

**Prescott Area
Wildland/Urban Interface Commission
Minutes
September 20th, 2018**

Participants: Meghan Taylor-Gebler, Douglas Taylor-Gebler, Michael Orr, Joe Pendergast, Everett Cox, Dennis Shaw, Bobby Stewart, Jim Zimmerman, Chuck Silveira, John Foucrier, Rick Moshier, Richard Edgecomb, Jim Buchanan, Mary Conner, Marla Meier, Ben De Blois, Karina Gutierrez, Bill Wolff, KC Yowell, Hugh Vallely, Tiffany Chiaravalloti, Jasper Lanning, Lyle Burns, Thomas Yssel, Jim Campbell, Gary Wellborn, Andie Smith, Russ LaFayette, Ken Karkula, Larry Gray, Darrell Anderson, Dawn Salcito, Vickie Wendt, Gene Lee, Chris Lowman, Jerry Borgelt, Dennis Light, Miles Graybill, Marty Zytkowski, Marsha Collier, Tefra Wooldrop, Mary Ann Clark, Steve Lombardo, James Robbins, Kurt Lehner, Judy Egan, John Stilo, Earl Carpenter, Marty Trembly, Ginny Shugars, Terry Biege, Bill Fields, Jenn & Tom Ashcraft, Ron Norfleet, Loren Bykerk, Tom DiCamillo, Jeneece Hards, Bill Swahlen, Jake Guadiana, Jeff Phillips, Shirley Howell, Rich Van Demark, Jeanne Seely, Belinda Taylor, Lois Hoskinson, Wendy Chazey, Michael Lamar

Recorder: Lois Hoskinson

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order and introductions of new members were made.

2. Chairman's Remarks- Michael Orr

- Our thoughts and prayers go out to Betty Higgins, who unfortunately fell while on a recent vacation and suffered a fractured pelvis. She is recovering well and is in the Good Samaritan facility. I have a get well card that we can sign, and I will deliver it to her later today.
- These photos document some prescribed burn activities performed in the Prescott region during the last year. The extensive broadcast type burn performed north of Goldwater Lake was a large and very impressive project. I drove through the region during and after the treatment and was very impressed at the extensive amount of underbrush that was involved, and the fact that there was charring of the Ponderosa pine tree trunks. I drove through the area again last month and was amazed at the new growth on the forest floor, and the overall beauty of the region following what looked to be a very aggressive mitigation technique.
- Burning of the slash piles created during the High Valley Project involves a more aggressive disposal technique which is much cheaper than trying to transport or chip the fuels that were piled. A 100 yard wide thinning project was done around Dearing Park, and along the Prescott National Forest from Thumb Butte to the South end of Prescott and east past Hidden Valley Ranch. K.C. Yowell will be speaking to us in a few minutes about the rationale for utilizing controlled burning techniques.
- As the monsoon season ends, Goldwater Lake and the other local lakes are nearly full, and the growth of weeds and grasses around the region has been prolific.
- This slide unfortunately confirms the fact that we are back in Fire Danger Risk again. A recent article in the Arizona Republic describe the "DRY DROUGHT" that will continue to affect the Southwest. There's approximately a 50-50 split between the component of drought that is related to warming and the percent that is related to lack of snow and

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rainfall precipitation. The snowfall and rain are also not falling in the most ideal areas - especially in Colorado. This is greatly affecting the Colorado River and our future concerns regarding water supply to the Southwest states and Mexico. Without a heavy snowfall they are already predicting that rationing may be required next year or in 2020. The latest drought monitor confirms that the four corners region is already in the extreme drop condition. All of Arizona is again and some degree of drought.

- The September 2018 wildfire potential outlook lists Arizona as in the normal range for significant wildfire potential. Multiple additional Western states are above normal risk.
- These slides compare the fire dependent ecosystem without periodic fire as opposed to the fire dependent ecosystem with periodic fire.
 - .i. Without periodic fire needles, leaves, a dead vegetation I E litter cover the forest floor etc.
 - .ii. Startling statistics 63,546 human caused wildfires burned over 5 million acres in 2017. It is not a matter of if we are going to have a fire but when we are going to have a fire.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

