

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

Participants: C. Silveira, Belinda Taylor, Michael Orr, Bob Betts, Jim Poore, Lyle Burns, David McAtee, Vickie Wendt, Marty Borgelt, Jerry Borgelt, James Robbins, David Bowden, Mary Havercamp, Mary Ann Clark, Ben De Blois, Joe Pendergast, Dennis Shaw, Thomas Yssel, Tom & Deb Spirito, Gary Wellborn, Al West, Craig Brown, Loren Bykerk, Don Devendorf, Ken Karkula, Don Jones, James F. Young, Rich Hall, Earl Carpenter, Bill Fields, Darrell Anderson, Bill Brye, Sue Tone, Dawn Salcito, Marques Munis, Ron Chilston, Bill Wolf, Russ La Fayette, Roger Swenson, Jim Buchanan, Mary Steenhoek, Douglas Taylor-Gebler, Meghan Taylor-Gebler, Denise Shipley, Wade Ward, Rick Martin, William Hartley, High Vallely, Ted Ralston, Patrice Russell, Ben Roe, Ron Norfleet, Debbie Ellis, Rick Chase, Andie Smith, Dennis Light, Sarah Tomsy, Steve Lombardo, Will McKinley, Mark Tillotson, Ken W. Rhodes, Marty Zytowski, Jeff Phillips, Matt Neal, Shirley Howell, James Clark, Lois Hoskinson

Recorder: Lois Hoskinson

1. Call to Order/Introductions

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

2. Chairman's Remarks- Michael Orr

- History of PAWUIC – A fire on Thumb Butte in 1983 was the catalyst that began the plan to standardize equipment and improve communications among area firefighting agencies. This became the Basin Operations Group. In 1989 an idea was originated to expand beyond the Basin Operation Group and get community leaders involved in facing the challenges of urban growth in the wildland/urban interface. In 1990 two major fires added urgency to the ideas and plans that were being developed. The Doce fire burned about 1000 acres and the Dude fire claimed the lives of six fire fighters. PAWUIC was officially formed on September 7, 1990. A memorandum of understanding was signed between PAWUIC, The city of Prescott, Yavapai County, Central Yavapai Fire District, Arizona State Land Department & Prescott National Forest. Living on the Edge became the motto for PAWUIC and it continues today.
- The final report for the WFHF15-208 grant was shared and will be placed on the PAWUIC web site.
- Dr. Orr and Bob Betts visited the Willow Cove community and Bob presented a power point showing the merits of becoming a Firewise Community.
- Attended the Prescott Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. Worked on pushing name recognition. Met the group – Prescott Area Young Professionals – Ages 20-40 years. Talked to them about becoming involved in PAWUIC. There is a need for younger individuals in our organization.
- Talked to the Kieckhefer Foundation and Yavapai College. Inquiring about grants to help with funding and help with name recognition.
- Talked to Elaine Earle from the Prescott Living Magazine. We are working on an article for the April issue.
- Attended a meeting of the Upper Verde River Watershed.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

4. Financial Report- Treasurer's Report

October 31 st , 2017 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	32,318.57
Total Deposits	\$	248.06
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	32,566.63
Debits/Expenses	\$	3,821.27
Ending Bank Balance	\$	28,745.36
Pending Expense Balance	\$	1,768.44
November 30, 2017 Checkbook Balance	\$	26,976.92
Title III Monies 2016	\$	5,909.70
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	21,067.22
November 30 th , 2017 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	28,745.36
Total Deposits	\$	25,114.97
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	53,860.33
Debits/Expenses	\$	39,443.27
Ending Bank Balance	\$	14,417.06
Pending Expense Balance	\$	3,375.34
December 31 st , 2017 Checkbook Balance		11,041.72
Title III Monies 2016	\$	3,749.70
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	7,292.02

Grants

WFHF 14-206 closed

WFHF 15-208, closed final submission and report sent in.

WFHF 16-204, work is continuing

WFHF 17-201, Setting up appointments to meet with communities specified in the grant.

SFA 17-101, specified for newly designated communities, and to communities working toward firewise certification or to stimulate interest in becoming firewise (50-50) grant

Title III, deadline is 12/31/17.

5. Presentation –

- a. Supervisor Craig Brown, relayed to us that yesterday Denny Foulk, the Emergency Manager turned in his resignation. We are going to miss him. He has been a big asset to all the firewise programs and the emergency management here in Yavapai County, and we thank him for all his service.
- b. Federal funding - most of these grants that we talk about come through Federal funding of one type or another. Firewise communities should contact our local congressmen or even ones adjoining our area. Mr. O'Halloran of the Coconino or Mr. Gosar here. Relate to them that we need this type of funding for mitigation. We do not want to end up like California.
- c. Jail Tax - David McAfee PIO for Yavapai County.

