Yavapai**Firewise**

**Wildland Urban Interface Commission ~ since 1990**

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**Our Vision**: All Yavapai County neighborhoods safely coexist with wildfire.

**Yavapai Firewise Member Meeting**

**Thursday, February 1, 2024 8:00 am**

**February Meeting Link**

**https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/f2Eq85i4eywScgtxXIqekBt4B9EDfE3NcTGRZTkq8ghDo-990ggD16SdX\_\_wOQ.7cD4WBYRXttsKF\_t**

**Passcode:#sBXi9^X**

**Minutes**

1. Call to Order at 8:07
   1. Tom Davis announced working to connect/share PowerPoint
   2. Anita on medical leave
2. Approval of Agenda
   1. Correct spelling of Peeple’s Valley and Weaver Mountain
3. Agency Reports
   1. AZ-DFFM: James Robbins Project Charcoal Gulch 640 acres east of Blue Hills in foothills of Bradshaw’s, mastication to start soon; Lynx Creek Mitigation project also mastication starts soon; across from Diamond Valley old Hwy. 89 area (State Land done 10 - 15 years ago) Ruger Ranch phase1 starting the 5th 220 acres planned maybe pushing out to another 700 acres. Area is between Kirkland Junction and Peeple’s Valley in the Weaver Foothills. Granite Oaks-Williamson Valley area quick 200 acres; mostly boundary work looking to expand into more State Land. More prescribed burns mostly pile burns in middle of February Deadhorse State park on the Verde side and broadcast in ***Reids area?***
      1. Suppression side Russ Shumate chief, James, Mike Martin- Yavapai County, Mike Lang-Mohave County, 2 Captains for the Lewis Crew-5 personnel, finishing seasonal training
      2. Extending efforts to local fire stations
      3. 1 week of Arizona Wildland and Incident Management Academy at Embry Riddle (largest in country)
      4. Basin ops drill, trying to do it on the west side of county
      5. Grant season for Fire Departments
   2. Bureau of Land Management: Carlos Payan – Update on Dewey-Humboldt Martha way and Rocky Hill project 200 acres, thinning and mastication next week or two a 20 person crew will start work.
   3. CAFMA: Carrie Johnson-will fill in for Daryl Tirpack at the PAWUIC meetings – no projects to report, took class on Fire Adapted Community in Baltimore, very informative. Hoping to apply what they learned. Network with all communities.
   4. Prescott Forestry Crew: Myles Graybill-city of Prescott Forestry Coordinator, 110 acres on the Goldwater ***TSI*** Forest Service project-on hold now because of rain-not wanting to tear up ground using masticator, moved on to Spruce Mountain Piling project 2.2 miles of power line prep-done in about 4 days; 20 acre city property next to Kiwanis Camp 50-hazardous ponderosa pine removal. Also help with snow removal.
   5. Prescott Fire: Conrad Jackson – Insurance cancellation info coming to office due to location in wildland; As a representative of the city, Conrad is willing to provide assessment and letter to insurance company (creek bottom); Summit Point East-new Firewise Community 32 property owners in community right next to the old Senator Drive-In. 17 homeowners have scheduled Conrad to complete assessments
      1. Trip to Irvine – (Miles and Conrad) selected to attend Firewise Exchange Program. A national meeting on wildfire risks in the various community. What neighbors across the nation do to mitigate Wildfire risks and to fund Mitigation efforts.
      2. Question regarding 2nd chipper. Conrad has not heard back.
      3. Question regarding fuel break on Oro Flame Mind USAA increase of 25% … how we get help beyond the City across Yavapai County. Not getting a break on insurance even with fuel break. Insurance companies are basing their decisions on aerial photos.
   6. Prescott City Council-Cathey Rusing new liaison; Conrad position was created to “run” wildfire prevention; Cathey lives in a wildland urban interface and her insurance was not renewed; got a new policy;
   7. Jeep Posse - Ron Jakola-Captain and the Fire Coordinator would love to talk to HOA’s about emergency evacuation – Yavapai County
      1. call for 928-308-2508 to schedule
   8. Jerome Fire-Carl Whiting: making progress on NFHF 22-204 grant-has proved difficult, has hired 1 full time fuel crew man, looking for more.
   9. Abby Harbicht: LASER celebrate 5th anniversary in Feb; re-certifying volunteers; many collaborators; being asked to share program with other county & states.
   10. Ray Paiz (Weaver Mountain) Peeple’s Valley Fire-HFI grant progressing; major fuel break of significant acres; Matt Rust-DFFM helping with assessments; Ruger Ranch 11.5 acres of ingress and regress completed; 2 additional Firewise Community applications in process (Ruger Ranch & Peeple’s Valley); outreach program to 4 elementary schools (Congress, Peeple’s Valley, Skull Valley & Kirkland Junction) to compete in artwork contest with the Dewey Humboldt event-Don’t Get Burned; Michelle Waverly (insurance) to talk in our area at event – Insurance using electric formats and are based on old records & pictures! MAYBE: we need to seek legislation to require insurance to use recent data & pictures.
   11. PNF: Ben Roe – Timber Side – Couple big projects; Ponderosa Park West 600 acres of cut and stacking (piles) work to be completed in February; Big Chunk of land just north of Bill Field’s property called Pay-off TSI on Wolf Creek Road (600) acres 200 acres on Spruce Mountain in the next month. If not finished, will be done in October. Logging operation on Big Bug Mesa-700 acres mechanical thinning. 2 operations; Walker Road; 200 acres done Contracted road work. Best road work along 10 miles through forest; 261 Project from Union Saddle through Camp Kippa down to five points. Working south on five points down to Big Bug Mesa. Another project ongoing with a partner by Union Saddle off of Senator Hwy to ridgeline 1300 acres of hand thinning. About 200 acres done. Piling
       1. White Spur Hwy & Groom Creek Loop road – dead and leaning trees along road. Any plans? Reach out to ADOT to see if they can help.

