

**Prescott Area
Wildland/Urban Interface Commission
Minutes
December 3, 2015**

Participants: Bob Betts, Lois Hoskinson, Shirley Howell, Paul Mazade, John Beddow, Darrell Anderson, Jerry Borgelt, Marty Borgelt, Josh Tibbetts, Shawn Jackson, Ken Murray, Paul Scrivens, Andie Smith, Rick Chase, Loren Bykerk, Roger Swenson, Penny Pew, Mike Brockert, Mary Ann Clark, Ben De Blois, KC Yowell, Judy Rae Haley, Jim Peterson, Marty Zythowski, Al West, Betty Higgins, Marques Munis, Kent Apostol, Lou Burrell, Craig Brown, Bob Travis, Neil Cooperrider, Linn Lisbona, Karen Goldstein, Marty Trembley, Bill Brye, Jim Buchanan, Russell Lafayette, Julia Bernal, Larry Gray, Douglas Stefanko, Sarah Tomsy, Bob Sisley, Russ Shumate, Cynthia Gentle, Don Devendorf, Earl Carpenter, Jeff Schalau, Ben Justiniano, Cheri Ditto, Mary Conner, Dennis Light, Denny Foulk

Recorder: Seleatha Mendibles

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

Jeff Schalau took a moment to introduce U of A's new Forest Health Agent, Kent Apostol. His office is in Payson and is looking forward to getting plugged in to the PAWUIC community.

Shawn Jackson with BLM also introduced a new member of the fuels team, Josh Tibbetts.

Bob Betts introduced Ben Justiniano with Chapter 5. Chapter 5 is one of the oldest and most respected behavioral health organizations in Prescott. Ben is also a representative for the National Alliance for Recovery Residences and is working with State Representative Noel Campbell on the restructuring of Arizona law for recovery facilities.

Ben and Bob have been working on a pilot program that would provide defensible space and fuels mitigation for the elderly and homeowners with disabilities. This program would provide a way for members of the recovery community to give back to Prescott and its surrounding areas. Anyone interested in helping to shape this program, please contact Bob or speak with Ben after the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

November 2015 minutes were approved.

3. Financial Report- Voted on and approved by Commission.

• **Treasurer's Report**

October 31, 2015 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	17,866.43
Total Deposits	\$	4,065.99
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	21,932.42
Debits/Expenses	\$	2,660.30
Ending Bank Balance	\$	19,272.12
Pending Balance	\$	2,027.12
Checkbook Balance as of November 30	\$	17,494.94

Title III Monies	\$	9,106.30
Actual Operational Monies	\$	8,388.64

Bob took a moment to recognize the generosity of some of PAWUIC's members. Anony Mouse (anonymous member) donated a new LED projector, portable projection screen and a remote control/laser pointer to PAWUIC. Another member who wishes to remain anonymous donated \$250 without restrictions as to how it can be used.

Proceeds from the raffle came to \$2561.48. The goal was to raise \$10,000. Hopefully in future years with everyone's support we will get closer to achieving the fundraising goal of \$10,000. A scholarship check using 1/3 of the net proceeds from the raffle was made to AZ Wildfire Academy and presented to Chief Light. Melanie De Maria from the Yavapai Hills community was the lucky winner of the Christmas parade fire truck ride along. The top selling communities were Hidden Valley, Quail Hollow, and Prescott Summit.

4. Agency and Community Activity Reports

NRCS- Is working in the Granite Oaks area. They primarily work with private entities across State and Federal land and assist landowners with various issues.

BLM- Will be engaging more in community work as a great deal of NEPA work has been completed. They will begin mechanical treatments near Costco, off highway 69 in the Mayer/Dewey area and near ERAU in cooperation with State Forestry.

Board of Supervisors/Emergency Management- Craig Brown spoke about the potential of a biomass processing plant being built near Paulden. It is still in the exploration phase, but has the potential to bring 100 jobs to the area. The project is called Watershed Restoration and Management Plan and would clear acres of land of juniper, pinyon and chaparral using low-impact equipment. For additional information see the article in the Daily Courier or speak to Supervisor Brown directly.

