

**Prescott Area
Wildland/Urban Interface Commission
Minutes
March 1, 2018**

Participants: Belinda Taylor, Michael Orr, Lois Hoskinson, Bob Betts, Tom DiCamillo, Loren Bykerk, Jim Zimmerman, Joe Pendergast, Will McKinley, Rich Hall, James Robbins, James Young, Lyle Burns, Don Jones, Earl Carpenter, Vickie Wendt, Richard Edgecomb, Dustin Sciacca, Darrell Anderson, Patrick Rappold, Susan McCollom, Bruce McCollom, Ken Karkula, Mary Havercamp, Al West, Jim Campbell, Jeff Phillips, Hugh Vallely, Paul Scrivens, Bill Brye, Peggy Campbell, C Silveira, Gary Wellborn, Craig Brown, Mary Ann Clark, Bret Lucas, Ted Ralston, Rod Moyer, Ken Rhodes, Marty Zytkowski, Matt Neal, Jim Buchanan, Bill Fields, Sarah Tomsy, Weston Overson, Jake Guadiana, Richard Poulton, Collin Phipps, Aaron MacMann, M Graybill, Leigh Cosby, Dennis Light, Sandy Eubanks, Meghan Taylor-Gebler, Douglas Taylor-Gebler, Shirley Howell, Rich Van Demark, Don Devendorf, Jerry Borgelt, Dale Deiter

Recorder: Seleatha Mendibles

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order.

2. Chairman's Remarks- Michael Orr

- The High Valley project which began in the Dearing Park area is in progress. The map which outlines the extent of this project is on display. Extensive work with KC Yowell is paying off and it is exciting to see the progress so far.
- On February 20, Bob Betts and I met with Rich Van Demark and Marques Munis at the USDA NRCS office. We reviewed the status of Project Andrew and the Sundown Acres Project. Rich will be sharing more information today.
- On February 21, I toured the Dewey Humboldt area with Vicki Wendt. The Upper Blue Hills region is at a higher elevation and features large washes and has an astounding amount of overgrowth of chaparral scrub oak mixed with manzanita. The Prescott National Forest borders the west side of the region to the far west. The Goodwin fire could easily have swept over that mountain top from the south/southwest. There is only one way in and out from the furthest west section and the private wells in the region are essentially dry. The neighborhood gets its water supply from community wells, but have to wait in line for hours during peak times of use. The potential for loss of human and animal life and property is serious. The future plans for the placement of two 8100 gallon water tanks near the parking lot at the Green Gulch trailhead is a primary goal of the Firewise committee.
- On February 13, Bob Betts, Lois Hoskinson, and I attended a workshop sponsored by the Ecological Restoration Institute, AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management, and the Rocky Mountain Research Station. The Greater Prescott Area All-Lands Cross Boundary Wildfire Workshop was well attended. It addressed wildfire transmission, risk, and exposure across land ownership. It also demonstrated how cross-boundary wildfire risk assessments could complement the Arizona Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (AZ WRAP). Information was provided about wildfire risk reduction efforts in the greater Prescott area that have already occurred or are planned for the future. The framework will hopefully be of assistance in determining where to coordinate and/or prioritize management activities across the jurisdictional boundaries to reduce wildfire risk.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved with mentioned corrections.

4. Financial Report- Treasurer's Report

December 31, 2017 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	14,417.06
Total Deposits	\$	16,978.95
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	31,396.01
Debits/Expenses	\$	7,531.92
Ending Bank Balance	\$	32,864.09
Pending Expense Balance	\$	100.00
January 31, 2018 Checkbook Balance	\$	23,764.70
Title III Monies 2016	\$	3,749.70
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	20,014.39

5. Meeting set up

Juniper Heights/Old Senator Highway volunteered for set up next month.

6. Presentation: Forest Stewardship- Rich Van Demark**7. Agency and Community Activity Reports/Issues**

AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management- Completed a 20 acre project in Yavapai Hills. Received good feedback from the community. Starting a major mastication project after the Wildfire Academy. Pinon Oaks obtained their firewise status.

AZ DOC Mitigation Crew- Completed a project in Yavapai Hills despite the snowy conditions.

Office of Emergency Management- Ready Set Go program roll out starts in March with a phased approach. There is a link on the website to get registered for alerts. Basin Ops drill is scheduled for May.