PNF Corey Carlson – Pile burning in February at Camp Pearlstein area, Camp Wamatochick, Mt Frances, generally South of Prescott, Spruce area; Mastication with fire crews in Lynx Lake area postage stamp areas, Verde district along 169 mastication happening now, will continue next with The Ranch at Prescott. Will masticate ahead of time to clean up then prescribed fire. Most likely in fall; Timing on the Ranch project will be when contractors wrap up the 169 area. Prevention folks put QR codes on back table will take you to PNF site, Facebook page, Twitter page with maps and updates on where they are working, why, when prescribed fires will happen and what the impacts might be; also new videos online regarding site updates; Also a flyer on Woman in Wildfire boot camp. Personnel changes Sara Clawson was promoted following Dale Dieter’s retirement to Forest Supervisor so we are still in good hands. John Kava has taken Sarah’s place. If you have any issues ask John. Jessica will be the new west zone fuels planner, eventually will receive the prescribed fire and fuels program on the west zone. Will work with cooperators on Cross Boundary Projects. Has extensive fuels background.

Question on cause of Hackberry fire – Human caused, investigated by law enforcement-not sure of what their determination was. Fire was by Highland Pines and 97 Bravo Rd, the week before Christmas started in the middle of the night between 1am and 6pm. 55 acres (evidence that any month is hazardous)

* 1. Yavapai Board of Supervisors- Harry Oberg: liaison
     1. Nothing to report
     2. Brown – grant/scholarship available for small fire departments/districts, training wildland firefighters
  2. Yavapai County Emergency Management: Ashley Ahlquist: Highland Pines preparedness – thanks for story; evacuation zones (Genesis Evac) working with volunteers to plan 4 zones; working with health department to update functional needs database (people that might need help-give information to health department in case of an emergency) shifting to new updated system more specific information and help to coordinate resources; participation in basin ops, and ESV exercise, and getting ready.
  3. Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe-No updates

1. Strategic Planning Update (9:05)
   1. Developed in 2021; working on various strategies … providing update
   2. Five major areas of focus (5 goals)
   3. Provided information regarding each goal with initiative & action plan updates/progress
      1. Goal 1 100% implementation
      2. Goal 2. 38% implementation
      3. Goal 3. 33% implementation
      4. Goal 4. 50% implementation
      5. Goal 5. 29% implementation
2. Annual Report Update (9:18)
   1. Site survey … please submit Survey Monkey
   2. Agency Accomplishments … please email 1-3 accomplishments to pawuic1@gmail.com
3. Gift Card Raffle- Gift Card #651. Dennis Shaw
4. Treasurer Report.
   1. November Deposits $2,500 Debits $8,238 Actual Operational Monies 89,510
   2. December Deposits $92,104 Debits $2,5552 Actual Operational Monies 87,032
5. Grants Report. (call Shirley at 928-775-
   1. Explained summary table of grants
   2. Closed WFHF-20-204, NFHF-21-205, NFHF-22-204, FHP-20-201, Title 3
   3. Some money back to State/Feds because sites did not use the money (did not complete acres)
   4. Waiting for information on 2 future grants
6. Wildfire Expo
   1. 4/20/2024. (9:00 – 3:00)
   2. Need volunteers for set-up, working communication, take-down
   3. Requesting input from agencies regarding booth needs
7. Community Highlights
   1. Prescott Canyon Estates 2 acres – recognize quality of work by G&S Precision
8. Announcements – NEED VOLUNTEERS!
   1. April 20, 2024 Wildfire Expo
   2. May 4, 2024 Don’t Get Burned (Dewey)
   3. May 17-19 Home & Garden Show
9. Adjournment at 9:37

Next Meeting March 7 at Yavapai County Emergency Management Office (or zoom)

In Person Attendance-57

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| Denise Thomas | Bob Betts |
| Dennis Shaw | Ron Riggs |
| Tom Watkins | Sylvia Hill |
| Patricia Pill | Kelley Paiz |
| Ray Paiz | Ron Weiss |
| Carlo Martinelli | Monika Friend |
| Greg Kidd | John Kava |
| Ashley Ahlquist | Greg Wanket |
| James Robbins | Donna Fagan |
| Jim Orr | Conrad Jackson |
| Cory Carlson | Michael Ore |
| Mariah Hege | Dave Soto |
| Ron Jakola | Jim Campbell |
| Justice Bolden | Jason Marsh |
| Grey Stafford | Mike Spencer |
| Mary Ann Clark | Tefra Woodridge |
| Terry Kaplan | Marian Lafayette |
| Eileen Tellez | Carrie Johnson |
| Cathey Rusing | Carolyn Smith |
| Lori Bomar | Shaun Bomar |
| Russ Lafayette | Jerry Borgelt |
| Marty Borgelt | Loren Bykerk |
| Robert Gates | MaryAnn Deminsky |
| Harry Oberg | Bill Fields |
| Ken Karkula | Miles Graybill |
| Ben Roebuck | Craig Brown |
| Larry Gray | Sarah Townsley |
| Shirley Howell | Tom Davis |
| Julius Koenigsknecht |  |

Zoom Attendance-18

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| --- | --- |
| Abby Harbicht | John Sterling |
| Jim Zimmerman | Phil Johnson |
| Matt Rust | Rod Trytko |
| Catherine Knox | Carlos Payan |
| Debbie Miller | Bob Fiala |
| Carl Whiting | StoneRidge |
| Kathy Andrews | Tom Knapp PFD |
| Amber Pava | Barbara Fox-Thomas |
| GCFD Max Fitzmaurice | Joan Myers |