



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

October 15, 2024 – 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 |
| X | Heather Miller | Fire Rep 3 | Oregon State Fire Marshal |
| | Melissa Steele | Fire Rep 4 | Bend Fire and Rescue |
| X | Andy Meeuwsen | Insurance Industry | Country Insurance |
| | Chris Perry | 911 Service District | Deschutes County |
| X | Kyle Collins | Community Development Dept. | Deschutes County |
| | | Private Forestry | |
| X | Patti Gentiluomo | HOA Rep | Sunriver HOA |
| | Elizabeth Weide | HOA Rep | The Parks 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 |
| | 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 |
| | 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 |
| | | 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:

Georgia Hill - The Ridge at Eagle Crest
Carolyn Dahlberg - Tollgate HOA
Robert Pohly - Mountain High
Megan Fummerton - Central Oregon Tree Experts
Matthew Martin - City of Sisters
Jessica Smith - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA
Christina Maier - Tollgate HOA
Greg Bryant - DRW
Jeffrey Reaume - RECOA CWP
Ray Miao - Woodside Ranch HOA
Steven Lord - SCSFD
Bill Boos - Sunriver Fire Dept.
Todd Peplin - DSWCD
Erin Kilcullen - DSWCD
Sherri Moen - Widgi Creek HOA
Jeff Puller - SCSFD
Susanne Holmes - Elkai Woods Fractional HOA
Scott Collins - Junipine HOA
Kristan Collins - Junipine HOA
Emily Curtis - Discover your Forest
Robin Church - Three Pines HOA
Nick Lelack - Deschutes County
Erik Kropp - Deschutes County
Molly Mowery - Community Wildfire Planning Center
Sonja von Ehrenstein - Wildriver HOA
Craig Letz - Tamarack Consulting
Steve Hawks - IBHS
Kelsey Hunter - OSFM
Nate Price -

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

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

- Fall Fuel Reduction Grant
 - 42 applicants

- 41 eligible
 - Final review 10/15
 - Grants awards will be announced at the end of this week
- Interviews for Grants Coordinator are scheduled for November 7th and 8th
 - Final Upper Deschutes River meeting scheduled for 11/4.
 - If you would like to participate please email Corinne
 - Second meeting for the East- West CWPP scheduled for 11/25
 - if you would like to participate please email Corinne
 - There are still a few openings on the Project Wildfire Steering Committee, if you or anyone you may know is interested, please contact Corinne at Corinne.Heiner@deschutes.org

MEETING TOPIC 1 - Steve Hawks -

Corinne introduced Steve Hawks, Senior Director for Wildfire with the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS).

Steve Hawks, the Senior Director for Wildfire at the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), delivered an informative presentation on wildfire risks and mitigation strategies. He began by sharing his extensive background in wildfire management, having served for 30 years with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). His experience includes both field operations and leadership roles focused on community wildfire preparedness and mitigation. Hawks emphasized the importance of understanding the vulnerabilities of homes and businesses to wildfires, particularly in areas prone to high-intensity fires.

Hawks introduced the IBHS as a nonprofit organization funded by the insurance industry, dedicated to researching wildfire risks and developing strategies to mitigate those risks. He described the IBHS Research Center in South Carolina, which features a unique testing facility designed to simulate wildfire conditions. The center allows researchers to evaluate how embers and flames interact with various building materials and structures, providing critical insights into how to enhance resilience against wildfires.

A significant portion of the presentation focused on the factors contributing to wildfire intensity, including fuel, weather, and topography. Hawks explained that human activities account for over 80% of home wildfire ignitions, while drought conditions and strong winds exacerbate fire behavior. He illustrated these points with examples from notable wildfires, such as the Camp Fire in Paradise, California, and the Lahaina fire in Hawaii, highlighting how ember cast and structural vulnerabilities led to widespread destruction.

Hawks outlined key mitigation strategies that homeowners and communities can implement to reduce wildfire risks. He emphasized the importance of creating defensible space around properties, which includes maintaining a non-combustible zone within the first five feet of a home, using fire-resistant building materials, and ensuring proper spacing between structures.

He also discussed the significance of building codes, such as California's Chapter 7A, which mandates fire-resistant construction practices in wildfire-prone areas.

The presentation concluded with an introduction to the IBHS's "Wildfire Prepared Home" program, which certifies homes that meet specific resilience criteria. Hawks encouraged homeowners to assess their properties and take proactive measures to mitigate vulnerabilities, emphasizing that a comprehensive approach is necessary for effective wildfire risk reduction. He invited participants to reach out with questions and expressed his commitment to supporting communities in their efforts to enhance wildfire resilience.

Steve Hawks provided a thorough and insightful presentation for Project Wildfire and we used the remainder of his time slot for questions.

More details and a full recording of this meeting can be found at the links below on the Project Wildfire Youtube channel and on the Project Wildfire website at <https://projectwildfire.org/steering-committee-meeting-minutes/>, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMZ8Qk4SQb4>

ROUNDTABLE

Heather - Fire prevention Co-op is holding Fire Busters this week.

Erin - DSWCD is hosting an open house at Worthy Brewing 10/15.

The meeting adjourned at approx. 9:30 a.m.