire Steering Committee only meeting, Kevin said that we could look at holding that in the beginning of 2024. Corinne would like to update the committee memberships and seats before holding that meeting.

If you have any topic ideas to share please send them to Corinne at [Corinne.Heiner@deschutes.org](mailto:Corinne.Heiner@deschutes.org).

## **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT - Project Wildfire Neighborhood Coalition**

Corinne Introduced Lon Leneve - Co-Chair of Project Wildfire Neighborhood Coalition.

Lon started with an overview of the committee, which was started earlier this year. We meet every third Wednesday of the month at the County Road Department from 2-4 PM.

The mission is "To support Project Wildfire's mission by improving fire-adapted readiness one neighborhood at a time".

Membership currently includes 13 HOA's/communities and 10 agencies/advisors. Co-Chairs are Lon Leneve and Elizabeth Weide, Secretary is Robin Church and technical support with our Google Drive/Docs is run by Craig Renkert.

Part of the purpose of this subcommittee is to support and mentor communities who are looking to become FireWise. We have found that mentorship is one of the most crucial parts of communities accomplishing FireWise status, by utilizing Firewise coordinators from current certified communities by sharing the process, what works and what doesn't, and sharing resources with those who might need direction and mentorship to accomplish their FireWiseUSA status. Uniting people and communities who want to become FireWise has been recognized and a necessary part of Project Wildfire's mission and this Coalition. We have many different resources available as well as mentors and agency advisors who can aid in questions pertaining to FireWiseUSA.

These meetings are open to the public and are educational, following NFPA guidelines. The Coalition is sending out invitation letters to communities who are already certified FireWise and may be interested in joining. We know that Oregon is going to be coming out with a State code for homes and communities and we believe that this Coalition will be a great resource to jump start the process for many homeowners and communities to be prepared for this statewide code to be released.

Please feel free to join our meetings and to ask any questions about the subcommittee.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Emily Curtis - Went to Spokane for COCO Fire mitigation best practices two day short course. Emily recommends participating if possible, they are free courses. Emily is working on community trivia nights throughout Central Oregon. They are tagging onto existing events, and centering topics on fire and forest topics.

Heather Miller - Defensible space program is ramping up and PSA's and materials are being produced. You can request a home assessment through the Oregon defensible space webpage.

Jeff Puller - Sister's Fire is working with ODF on Firewise renewals, new community risk specialist position focusing on wildfire risk.

Patti Adair - Wanted to encourage communities to use goats for fuel reduction.

Lon Leneve - Awbrey Butte is finishing up second year of increased efforts for fire prevention work. Tamarak is helping create a map of the community and breaking it into zones for assessments. There are about a dozen people who completed the assessment training and go out in the community and provide that service.

Patti - Sunriver is working towards getting a lot of work done on fuel reduction before snow hits. During the winter they are working on outreach materials and aligning messaging.

David Mormon - Disaster – position is currently open for the Red Cross. Red Cross Ready program for assessing disaster preparedness services is available and can also provide

coaching for those who are interested. For information on the open position, contact the local office here in Bend.

Dean Richardson - UDRC \$500 grants were being given to community members for help in completing fuels work. In order to stay up with demand UDRC will be raising funds for the upcoming year.

Paula Simone - COCC is starting the process to become Firewise.

Toby Weiss - Completed a 3 day cleanup at Whychus HOA, Toby will be sending out a video on the efforts.

Gary Marshal - Fire district 2 has grant funds available to apply for through June.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.