Prescott National Forest- Timber- Aspen Creek watershed improvement project is in progress. Contractors started last Wednesday with hand thinning/chainsaw work. This is a 189 acre project and should be finished in the next couple of weeks. Schoolhouse Stewardship contract is a 695 acre mechanical thinning project. Contractor will start next week. This project is adjacent to Project Andrew.

Fuels- High Valley project started last week. Cooper Trail project is about 50% complete. Also working on the Verde Ranger District doing broadcast and pile burning. Seasonals should be on in Mid-April.

Update on Hassayampa NEPA- This is a 250,000 acre project. Currently analyzing comments from the draft EA and hope to have a decision by the end of the fiscal year. Timber treatments are proposed in Walker and mastication projects in the Dewey Humboldt area. Another project area is in Wilhoit. PAWUIC's input regarding project areas is essential.

Dale Deiter, new Forest Supervisor introduced himself to the group. He is excited to work with PAWUIC, as it is a great model for the All Hands All Lands approach.

City of Prescott FD- Goldwater fuels mitigation project is ongoing. Planning work for Sweet Acres. Please see the website for chipping criteria and contact information.

University of AZ Cooperative Extension- Visited Kirkland area last week and noticed pitch moth activity. Landowners are dealing with drought issues. Working in Heber next week due to reports of increased beetle activity.

Yavapai County Board of Supervisors- Hoping to have someone hired to replace Denny by next week. County crews are working along roadways. Crews will start projects in some residential areas in early April.

Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority- Completed 7 assessments, spoke at a firewise day in Stoneridge. Will be attending the All Lands meeting.

Firewise Communities:

Highland Pines- Working through review of firewise plans and risk assessment. Risk assessment needs to be updated every 3-5 years. Working with Lois to find a more efficient way to complete reviews.

Manzanita- Please send photos and community information to Mary Ann Clark for updating the website and Facebook.

Dewey Humboldt- Complete 16-204 grant allotment. New grant is coming and will start abatement on properties in the community. Regrowth in the Goodwin fire area is already high. Need assistance for work in the Upper Blue Hills area.

8. Old Business-

Grant Updates

WFHF 15-208, closed.

WFHF 16-204, work is continuing.

SFA 2017, for newer communities.

Title III, deadline extended to 12/31/18.

WFHF 2018, is a 90/10 grant with an application due date of 3/18/18. This grant is for mitigation only. Please submit the following information if you are interested in this grant. Belinda Taylor and Shirley Howell are available to answer questions.

- Name of community
- Number of residences and acres in the community and number of acres requested for mitigation
- Map of community with areas to be worked outlined
- Anticipated cost per acre
- Description of project including info like undeveloped lots, home ignition zone, common areas, how it will improve the community
- Description of slope, canyons
- Types of fuel
- Does it tie into anything BLM, State or Federal agency land or project areas?

9. New Business-

Executive Board Meeting: 2/20/18

The speaker was Carol Chamberlain from the Arizona Community Foundation. The AZ Community Foundation has managed charitable funds for nonprofit organizations, individuals, families and businesses since 1978. The Yavapai County chapter was established in 1993 as a permanent philanthropic endowment providing a perpetual source of financial support for organizations in northern AZ.

An article about PAWUIC will be featured in the April edition of Prescott Living Magazine. Our thanks go to Leigh Cosby for her efforts in preparing this project. Before and after photos from the Prescott Skyline Firewise committee and photos from a prior EXPO will be included.

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Discussed the need for additional Vice Chairman positions in the PAWUIC organization. Subcommittees were also discussed. These committees would assist with fundraising and social media.

Chief Light and Michael Orr were interviewed on the Mary Ann Suttles radio show on 2/16/18. They discussed a large variety of topics and stressed concerns regarding the potentially hazardous upcoming fire season.

Ongoing concerns regarding the financial status of PAWUIC were expressed. The need for financial stability is critical for the organization to prosper in the future.

Also discussed was the encouraging news reports regarding the Governor's efforts to support Firewise mitigation efforts in Arizona.

Need to increase Lois' hours from 15 to 20 per week. The commission voted to increase hours.

5/50 Raffle- Bill Fields won the raffle and donated the total back to PAWUIC.

10. Announcements:

The Wildfire EXPO is scheduled for 4/21/18. Still need a few more agencies to commit to participating as well as some additional volunteers.

Sign up for Firewise Assessors Course. Proposed dates are 3/24 and 3/25 depending on the season.

Firewise renewal and updating risk assessment plan is due. AZ State Forestry can assist with this.

Adjourned: 9:10 a.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 5th at 8:00 a.m.