

PRESCOTT AREA WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE COMMISSION

Minutes

September 3, 2015 – 7:00 a.m.

Participants: Craig Brown, Bob Betts, Lois Hoskinson, Ben Tuttle, Billie Orr, George Sheats, Linn Lisbona, Jeff Phillips, Henry Dahlberg, Ken Murray, Roger Swenson, Cal Willahran, Betty Higgins, Eric Steffey, Paul Mazade, Ronnie Gamble, Mary Ann Clark, Ken Karkula, Dennis B. Light, Neil Cooperrider, Rick Chase, Jack Smith, Bill Brye, Art Mandel, Ben De Blois, KC Yowell, Bob Travis, Cynthia Gentle, Larry Gray, Ginny Shugars, Leigh Cosby, Cindi Miner, Sarah Tomsy, Yvonne Brendecke, Denny Foulk, John Beddow, Al West, Loren Bykerk, Jim Poore, Earl Carpenter, Don Devendorf, Bob Celaya, Jeanne Seely, Janet Seely, J.D. Greenberg, Jerry Borgelt, Shirley Howell

Recorder: Lois Hoskinson

Call to Order / Introductions

Meeting was called to order

Moment of Remembrance

One minute was spent in silence to remember the firefighters and civilian that lost their lives and those individuals that lost their homes and property

25th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday September 1st marked the first of several public events that recognized September 7th, 2015 as the 25th anniversary of PAWUIC. Tuesday the city recorded a proclamation to cite this accomplishment. Next Tuesday the county board of supervisors will also recognize this milestone in PAWUIC's history. Congressman Gosar's staff is working on entering PAWUIC's silver anniversary into the congressional record of the United States

Approval of August 2015 Minutes

August 2015 minutes were approved.

Financial Report

Voted on and approved by Commission

A new report, General Monthly Accounting, was available to the membership. This report will be available every month.

Treasurer's Report

8/1/2015 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	20,225.16
Subtotal Plus Credits/Deposit	\$	21,174.16
Debits/Expenses	\$	2,882.52
Ending Bank Balance	\$	18,291.64
Pending Expenses	\$	100.00
8/31/2015 Ending Checkbook Balance	\$	18,191.64
Title III Monies	\$	9,597.70
Actual Operational Monies	\$	8,593.94

Agency & Community Activity Reports

Title III Grants - The Deadline for applications to Donna Fagan for Title III Grants is Friday September 4th at 5:00 pm. If you need help call Bob he will be available to help.

Yavapai County Board of Supervisors/Emergency Management

Supervisor Brown urged communities to send in applications for Title III grants. Supervisor Smith said the term on the grant money is 2 years. County can also help in preparing grant paperwork. Denny Foulk has met with a community south of Hassayampa (Prescott Summit) to work with providing exits in case of emergency evacuations. Reminder to look at your exits. The Jeep Posse is responsible for evacuations. Be familiar with their evacuation procedure. Hootenanny Holler almost have their evacuation procedure finalized. The County is continuing to offer free slash drop-off thru the 19th of September.

Prescott Fire Department

Ronnie Gamble stated that Title III grant is how they fund most everything they do. They applied for money from the Title III grant and are hoping to receive money to continue with chipping, firewise assessments, firewise days, and providing dumpsters. Last month PFD completed 46 chip jobs, 7 firewise assessments, and Yavapai Hills applied for dumpsters. PFD was awarded another WFHF grant starting in November for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Let Ronnie, Marsha Collier or Don Devendorf know if you have a chip job for your community.

Central Yavapai Fire District/Chino Valley Fire Department

Had the racetrack fire that was over 260 acres. Still have CYFD people gone to fires in Northwest. Received a grant thru PAWUIC to provide services to homeowners. Have a chipper crew still going but guys are off district fighting fires. The Chipping Crews will be available from Oct thru April to communities.

