



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

February 20, 2024 – Steering Committee – Hybrid - in person and virtual – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Meeting Minutes

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

X	Tom Mooney	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire
	Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 2	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
X	Heather Miller	Fire Rep 3	Oregon State Fire Marshal
X	Melissa Steele	Fire Rep 4	Bend Fire and Rescue
X	Andy Meeuwsen	Insurance Industry	Country Insurance
	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
	Kyle Collins	Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
		Private Forestry	
X	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
	Elizabeth Weide	HOA Rep	The Parks HOA
	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
	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
	Sheldon Rhoden	BLM	Fire Management Specialist
	Shawn Jaca for Kevin Stock	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
X	Ariel Cowan	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
X	Kevin Moriarty, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
X	Patti Adair	Commissioner	Deschutes County
		Marketing	At Large
	Horace Ward	Business	At Large - Pacific Power
		Business	At Large
		Citizen Rep	At Large
X	Corinne Heiner, Director	Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator	Deschutes County

Public Present:

Susanne Holmes - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA
Lon Leneve - Awbrey Butte
Greg Bryant - DRW
Phil Chang - Deschutes County Commissioner
Robin Church - Three Pines HOA
Eric Metzgar - ODF
Suzanne Butterfield - Awbrey Park
Emily Curtis - Discover your Forest
Davis Breuninger
Christina Maier - Tollgate
Laura Bevan - Widgi Creek
Jodie Barram - Oregon Living with Fire
Matthew Martin - City of Sisters
Jessica Smith - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA
Boyd Turner - Eagle Crest
Diane Holmes - The Bridges at Shadow Glen
Jinger Cain - The Bridges at Shadow Glen
Ray Miao - Woodside Ranch HOA

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:

- Sweat equity - bins
 - 13 communities have signed up
 - Republic and the Deschutes Landfill are working together with our department and pricing bins at \$200/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.
 - Will be timed with Fire Free days

- BLM Grant (\$90,000)
 - Grant application online
 - 3-4 projects
 - contracted services with Deschutes County
 - reporting due 2025

- eligible projects
 - defensible space
 - ingress/egress
 - no firewise component necessary to be eligible
- New Steering Committee members!
 - Heather Miller - OSFM
 - Melissa Steele - Bend Fire and Rescue
 - Horace Ward - Pacific Power
 - Elizabeth Weide - The Parks HOA
 - Sheldon Rhoden - BLM

Thanks for joining the Project Wildfire Steering Committee, I am looking forward to working more with all of you!

There are still a few openings, if you or anyone you may know is interested, please contact Corinne at Corinne.Heiner@deschutes.org

- Spring Fire Free 2024 Dates
 - Knot Landfill
 - May 3 - 12
 - Negus Transfer Station
 - May 31, June 1, June 3-8
 - Southwest Transfer Station
 - May 31, June 1, June 3-8
 - Northwest Transfer Station
 - May 31, June 1, June 5-8

MEETING TOPIC 1 - Andy Meeuwsen - Country Financial

During the Project Wildfire meeting, several issues regarding insurance and wildfire risk were discussed. The main concern raised by participants was the increasing premiums and non-renewals of home insurance policies, despite homeowners having no claims or previous issues.

The use of wildfire scores based on proprietary algorithms and overlay maps was highlighted as a major factor in determining insurance eligibility and premiums. Insurance carriers are now placing a significant emphasis on defensible space and tree clearance around properties, with specific guidelines for distances and tree heights.

The subjective decision-making of underwriters was also mentioned, as they have the authority to accept or reject risks based on their own judgment. The challenges faced by homeowners in obtaining insurance for second homes and vacation rentals were also addressed, with insurance carriers being more cautious due to the higher risk of properties being unoccupied during a wildfire. The lack of transparency in the insurance industry's risk assessment models and the need for collaboration between insurance companies, fire departments, and forestry

experts to improve understanding of wildfire risk were highlighted as important areas for future action.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on potential legislative measures to address the insurance industry's response to wildfire risk, including the possibility of a certification program for properties that have implemented wildfire mitigation measures. Overall, the meeting shed light on the complexities and frustrations faced by homeowners and insurance agents in navigating the insurance landscape in wildfire-prone areas.

ROUNDTABLE

There was no round table discussion due to time, with the technical difficulties at the beginning of the meeting we opted to continue questions and discussion around the meeting topic with Andy.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.