

**Prescott Area  
Wildland/Urban Interface Commission  
Minutes  
August 2, 2018**

**Participants:** Bob Betts, Lois Hoskinson, Meghan Taylor-Gebler, Douglas Taylor-Gebler, Christie Hamman, Michael Orr, Scot Lee, Vickie Wendt, Dennis Shaw, Gene Lee, Rick Moshier, Loren Bykerk, Joe Pendergast, Tom DiCamillo, Russ Lafayette, Gary Wellborn, Andie Smith, Jim Campbell, Toni Yowell, Jerry Borgelt, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Collison, Ted Stubblefield, Kevin Osterman, Shirley Howell, Bill Wolff, Barbara Lucas, Steve Lombardo, Al West, John Mangimeli, Mary Ann Clark, Craig Brown, Marty Zytkowski, Dawn Salcito, Thomas Yssel, C Silveira, Ron Norfleet, Steve Canter, Cindi Miner, Rich Hall, Ken Rhodes, Rich Van Demark, Don Devendorf, Marla Meier, Carolyn Smith, Dorothy, Barb Ross, Leigh Cosby, Linda Bonham, John Foucrier, Paul Beck, Miles Graybill, Tiffany Chiaravalloti, Ron Sauntman, Jeff Schalau, Greg Mengarelli, Rick Martin, Bill Brye, Bill Fields, J.D. Greenberg, Marty Trembly, Marques Munis, Lori Burkeen, Marsha Collier, Ben Roe, Bill Swahlen

**Recorder: Seleatha Mendibles**

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

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

**2. Chairman's Remarks- Michael Orr**

- Over a thousand firefighters from around the nation are fighting nearly 20 active fires in California. First responders and civilians have lost their lives and thousands of people will lose their homes. Today's meeting will begin with a moment of silence. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.
- Yesterday's edition of the Daily Courier relates that approximately 75 engines and 375 fire personnel from Arizona are on various assignments in California. The majority are on the Carr and Ferguson fires. AZ State Forester Jeff Whitney states that "these fires are taking out anything and everything in their way, taking lives and destroying property." He also relates that AZ is doing everything possible to assist our California neighbors but have to be mindful that we cannot thin our resources at home.
- The financial impact of these fires and the wildfires that are yet to come this year will be devastating. It is a constant reminder of how expensive it is to fight fires when compared to the cost of trying to prevent fires. We must continue the never-ending effort to reduce the amount of fuel which is contributing to these catastrophic fires. We must continue our education efforts to properly instruct citizens on firewise behavior, and help motivate them to act accordingly. We are all in this together and we carry the responsibility of doing the right thing if we have any hope of maintaining the safety and beauty of our surroundings.
- At a meeting several months ago, I discussed a December 2017 report which stated that there were 130 million dead trees in CA. The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook report for June 2018 clearly defined almost all of AZ and large portions of NM, CO, and UT as being above normal risk. It also identified the area of Redding, CA and the southwest corner of CA as high risk areas. The initial reported cause of the Redding with was a vehicle's mechanical failure. The Idyllwild fire was started by an arsonist who reportedly started nine fires in total. The perpetrator is in custody and the penalty for his actions could be as severe as life in prison. The outlook for July and August places AZ

in the normal risk category, but the above normal continues throughout CA and expands to include the entire Northwest. Slides that showed data related to the outlook and our current conditions locally and in CA were shared. A state of emergency exists in CA and the incredible amount of smoke being produced by the fires has secondarily caused widespread health risks.

- Yavapai County and all of AZ have “dodged a bullet” and should count their blessings for the monsoons arriving without a tremendous amount of dry lightning. We need to remember that it is not if, but when in reference to the concern of a future fire attacking our community. Approximately 60% of Prescott’s sales tax base comes from individuals visiting our community. We are renowned nationally in many categories and a major fire event could obviously have a significant negative impact on all our lives and on the future of Prescott, neighboring cities and Yavapai County as a whole.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

### 4. Financial Report- Treasurer’s Report

April 30, 2018 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	29,209.09
Total Deposits	\$	39,641.07
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	68,850.16
Debits/Expenses	\$	38,453.97
Ending Bank Balance	\$	30,396.19
Pending Expense Balance	\$	2,111.88
May 31, 2018 Checkbook Balance	\$	28,284.31
Title III Monies 2016	\$	3,749.70
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	24,534.61
May 31, 2018 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	30,396.19
Total Deposits	\$	28,962.64
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	59,358.83
Debits/Expenses	\$	5,375.93
Ending Bank Balance	\$	53,982.90
Pending Expense Balance	\$	24,858.67
June 30, 2018 Checkbook Balance	\$	29,124.23
Title III Monies 2016	\$	2,749.70
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	26,374.53

