

**Prescott Area
Wildland/Urban Interface Commission
Minutes
April 5, 2018**

Participants: Michael Orr, Lois Hoskinson, Joe Pendergast, KC Yowell, David Bowden, Ron Bassler, Bill Hartley, Richard Edgecomb, Gary Wellborn, Andie Smith, Rich Hall, Jim Campbell, Jim Zimmerman, K. Baldwin, Ben De Blois, Victoria Wendt, James Robbins, Ron Chilston, Marty Borgelt, Tom DiCamillo, Loren Bykerk, Lyle Burns, Kevin Osterman, Jerry Borgelt, Meghan Taylor-Gebler, Douglas Taylor-Gebler, Lee Wise, Richard Poulton, Ken Karkula, Russ Lafayette, Bill Fields, Paul Scrivens, Bill Wolff, Bill Borgio, Marcie Slay, Sue Tone, Earl Carpenter, Thomas Yssel, Mike Enders, Bill Brye, Mary Ann Clark, Jim Buchanan, Gary Maitland, Steve Lombardo, Leigh Cosby, Hugh Vallely, Ted Ralston, Chuck Silveira, Dawn Salcito, Ginny Shugars, Ron Norfleet, Judy Egan, Miles Graybill, Isiah Keeme, Collin Phipps, Marsha Collier, Sarah Tomsy, Marty Zytkowski, Ben Roe, Toni Yowell, Ron Thibodean, Betty Higgins, Marty Trembly, Shirley Howell, Christie Hamman, Ken Rhodes, K Viscarddi, Jake Guadiana, Rich Van Demark, Mike Laing, Patrice Russell

Recorder: Seleatha Mendibles

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order.

2. Chairman's Remarks- Michael Orr

- Our friend and leader Bob Betts is recovering from major cardiac surgery in Rochester, Minnesota. He is two weeks post-op and still in ICU. He is still very weak, but making progress. We are circulating cards today and will mail them to him.
- Thanks to Jim Zimmerman for allowing us to utilize the new audiovisual system we are using today. Jim's amateur radio group has a meeting on the Thursday evening following ours so we will no longer have to tear down after our meeting. This will allow for additional time for everyone to visit after the meeting. The new video screen is tremendous and will be great for more advanced audiovisual presentations in the future.
- The headline, "Dry winter could mean increased wildfire threat" from the Prescott Daily Courier article published on 2/15/18 reminds us of the obvious fact that we are definitely at an increased risk for a catastrophic event this fire season. There has been very little precipitation since that date and we can now delete the word COULD from the headline. Jenn Winters-Ashcraft shared a photo taken at Russ Shumate's office, depicting the changes in a ponderosa forest over a period of 80 years. One can only imagine the overgrowth that has continued since 1989. Through projects such as Project Andrew and the High Valley Project, we are trying to make appropriate corrections to previously historically mismanaged situations. Project Andrew is a 19 acre parcel of land located on the east side of White Spar road and has been mitigated with forest health and forest stewardship principles. Approximately ½ of the 800 ponderosa pines have been removed, creating a vastly improved environment for the remaining forest. A new banner was hung at the entrance to the facility and the names and logos of participating organizations are displayed. The Prescott National Forest, High Valley project is a 300 foot wide hand mitigation project at Dearing Park. The football field wide zone of

thinning is quite impressive, and the slash piles created will be burned at a later date. The project was completed in three weeks by the Crystal Clear Company.

- Bob Betts, Dennis Light, Don Devendorf and myself met with Prescott City Manager Michael Lamar and City Council members, Billie Orr and Steve Sischka to review multiple topics. We outlined our concerns about the extreme risks Prescott and Yavapai County may face during the upcoming fire season. The need to maintain a strong fire department and fuels reduction crew was stressed. Tourism could be greatly affected by a serious fire event and loss of sales tax revenue would potentially disrupt police, fire, and other social services. Plans to work with John Heini on public service announcements and other forms of social media were scheduled. The need for the public to understand and implement firewise practices on their own properties is a huge key for the success of the overall plan. There have also been several occasions to spread the word about being firewise via radio interviews, talk shows and phone conferences with AZ State Forestry.
- As always, I continue to look for ways to improve the financial status of PAWUIC and recently spoke with the Director of the AZ Community Foundation and a representative of Unisource regarding possible grant opportunities.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

4. Financial Report- Treasurer's Report

January 31, 2018 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	23,864.09
Total Deposits	\$	306.75
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	24,170.84
Debits/Expenses	\$	1,623.15
Ending Bank Balance	\$	22,547.69
Pending Expense Balance	\$	721.25
February 28, 2018 Checkbook Balance	\$	21,826.44
Title III Monies 2016	\$	3,749.70
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	18,076.74

5. Presentation: The Phoenix Crew- Post release Wildland Firefighting Crew, Darrell Willis

State of AZ recidivism rates are running in the 40% range. Governor Ducey vowed to reduce this rate and proposed the development of a post-release fuels reduction and wildland fire crew and funded the program in the FY18 budget. 1.5 million dollars has been allocated for equipment and salaries. The objective is to help reduce recidivism in the state and to allow those formally incarcerated the opportunity to rebuild their lives. The program provides them with valuable skills that offer them a chance to give back to the community. This also gives them purpose, determination and empowerment.

