

**Prescott Area
Wildland/Urban Interface Commission
Minutes
June 4, 2015**

Participants: Bob Betts, Lois Hoskinson, Linn Lisbona, Denny Foulk, Toby Cook, Ben De Blois, Douglas Stefanko, Ken Murray, Paul Mazade, George Sheats, Craig Brown, Al West, Jim Peterson, John Alden, Betty Higgins, Marty Zythowski, Roger Swenson, Ben Tuttle, Mary Ann Clark, Ronnie Gamble, Art Mandel, Judy Rae Haley, Bruce Olson, Jeff Phillips, Mike Brockert, Bill Brye, Harry Oberg, Dennis Light, Ken Karkula, Jeff Schalau, Sarah Tomsy, Loren Bykerk, Michael Orr, Sylvia Dodd, Cynthia Miner, Cynthia Gentle, Sue Unverricht, Jerry Borgelt, Judy Egan, Cheri Ditto, Marsha Collier, Marty Trembly, Shirley Howell, Darrell Anderson, Jeanne Seely

Recorder: Seleatha Mendibles

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

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

• **Treasurer's Report**

May 1, 2015 Starting Checkbook Balance	\$	70,069.50
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	93,883.69
Debits/Expenses	\$	71,214.58
Ending Bank Balance	\$	22,669.11
Pending Balance	\$	3,647.20
Checkbook Balance as of May 29	\$	19,021.91
Title III Monies	\$	9,842.60
Actual Operational Monies	\$	9,179.31

4. Agency and Community Activity Reports

Board of Supervisors/Emergency Management- Denny recently met with the new AZ State Forester regarding state land mitigation, specifically land adjacent to homes in the area. Mastication work is severely needed in these areas with Granite Oaks being their primary focus. Unfortunately, work being completed is budget driven, but the proposed budget still seems to be intact. Hopeful that the proposed mitigation work can begin in the early to late fall. Mayer and Wilhoit are areas also on the radar for major work needing to be done. Denny requested that current PAWUIC members reach out to homeowners in those areas with encouragement to make their communities firewise. The County is close to being able to fund a second AZ state probation crew. They would focus on roadway clean up to lessen fuels and ignition points along the freeways. The crews would be on a 7 day work week and should be able to start this focused work in July.

PFD- The 3 member crew has been extremely busy this past month. They completed 50 chip jobs and should be finished with the UCYC project by mid-month. This project was a coordinated effort with AZ State Forestry. The city transfer stations are participating in a free slash drop-off program for the month of June.

CYFD/Chino Valley Fire Department- Six property inspections and 12-15 chip jobs were completed this past month. Things have been fairly quiet on the Chino side.

BLM- A fuel break project is in process near Yarnell as well as pile burning projects near Aqua Fria and a hand thinning project near Costco. Wilhoit is also on their radar for firewise education.

PNF- Timber updates- Prep work continues on the Amulet Stewardship project as well as the Schoolhouse project. Preliminary work on a mechanical thinning project near Potato Patch has been started. Fire/fuels updates- There have been about 15 small fires in the area, but an increase in abandoned camp fires is concerning. The crews have been burning piles in various areas across the forest. There are no fire restrictions in place due to the increased rain activity. Some upcoming projects include additional pile burning, and mastication as part of the Joint Chief's Project. Bradshaw District Ranger, Sarah Tomsy has also joined the Executive Board of PAWUIC.

5. Old Business

Grant Updates-Currently no major activity. One reimbursement is noted on the Treasurer's report, while an additional submission is no longer with AZ State Forestry, but is still pending.

6. New Business

Fundraising- The fundraising committee has plans to reach out to corporations for donations/funding. Please pass on any fundraising ideas to Roger Swenson.

Christmas Parade Ride-Along- Packets containing raffle information, posters and bullet points were handed out to each community. This raffle is one of many steps taken to lessen PAWUIC's need to rely on grant funding. The goal is to enhance the mission of PAWUIC and spread the word of the very important work being done in the firewise communities. Members of the board will be selling raffle tickets at the local stores.

Retailer Rebates- A handout describing the retailer rebate program was handed out. Amazon and Fry's community rewards program and two of the ways people can donate 0.5% of their purchases to their favorite charity. PAWUIC is listed as one of those charities.

Website- These materials and much more information are available on PAWUIC's website. Please submit stories, information regarding firewise/ chipper days, and photos to Mary Ann Clark for inclusion on the website as well as the Facebook page.

7. Guest Speaker- Chief Dennis Light, Prescott Fire Department

Prescott named Acting Yuma Fire Chief Dennis Light as the city's permanent fire chief in June of 2014, just prior to the 1 year anniversary of the Yarnell Hill tragedy. Chief Light had been assistant chief of operations for the Yuma Fire Department for 12 years before becoming interim fire chief in May. Some of his goals were to return the department to a sense of normalcy after the tragedy, deal with the issues surrounding the changing city budget as well as handling the changes to the way the City is managing its fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface. Chief Light provided an overview of the Prescott Fire Department, briefly explaining the 4 main branches, administration, operations, professional services, and community risk reduction. He also touched on the challenges that come along with decreasing budgets and the importance of continuing on a path that is supported by the policy makers while still adequately serving the community. He also addressed several questions from the group. A link to the Prescott Daily Courier article regarding this topic is posted below. Chief Light is available by email or by phone to answer any additional questions that may come up regarding fuels mitigation in the City of

Prescott and surrounding area.

<http://dcourier.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=146476&SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&S=1>

Adjournment at 8:36 a.m.

Note: Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 6th at 7:00 a.m.