### 5. Presentation: Bill Chilson (Chilson Insurance-Insurance Update)

Fire budgets effect how insurances cover homeowners. Carriers are utilizing Google Maps prior to insuring homeowners to assess firewise safety on the specific property and the surrounding areas. Several other factors are considered, but this scoring weighs heavily on a homeowner’s insurability. While some carriers will not insure, others will with higher premiums attached. Remaining firewise on your own personal property as well as encouraging your surrounding neighbors to do the same is prudent when it comes to obtaining homeowners insurance.

## 6. Agency and Community Activity Reports/Issues

**AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management-** Lewis fire crew has been working on the Sundown Acres project. Also working on a 3-4 week project with Jim Buchannan. The Perryville crew is working on projects at the various camps in the area.

**Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority-** Several resources are out on fire assignments. Completed 16 assessments and 4 firewise talks. A \$10,000 grant for chipping through the Ready, Set, Go program was approved. This is a 90/10 grant and communities need to obtain 2 bids.

**City of Prescott FD-** Heritage park project concludes this week. Work continues in Groom Creek and Goldwater Lake. There have been changes in staffing due to promotions. Chipping is ongoing.

**Groom Creek Fire-** Working on firewise assessments.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service-** Last year NRCS worked one contract for \$90,000 and this year did 10 contracts totaling \$650,000. The program has showed an immense amount of growth.

**Office of Emergency Management-** the Goodwin burn scar area will likely produce flooding as the area receives significant rains. Continuing to work with PAUUC in the Yavapai Hills and Juniper Heights communities. Also assisting outside the local area.

**Yavapai County Board of Supervisors-** With the rains and area green up, it is still important to remain vigilant in regards to firewise. Fall prep work is essential to firewise success in the spring. If you notice any County ordinance violations, please report them. Title III funding has been approved for fiscal years 2019-2020. There is about \$275,000 for firewise communities to use as being firewise is ongoing process and not a one and done thing.

**Prescott National Forest-** Timber, Francis Stewardship Contract is a hand thinning project of 505 acres. Advertising for the sale begins 8/3 and closes 9/4. Contract will be awarded by the end of September and work could begin as soon as October 1.

Fire, PNF is very short staffed with resources in CA, WA, OR, and CO. Last month was equally as busy with 12 fires reported in the Prescott Basin ranging from 1/10 of an acre to 25 acres. The Stubbs fire burning in Camp Wood by Yolo Ranch started on 7/9 via lightning strike and is being managed to meet multiple objectives. Has currently burned 8500 acres. Overall planning area is 20,000 acres.

**University of AZ Cooperative Extension-** Rain total as of 7/4 is around 5-7 inches. Some tree species are in danger due to the lack of moisture and the extreme heat. It's important to remember that fire is a natural part of the ecosystem.

### **Community Updates:**

Dewey Humboldt- Grant was approved in 2016 to increase the working area in the Foothills from 158 structures to 450. Dump days will be the 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Old Business-

### Grant Updates

WFHF 16-204, work is continuing and will close on 9/31/18.

WFHF 17-201, experiencing slow progress due to past fire restrictions. Invoiced \$15,000 in July. This grant has 15 months remaining.

SFA 2017, for newer communities and education. \$105,050.00 remains.

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

FSP 17-0014- Grant available for PAUUC to create a movie regarding forest stewardship is ongoing. More to come next meeting.

WFHF 2018- Status pending. Many thanks to the agencies who provided letters of recommendations.

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Sundown Acres- In progress and going well. Great example of mitigation and how it works.  
Title III-Expect information from Lois regarding how to apply for funds.

**8. New Business-**

50/50 Raffle- Bill Fields won and donated the money back to PAWUIC.

PAWUIC needs a new treasurer. Incoming treasurer would have assistance from Linda and Shirley.

New Communications Director for PAWUIC is Leigh Cosby.

Executive Board meeting is scheduled for 8/28/18.

**Adjourned: 9:01 a.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 6th at 8:00 a.m.**