Arizona State Forestry Division/Forest Health

Bob Celaya reported that the incidences of bark beetle was low and was overall looking good. He has taken a quick tour of the Prescott basin, and everything is looking good. However, he is seeing strange things due to all the rains, relating to pest and diseases.

Prescott National Forest KC, Ben & Sarah

Ben reported that the contract for the 250 acre Spruce Ridge Forest Health Improvement Project was awarded. The contractors can start working on the project any time after Oct. 1st. Work continues on the Amulet Stewardship Project and PNF hope to award the 500+ acre project in November or early December. There is a map of all the projects that were included in the 2015 Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership on display.

Fire and fuel. SA Fire and Rattlesnake fires. Good fires. It has been a busy fire season in the Northwest and northern Rockies. Most PNF fire personnel are up there right now. The mastication project along Walker Rd. is ongoing and the contractors have completed approximately 300 acres of the 1,000 acre project area. Pile burning will be ongoing as conditions warrant. Received end of year funds and awarded a contract for the Oak Knoll Project which will cover 180 acres of a fuel break that will follow the Forest boundary from the Ranch to Hidden Valley Ranch. In addition, the PNF also received half a million dollars in year end funds to conduct the environmental analysis on the 240,000+ acre Hassayampa Project area. This will essentially cover the southern half of the Bradshaw Ranger District. Fall- gearing up when firefighters return home. Fire suppression budget not good. Bob Betts reminded the group that 3 bills are pending in the U.S. Congress. 2 bills have the only fire suppression provision in them and the third bill co-sponsored by Senators Flake and McCain also includes fuels mitigation. Please contact your legislators to support that Senate bill. Ben will begin exploratory work on watershed maintenance

U of A Extension

Now that there are Grant sources and dollars available for education on defensible space, Jeff does not have the office space to put a person, but is working on finding space. Jeff is also seeing weird diseases in plants. Has seen what he suspects as Texas Root Rot in the Verde Valley.

Wildfire Communities

Long Meadow Ranch – Neal Cooperider shared a story regarding a resident burning trash with a burn

permit on a windy afternoon with winds blowing to the northeast. A fire started right next to the barn and house. 15 acres became involved. The community is now talking firewise.

Mountain Club – Successful last couple of years. Mountain Club has several Prescott college professors residing within the community. In the past they worked on treating fuels within a riparian area. The result of their efforts took out too many native plants and now invasive plants have taken over. The Mountain Club board has now recruited them to be a part of the firewise committee. The Firewise committee assessed common areas, selected a contractor and worked on a 2nd riparian area located at Canyon Drive and Manzanita Drive. It has turned out beautiful.

Old Business

Grant updates – WFHF 2015, SFA 2016, and Title III

WFHF 2014 has been in place for about a year. We were just awarded a 2015 WFHF worth 213,000 of grant money. The grantees include Prescott Skyline, Iron Springs, and Central Yavapai Fire District, and several smaller communities under the PAWUIC umbrella. Once the paperwork is signed Shirley will get back with the communities to let them know their grant share. Shirley is guessing the middle of October is when all will be in place. Shirley and Lois will meet separately with firewise chairs to show the procedures. Also included in the grant is 28 acres to PAWUIC that will be used for existing firewise communities. Denny has fire pictures to help stimulate firewise activities and promote mitigation within the different communities. We are doing well with submitting future grants. PAWUIC submitted for the SFA 2016 grant which won't be awarded until next summer. Need to keep stimulating communities to use funds. We do not want to give monies back.

Fundraising Update – Scoreboard

The community that brings in most raffle tickets will get a gift certificate to a local eatery. The drawing for the Christmas Parade Ride-Along will take place at the November 5th meeting. For the salute to Everett Warnock there are still seats available. It is at 4:00 on September 12th. Let Bob know if you wish to attend.