4. Financial Report- Treasurer's Report

June 30, 2018 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	53,982.90
Total Deposits	\$	54.29
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	53,037.19
Debits/Expenses	\$	24,505.26
Ending Bank Balance	\$	29,531.93
Pending Expense Balance	\$	2,592.31
July 31, 2018 Checkbook Balance	\$	26,939.62
Title III Monies 2016	\$	1,374.85
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	25,564.77
July 30, 2018 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	29,531.93
Total Deposits	\$	37,989.93
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	67,521.86
Debits/Expenses	\$	41,521.73
Ending Bank Balance	\$	26,000.13
Pending Expense Balance	\$	1,057.15
August 31, 2018 Checkbook Balance	\$	26,000.13
Title III Monies 2016	\$	-
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	24,942.98

5. Presentation: KC Yowell, Prescott National Forest (Questions regarding Prescribed Burns)

- Question regarding how communities are notified when a prescription burn is to take place. Related to pile burning next to Prescott Skyline. A Prescott Skyline resident was concerned that there was a fire on the hill. He did drive by Hassayampa later in the day

and saw the orange sign specifying that a prescribed burn was taking place. Is there a better way to get the information out to the communities?

- Bucky - Send out news releases to the Courier, on Facebook, Twitter pages, web page news release address www.fs.usda.gov/Prescott. All prescribed burns are noted there. PAWUIC's Facebook page also lists all the prescribed burns planned and taking place. The radio stations also have the information. In the fall when they are doing large broadcast burning they send out the notifications every Friday for the next week. Pile burning is so sporadic that it is hard to get the information and location out in advance.
- Pile burning vs. chip?
- Bucky - Pile burning is access. Often the debris cannot be taken out due to steepness, lack of access, and cost. When chipping or hauling the slash out, the cost goes way up, and then they have to find a place to haul it to. The cost is much cheaper to come back in and burn the slash piles. Set back on the soils happens when there are big giant landing piles. Burning the smaller piles have short term effects and are not really noticeable by the next year.
- Existing dozens of piles that are still there and have been for years?
- Bucky-Those piles are in bad shape, matted down they have brush growing back up in them. Will have to talk to Prescott and see what can be done. Not comfortable burning them and a lot of times when they are so matted down they won't burn. The majority of those piles are on City property, located on the east side of Thumb Butte. "Concerned mainly about risk." Because PNF put in the fuel break, anything coming from the forest toward Skyline Drive, firefighters would most likely be able to catch. Things are in place to protect the community.
- Mastication vs. slash piles. How do you make the determination?
- Bucky – Mastication needs to have the proper topography to work. Only certain slopes that machines will work on. There were a lot of bad slopes. Never be able to go under Thumb Butte with that equipment. With Mastication they grind up the brush. Cost is another effect there. It is cheaper to masticate than to cut, pile and burn. Where they look at doing that type of treatment is when they are closer to homes. Mastication knocks down brush that has the potential to cause 40 to 60 foot flame lengths. Doing prescribed burns is the cheapest way to go but when next to people's homes the risk is too great. Fire fighters are only good up to 4 foot flame lengths.
- Is mastication as effective as burning long term?
- Bucky - You need to do both, masticate and then go back in and burn. When masticating you have the same amount of fuel load. The overall material on the ground is the same after mastication as it was before, it doesn't go away. The big thing there is that it takes 40 foot flame lengths and drops it down to 2 foot flame lengths. It rearranges the fire danger and makes it much safer especially when you are up against a community.
- How do you decide when to do it again? The same area.
- Bucky-Hopefully you will never have to masticate areas again, but that would mean keeping up with the area every 3 to 7 years with prescribed burns.
- Planning Effort. Started the Yavapai County Fuels Assessment and Collaboration. All agencies and PAWUIC get together and discuss everyone's priorities and discuss how we can make it better by doing something on the other side of the fence/boundary. It is an all-day event to be held on Thursday October 27th at the Fire Center, where all the agencies and fire departments get together to discuss high priorities and where they

want to start moving. The goal is to start implementing projects on their side of the fence to tie in with projects that communities have been working on. (Cross Boundary)

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

AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management-

Jim wanted to extend a huge thank you to Rich, James, and the DOC crews that completed the Sundown Acres Project.

Rich Van Demark – Finished the Emanuel Pines Camp with the Forest Stewardship Improvement Thinning. Wrapped up as of this week. Jim Buchanan, a new recruit, did a great job working with the Lewis Crew. Helped out a great deal. Jim exemplifies a true leader in the community. Have a good staff at Camp Stein - thinned about 2/3 of the planned thinning. With both camps, married up James's Lewis Fire Crew and a commercial mechanized logging contractor. That worked out very well. Got a good start on the Willow Springs Program Center.