Recruitment began in August 2017 and the intent was to hire 7 leadership positions and a 13 man crew. In November, 35 candidates were interviewed for the leadership positions and out of 135, 13 firefighters were hired. Of the 20 man crew, 18 were former DOC inmates. The crew works year-round and will be capable of responding to all types of incidents nationally.

Darrell Willis called Ted Ralston to the podium to congratulate and thank him for his fine work over the years with Prescott Fire and Emergency Management. He wished him well in his new endeavors. We will miss him.

6. **Agency and Community Activity Reports/Issues**

AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management/ AZ DOC Mitigation Crew- Jake Guadiana -

There's been an increase in fire activity, and crews are already busy. Please be patient when contacting us regarding firewise stuff. We are currently transferring management of the Firewise program to Mike Lainge. James Robbins - Completed a 31 acre project in Yavapai Hills. Upcoming projects include the Dewey area, Highland Pines, Juniper Heights, Emmanuel Pines, and Peace Canyon. Rich VanDemark - Almost finished with Project Andrew.

Wildfire Academy- Over 1000 firefighters attended.

Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority- Completed 13 assessments. Andie spoke at a firewise day in Dewey about the importance of keeping grasses cut, especially at this time of year. A four man crew responded to the Knoll fire near Payson. We continue to work on spreading the word about the impending fire season using the Ready, Set, Go messaging. There were two fires last month caused by weed burning torches. Also responded to a fire yesterday on Hwy 169, started by a dragging chain. The assessors are emphasizing the need to create an evacuation plan.

Jerome Fire Department- Received a chipper from CAFMA. Firewise community day is scheduled for 5/5/18. March stats include: 22 Jerome resident hours, 13 firewise loads, 54 adult probation hours, 23 loads of slash, and 4 burn permits.

Office of Emergency Management- Working on support efforts for the upcoming fire season. Annual slash drop off program at the County stations starts this month. Ready, Set, Go messaging will be delivered at Harkins movie theaters. Preparedness is key along with creating an evacuation plan for your family.

City of Prescott FD- Introduced guests from Longview Estates who are interested in becoming a firewise community. Working on hiring seasonals. Goldwater fuels mitigation project is ongoing, then will move on to a project near Senator Highway. Please see the website for chipping criteria and contact information or call (928) 777-1770 or (928) 777-1733.

Prescott National Forest- Timber: Francis stewardship project is 500 acres. Marking crews are currently in the area. The project runs from Copper Basin Rd to Thumb Butte and is adjacent to High Valley Ranch and the Hassayampa neighborhood. Contractors completed the Aspen Creek watershed improvement project which was 189 acres of hand thinning work. There is lots of dead and down wood in the area. Stop by the District office to obtain a fuelwood permit. A mastication project is in progress on the west side of Walker Road and is being completed by in house Forest Service personnel.

Fuels- High Valley project is ongoing. Piles are being cut and piled for burning during monsoon season. Additional resources are starting this week. The Basin Ops drill is scheduled for 4/19-20.

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 fill in behind Denny by next week. County crews are working along roadways. Crews will start projects in some residential areas in early April.

Firewise Communities:

Manzanita Village- Wildfire community preparedness day is 5/5. This will be a work day for the community. Lunch will also be served and there will be a speaker. Please RSVP if you plan on attending.

Dewey Humboldt- Two new grants were awarded. Dump day is 5/8-11. Received a \$5,000 grant from AZ Communities Foundation. Working with homeowners to mitigate large parcels of land. **Pinon Oaks** – who received their Firewise signs in March wanted to express their thanks to all the agencies who assisted during the process.

7. Old Business-

Grant Updates

WFHF 15-208, closed.

WFHF 16-204, work is continuing and will close on 12/31/18.

SFA 2017, for newer communities and education.

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

WFHF 2018, isn't posed on the website yet, but the grant is written.

8. New Business-

Assessor's Course- already has 26 people attending, but will cap attendance at 30. A waiting list will also be created and used in case of cancellations.

EXPO- Those that didn't bring their firewise boards today, please bring with you to the EXPO. If you need assistance in creating one, please see Lois. Flyers are available for posting. Also need volunteers for tear down after the event.

There are flyers available for the upcoming Wildfire Summit. There isn't an agenda to share at this time.

5/50 Raffle- Steve Lombardo won the raffle and donated the total back to PAWUIC.

Adjourned: 9:13 a.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 3rd at 8:00 a.m.