<http://dcourier.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=152055&SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1086&S=1>

PFD- During the restructuring of the department, the Wildland Division was renamed to the Fuels Reduction Division. The City of Prescott is working through some financial issues involving Title II and III monies related to the Hazardous Fuels grant. The outcome seems favorable and the division will be hiring 4 additional people to do mitigation work. Ronnie Gamble has moved on and Cody Kennedy from the fuels crew will be stepping in to ensure chipping projects will continue. While there is a great deal of transition in the division, three new large projects will begin shortly. Don Devendorf also spoke about workers at the NASA Langley Research Center developing and testing new fire shelters that will work to protect firemen beneath the shelter from more of a direct flame and convective heat. The team has created a couple of designs that they are continuing to test and improve that are looking very promising.

CYFD/Chino Valley Fire Department- The official transition to a combined department is in progress and will continue over the next 6 months or so. Grant work will begin soon in Williamson Valley, Granite Oaks and Lynx Creek Estates.

AZ State Forestry- The transition from three to five districts continues this month which will result in more focused fuels mitigation projects, additional coordination with the fire departments, and less driving to the various areas. Crews are working in the Woodlands area in northern Yavapai County to enhance the Upper Verde River Watershed. A 600 acre project in Granite Oaks has been slightly delayed, but will result in additional acres completed. AZ State Forestry is also participating in the Christmas parade for the first time.

PNF- Timber updates- Contractors completed the 250 acre Spruce Ridge Thinning Project (Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership project). Another contractor may start working on the 180 acre Oak Knoll Fuel Break within the next two weeks or so after they finish up a project on the Chino Valley RD. Our fire personnel finished up a 75 acre hand thinning project located between Highland Pines and Deering Park. The Highland Center for Natural History was awarded a RAC grant that will allow us to implement another 25-30 acres of thinning and mastication. The report for the Joint Chief's Project was submitted, and a total of over 2,800 acres were treated.

Fire/Fuels- Pile burning to continue with favorable weather conditions. Locations include Spruce Mountain, Ponderosa Park, Spence Springs and Copper Basin areas. Twenty acres of pile burning has already been completed. A mastication project up Senator Highway near Goldwater Lake is also in progress.

5. Old Business

Presentation of Congressional Record- As Chairman, Bob had an opportunity to visit with Congressman Gosar and his District Director, Penny Pew. She is also the Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison. They both have a vast knowledge of the issues that PAWUIC deals with locally. Penny was here to read the Congressional Record to commemorate the silver anniversary of PAWUIC on behalf of Congressman Gosar.

Grant Updates- Shirley provided grant status as her last official act as Treasurer. The WFHF 15-208 grant began on 10/15. Lois and Shirley have met and provided guidance to most of the communities listed in the grant. There is about a year left of the WFHF 14-206 grants and is about 1/3 of the way through the amount of acres needing to be completed. PAWUIC has acres available for use in the WFHF 15-208 by communities not listed in either of the grants or are new and don't quite have their Firewise status.

6. New Business

Presentation of Slate of Candidates for the 2016 and Open Outcry Balloting-

Office positions up for election are Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Grant Maker/Manager. The commission voted and approved the following persons to fill the open positions.

Chairperson- Bob Betts

Vice Chairperson- Jim Buchannan

Treasurer- Julia Bernal

Grant Maker/Manager- Jean Seely

Committee Reports/Task Force-

Eric Steffey will email an update regarding his mitigation study in early January.

Watershed Management- Bob has been working on gathering additional support for this task force. Organizations that he has targeted for participation are CWAG, Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition, and Prescott Creeks. Each of these organizations are already doing incredible work on their own and meeting together would further the interests of all groups involved. Bob is hoping for a late January date to get together.

Guest Speaker- Bob Betts

Bob provided a brief summary of the role of County Government in partnership with PAWUIC. He provided the group with a brief PowerPoint (sheets) showing the amount of money

contributed through Title III funding, free slash days/green waste, probationer crews that do thinning work, and the maintenance, fuel and personnel used for the grinder. Their goal and end result is to prepare, protect and preserve the community of Prescott and its surrounding areas.

7. General Announcements

-Ms. Melanie De Marie and her friends are excited to participate in the first Christmas Parade PFD ride along on Saturday.

-Members who filled out the post cards stating why they attend PAWUIC meetings spoke of the networking opportunities, information sharing and the agency connection as the main reasons to attend.

-Bob gave a heartfelt thanks to Shirley for her years of commitment to PAWUIC.

-Animal Disaster Services will also be in the Christmas Parade.

Adjournment at 9:18 a.m.

Note: Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.