James Robbins – The project was a real push for the crew. The guys were working so hard there was not a sound to be heard. This is the time of year when everyone starts inquiring about projects because the grant money is going to expire. There are no openings in the schedule for the crew. Going to try and work with some of the other districts to try and fill some of those gaps, but as of now if you have something that is going to expire in December the crew will not be able to help. Upcoming projects - Large fuel break and pile burn up in Crown King and some large properties up there too. Town of Walker project that will take about 1 ½ years to finish. Just finished up in Highland Pines. Striking example of what a thinning operation can do. Viewed it after 4 months. Yavapai Hills – wanted to publicly thank for their generous donation of a propane wok for the crew. With some of the bigger projects NRCS & WFHF coming up it will be taking up a lot of crew time, but will not forget about the communities. They will find a way so they can do the things they have been doing all along.

Jake Guadiana – Presented Firewise Signs and Official Designations to Jen and Tom Ashcraft for their community Hidden Valley – Project Andrew, and to Terry Biege and Jeneece Hards from Willow Cove.

Community Assessment in Forest Trails – They were looking at the area that was cleared and burned in the Thumb Butte area. The gentlemen that they were touring with asked if they could have the same done in their community. We understand the importance of fire. The current director wants to see fire on the ground from our agency and just recently has made a big push. It has been over a decade-not quite two since the agency has done any burning. We have been working with the state, and in October in the Paulden Area they are going to do a 3000 plus acre burn. This is huge and hasn't happened in a long time. It is a step in the right direction. Currently have 2 contractors working in the East and West side of 69 in the Dewey area and have completed about 700 acres of mastication of the brush with another 400 to go and should be completed by the end of October. The seasonals have been laid off. Planning to gear up for all the projects that normally happen this time of year; putting on firewise assessment course and other trainings. The next assessment course will be anywhere from January to March.

Arizona State Land Chris Loman There has been some confusion in the past pertaining to archeology and prescribed burns on state trust land. Able to get clarification as to what are the archeological clearances that are required for prescribed fire for state lands. Got it squared away and has paved the way to have large scale prescribed fires done on state land in cooperation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Management. Hoping to get a big burn done in the Upper Chino and some in Southern Arizona. Waiting for an agreement between deputy AG's regarding the liability of prescribed burns.

APS – Jim Buchanan thanked APS for holding a non-profit workshop. It was excellent. Recommended that if you are associated with a non-profit that you should attend the sessions.

Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority- 5 Assessments since the last meeting including property in talking rock ranch. They are interested in becoming a firewise community. Still have a number of people off district; 2 type 3 engines with 4 personnel each in California. One Battalion Chief is on an incident management team in North Carolina. Main thing Andie wants to talk about is the Ready Set Go Grant that was awarded to provide communities chipper days. Ponderosa Park and Highland Pines have signed up, which means they still have the opportunity for 8 more communities to have a chipper day. This grant expires in February, so it needs to be used by January. If you are interested in having a chipper day for your community or even a group of 5 neighbors in a neighborhood contact Rick. The paperwork has to be done ahead of time. There is money available this winter and if you live in the CAFMA area, call Rick at 772.7711.

City of Prescott FD- Fuels crew are still chipping every day. Chipped 24 1/2 tons in the Granite Basin area. Just awarded the Mountain Club Grant. The money will be coming to PFD in late Fall and the work will start in late spring or early summer. Crew is just finishing the Goldwater Lake project, and will be done in the next couple of weeks. Still chipping - call if you need any brush cleared.

City of Prescott – Town Council – Councilwoman Alexa Scholl wanted to remind everyone that this Saturday night September 22nd, Octoberfest will be shooting off the fireworks that were supposed to be set off on the 4th of July. Thank you to Michael Lamar, Prescott City Manager, and Councilwoman Scholl for attending the meeting.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Marques Munis – we are wrapping up our fiscal year and making payment on some projects that are completed. Introducing our new program assistant, Wendy Chazey. She will be processing payments and working with Dawn Salcito.