PAWUIC Minutes February 2018

- Election in April/May regarding the extension of the 1999 jail district sales tax. The tax expires on June 30, 2020. The 1/4 cent sales tax per penny relieved the cities and towns in Yavapai County of the obligation to pay for housing of inmates
 - The sales tax is used for the operation and maintenance of the county-wide jail system. Approximately half of the cost (\$8.8 million) is funded by the current tax.
 - The proposed extension of the jail district sales tax would extend until Jun 30, 2040
 - Loss of the existing funding would have a major impact on the Cities and County's General Fund.
- d. Jeff Newnum, Jail Commander of the Camp Verde Detention Center. The detention division has an \$18.1 million dollar budget. The jail district tax will not go to build a new jail. There is only 1 jail in Yavapai County.
- Camp Verde has 644 beds. Of those 644 beds, 20% have to be free for classification (cannot mix women with men, sex offenders with general population, etc.)
 - Operational bed space is 515. Today there 549 in January which is the lowest month, means today 54 inmates on the floor in the winter time.
 - The jail is an immense operation. (170 detention officers, medical doctor, dentist, 2 psychologists, psychiatrist, 18 registered nurses, 8 LPN, support staff. Have their own school district (Principals, Special Ed Teachers, and Teachers) Cafeteria-excellent rating. Serve 53,000 meals a month. Each meal costs 84 cents. 3 hot meals a day. Pharmacy – dispense 2,000 pills a day to the inmates.
 - Population for jail;
 - 4 % of population misdemeanors,
 - 96% Felonies, 2 dorms full of 60 – 70 inmates that are sex offenders-violent sex offenders,
 - 40% are called non bondable – too dangerous to let out.
 - 47% is suffering from mental health issues.
 - Look for grants to help with reducing that population. Help to subsidize the jail operations. Diversion Programs –Bureau of Justice grants. Enrolled in diversion programs reducing the recidivism rate to 19%. Entire state releases 210,000 inmates a year back into the community. The recidivism rate for those releases is 38%. In Yavapai County looked at how to keep them from coming back. The programs are working but we are still 54 inmates over today. The violent offenders are the ones that are in there that you don't want in your community.
 - This tax is just to give 8.8 million dollars - half of the 18.1 million dollar budget to run the jail. Yavapaijail.com has all the information regarding the election.
- e. Total County Sales Tax – ¾ cent. ¼ goes to the jail district, ½ goes to rural roads and other functions of the county.

6. Leigh Cosby & Ron Norfleet – Prescott Summit

Hiring the DOC Crews – Prescott Summit has a 6.2 acre steep gnarly canyon. Any slash that is collected has to be burned rather than hauled out. The plan was set up with both AZ DFFM to do the cutting and David Bowden (Arrow Fire) to do the burn in 3 to 6 months. What a great group this is. They do the most amazing work and are incredibly polite. The canyon is a work of art. They are heavy handed-but the vegetation had never been cut and was the most dangerous fuel. They are Surgeons with chain saws. Wanted to emphasize that these guys are the crème de la crème. James and the guards hand selected 18 guys out of a 5,000 person population. There has been amazing results with this program. The guard working with the group said that since he has been working with the group every single one

of the guys who graduated has gotten a job. They work very hard, are a great resource for this kind of work, and work at a very reasonable rate. By using the two groups, they saved quite a bit of money and made the project feasible.

Jim Poore introduced the new Firewise Chair for The Mountain Club, Lyle Burns.

Dr. Orr presented Marsha Collier with the 3rd place trophy from the Christmas Parade, A Cowboy Christmas. Marsha and her fuels reduction crew created a fantastic float.

7. Agency and Community Activity Reports/Issues

AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management- Crew working up around Prescott until the Fires pull them away. They are working in Yavapai Hills. Sundown Acres is the next on the list. Then doing work out at Southview Trails and Walker. Also doing 1200 acres of mastication out in Dewey. This is scheduled for March 1st but will be dependent on conditions. The area is Dewey block E.