Reminder on Fry's – It is necessary to update charitable recipient annually for your VIP cards from Fry's. Go to Frysfood.com to Community to Community Rewards to enroll now. Type in Prescott and Prescott Area Wildland will come up. A donation in the amount of one half of one percent of your purchases will be given to PAWUIC. If everyone participates in this program PAWUIC could earn \$1,800.00 a year.

New Business

Christmas Parade Application – Bob requested a motion to apply for a position in the 33rd annual Christmas Parade. The Motion to participate in the Chamber's Christmas parade was passed.

Task Force creation – Motion: "Understanding Homeowner Mitigation Behaviors"

According to PAWUIC's procedures, it allows the creation of a task force as needed from time to time. It does require a motion and vote from the commission to proceed. Task force will be named Understanding Homeowner Mitigation Behavior. What it takes to get homeowners to firewise. The task force was approved.

Committee Reports/Task Force

Marketing

Leigh Cosby spoke about the new identity of yavapai**firewise**●org. Working on updating the letterhead and the larger logo. yavapai**firewise**●org will continue to be connected to PAWUIC and the full name of Prescott Area Wildland Urban Interface. It is important to perpetuate the PAWUIC identity. WE want the public to realize we have not changed, just evolved. Window clings have been ordered to put on

cars. Will handout clings at the next meeting. As people see the new logos on cars, it will generate interest and take people to the website. We have also worked on a brochure about the actual PAWUIC organization and the work the commission does.

Website and Social Media Activities

Bob received feedback that it was nice to have the agenda and minutes on the website.

Maryann commented on the Web activity. We could use more activity. In order to promote our name, it is important to **like** and **share** in our Facebook community. Next month at Octoberfest, the animal disaster services have a booth and will share PAWUIC information at their booth. Mary Ann also puts interesting things from agencies or the county on the Website

Mitigation Study – Eric Steffey

Understanding why homeowners do or do not mitigate their properties. He will be contacting neighborhood leaders for: basic information; and dynamics of each community. He plans interviews in next few weeks. Dynamics of residents, what does the wildland interface look like. Reaching out to leaders to explore neighborhood and information .Work with PAWUIC to create questions and develop survey and pilot study. Identify neighborhoods to do final study. If you are interested see Eric. Chief Light suggested contacting the Mayor and the council and inform them of the study as they have a vested interest.

Firewise Recognition – Jake from AZ State Fire recognized the following communities:

5 years as a Firewise Community – Mountain Club – awarded the banner to Jim Poore;

10 years as a Firewise Community – Forest Trails - Henry Dahlberg was awarded a statue commemorating 10 years

Guest Speaker Jake Guadiana - ASFD

Jake has been in the fire business for 5 years. And this has been the most challenging part of his career. The costs of the bigger, hotter fires that have been burning in the west over the last several years have been exorbitant. Actual suppression costs is a fraction of the entire cost of fighting a wildfire. \$1 billion has been spent for this year. There is a much bigger picture aside from suppression costs. The costs of mega fires include 3 categories; Suppression Costs, Rehabilitation Costs, and Direct and Indirect Costs. This has been one of the hottest years, with an overgrowth of fuels out there. The WUI being populated is one of the biggest impacts. The Cost of wildfires financially and environmentally lasts for years. There was a case study done by Yale, Forest Service, BLM and Denver University. There are many financial ramifications when fires occur. Fires shut down major highways, burn down lumber mills, and presents all types of lost revenue. No one wants to camp in areas that have burned. The Rehabilitation cost can be prohibitive. People in the communities who create defensible space on their properties are the actual heroes. They help keep the costs down.(Rehabilitation costs include watersheds, water filtration, water purification and to stop flooding from happening.)

Bob Celaya update on Shultz Fire 2 projects \$5 & \$3 million reconstruction projects underway.

Announcements: Granite Peaks Unitarian Fellowship will host a water conservation program on Saturday, September 12 10-12pm

Adjournment 8:11am

*Our next regular meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 a.m.***