Office of Emergency Management- Hugh Vallely - Title III funding requests were looked at by a combination of Emergency Management and the Board of Supervisors. Came up with a matrix to award points which takes away from the personal part of it. \$644,800 was requested with \$275,000 available. Not everything was funded. The recommendations are out for discussion right now. Amounts awarded works out to be about 50% of what was requested. This is a general recommendation at this point, nothing is official. Marcy Slay is taking a position with CAFMA and will be leaving OEM after 13 years. Big changes ahead.

Question - Community received a list of how Title III money will be awarded. – That is just a preliminary list and the final vote will be sometime in early November.

Prescott National Forest Ben De Blois – Timber - Awarded the Frances Stewardship contract. The project is a 500 acre mechanical thinning project between Copper Basin to Thumb Butte - a couple of years in the making. Aspen Creek Restoration project along the Copper Basin Corridor - 150 acres that will start in the beginning of October. Also launching into another round of the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership. I will asking for numbers and letters of support. It will help fund things like the Blue Hills Fuel Break. Introduced Karina Gutierrez, Deputy District Ranger Chino Bradshaw District.

Bucky Yowell - Fire & Fuels. Lot of people still out on Northwest fires that will be back within the next 2 weeks. Start Temporary layoff at the end of this month. Still have one Fuels crew and one engine crew. Will be fully staffed for prescribed burning. This week we had a very successful burn of 4,000 acres at the YOLO Ranch up by Campwood. Looking at broadcast burning in the basin as well. Main areas looking at are Spruce Mountain, Highland Pines and Dearing Park, and the west side of Prescott. The Verde District is gearing up as well. 500 acre burn by Dugas. If the conditions are right prescribed burning will begin on Mingus Mountain. Looking at about 4 –

5,000 acres. Blacklining through chaparral to extend the fuel break. Burn the outside fuel first, and when conditions are right take out the center with aerial ignitions using the helicopter.

Jerome Fire Department – Jasper Lanning will be taking Ron Chilston's place as the representative from Jerome Fire. Ron is retiring at the end of the month. This year volunteer hours from residents are at 597. Really pushing to have the volunteer support, as Jerome only has a 3 man fuels reduction crew. The community is doing a great job. 131 loads have been taken to the burn pile. Firewise program has taken 225 loads to the burn pile. Adult Probation crew has put in 394 hours. 18 burn permits have been issued on private land. Total combined hours is 1,088 hours.

County Board of Supervisors- Mary Connor has not additional County report.

7. Old Business-

- Grant Updates – Belinda encouraged the communities to complete the grants before they expire expressed thanks to all for seeking grants.
- WFHF 16-204, work is continuing and will close on 12/31/18.
- WFHF 17-201 Checks for the 4th submission were sent out, Submission 5 was sent in and invoiced in September
- SFA 17-101 5 acres have been used, 20 more promised to communities that are in the process of becoming firewise.
- Title III FF1819 - Waiting approval by YC Board of Supervisors on OEM recommendations for awards
- FSP 17-001 – Viewing the finished product today – Final editing will then be done – Video will be available on PAUIC website when it is finalized
- WFHF 2018- Been approved, working on Project Budget and Budge Narrative
- Sundown Acres- Project Completed

8. New Business-

- Motion to change By-Laws - Dr. Orr offered a motion to alter the bylaws of PAUIC with the following language in the section entitled commission officers terms and responsibilities. Basically all we are doing is adding the ability to have extra vice-chairpersons on the board. One will be a statutory agent as required by the Arizona Corporation Commission. The motion was seconded by Jerry Borgelt and approved unanimously.
- 50/50 Raffle- Ken Karkula won the 50/50 raffle. He returned the proceeds to PAUIC
- Dr. Orr sought funding from Uni Source to help with the 2019 Wildfire Expo. A donation was received from Uni Source for \$5,000. Half is to be used for the 2019 Firewise Expo, and half is to be used with personnel costs.
- 2018 Annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade is to be held on Saturday December 1st. We are looking for volunteers to help with this event. A sign-up sheet is located on the entry table.

Adjourned: 8:52 a.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 4th at 8:00 a.m.

Jim Zimmerman has spent a great deal of time analyzing the new NFPA online renewal process. Jim led an instructional clinic after the meeting to inform the approximately 30 community Firewise chairpersons present on how to properly complete the forms for the annual NFPA renewal utilizing the new online system. At the October meeting Jim is requesting information

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on where the communities are standing in reference to the renewal process. (Finished, working on it, or haven't started and need assistance). Renewal deadline in November 16th