APS Clearing around the poles not only vegetation that come in contact with the lines but also at the base of the poles. 75,000 poles across the state that are in the urban/wildland interface. Share the message with the communities that when APS is out clearing around the poles what they are doing. The International Code Council say that any utility that has a pole that has a piece of equipment on it that has the potential to spark must be cleared around the base of the pole 10 feet including vertically. Back in Prescott, working in Diamond Valley and Government Canyon, Summit, working across the southern part of the city in the feeders closest to town. If you have questions, talk to Wade now or contact information is available with PAWUIC.

- ? Do you send crews out to inspect poles for cracking? Contract crew called Asplundh that does that work, replace those poles that are recommended for replacement.
- ? When will you be working in Dewey-Humboldt? People in service center in Prescott deal with scheduling. About two years APS was following along behind Asplundh. If you have a question regarding a pole, get the number and report it. Many times the poles have cracks in them but are sound in the interior.

Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority- Completed 3 defensible property space assessments in December and 2 in January. Successfully finished up with two grants in December. One through PAWUIC and 1 thru Yavapai County Supervisors. Will be meeting with PAWUIC to explore grants for current year. A crew went down to Bagdad a week ago for a fire. Start prepping for wildfire season.

City of Prescott FD- Lower half of Goldwater fuels mitigation project is coming along, removing about 60 to 70% of brush. Still chipping all around the city.

Jerome FD- 2017 Firewise statistics: 673 loads, 951 citizen man hours, 472 Probation hours, 15 burns in place, 19 burn permits.

Office of Emergency Management- Preparation and coordination for fire season. Meeting on Feb 5th all agency PIO's and private contractors the OEM works with on having a consistent message throughout Prescott and Yavapai County as far as Wildfire Messaging. Feb 7th, presentation with CAFMA in Stoneridge on preparedness, Feb 20th Class in Cottonwood with agency people on Hazardous weather and flood fight operations. After post fire- flooding concerns. Feb 27th will start EOC training in preparation for the Fire Season coming up. Next week you will see an advertisement for the Emergency Management position. That will be a three week process and start the recruitment after that. Final selection will be after that.

Prescott National Forest- Mechanical Thinning Projects off Walker Rd. called the Amulet Project and then the School House Project South of town. Loggers are staying in Flagstaff due to the dry weather working in the Coconino and Kaibab. Up in the air as to whether they will be coming down in the next couple of months. Had snow in January so the fire shop burned 14 acres of piles up on Spruce

PAWUIC Minutes February 2018

Mountain. Cold Springs fuel break and was completed. Finished 130 acres of hand thinning. Conditions have been pretty dry and warm. The most recent seasonable outlook thru the end of March is expecting slightly warmer conditions than normal and slightly less precipitation. Not likely to see more prescribed burning on the west zone of the Prescott National Forest unless something changes. There is some pile burning over on the Verde. Bucky, Aaron & Josh are in Albuquerque doing the Permanent Fire Hire. They are also engaged in Seasonal Hiring. Permanent Seasonal Hires will come on next week, the temporary seasonal employees that are staffed up for fire season will come on by mid-April. Hires are staggered so we will larger crews available for burning in the fall. Fully staffed by mid-May. The lookout towers will be up and running by mid-April. The Hassayampa NEPA - community should have received announcement for the large scale planning effort on the Bradshaw district. 250,000 acres is out for comment. Comments are due by February 8th. It is very important because a lot of the PAWUIC communities are affected by the work that are being analyzed. PAWUIC will place it on the website. Ben Roe has a copy of the website link. PNF needs to demonstrate they have a lot of community support for the project. The new Chino Valley Restoration project is analyzing 500,000 acres on the Chino District due out after February 8th. Take a good look at and provide comments. It will be open for 30 days. Dale Deiter has been named the new Prescott National Forest Supervisor, and has been on since the first week in January.

- ? West side of the Blue Hills That is included in the Hassayampa NEPA. Probable decision by the end of August, followed by an objections period. Implementation can take place then. The next step would be prioritizing areas to work, making sure all the cultural clearances are done. The work around our WUI and around our communities within that document are certainly a priority. Under the Prescott National Forest Website under planning is the link.

Firewise Communities – Asked to defer reports to next month due to the length of today's meeting.

8. Announcements:

Roger Swenson introduced the new Firewise Chairman for the Foothills Community, Don Jones
 Executing Board Meeting February 20th

50/50 Raffle- Jerry Borgeldt won the raffle and donated the total back to PAWUIC

2018 Wildfire Expo will be held on Saturday April 21st. Lois will contact agencies regarding participation. The Expo will be located on the East side of the Square on Cortez Street between Union and Montezuma. Yearly education event held in conjunction with Earth Day

9. Adjournment at a.m.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1 at 8:00 a.m.