

**Prescott Area  
Wildland Urban Interface Commission  
Minutes  
May 2, 2019**

**Participants:** Christie Hamman, Doug Taylor-Gebler, Meghan Taylor-Gebler, Bob Betts, Lois Hoskinson, Andie Smith, Vicki Wendt, Rick Chase, Darlene Packard, Joan Giliberto, Joe Pendergast, Leigh Cosby, William Hartley, Gary Wellborn, Patrice Russell, Tracey Dashiell, Rick Mosher, Michael Bleifer, Hugh Valley, Jim M? Matthew Nelson, Dawn Salcito, Thomas Yssel, David McAtee, Lee Wise, Eleanor Sisson, Jerry Borgelt, Jim Poore, Dr. Richard Collison, Alessandra Scamardo, Ken Karkula, Mary Ann Clark, Carl Mathes, Henry Dahlberg, Dale Deiter, Steve Canter, Russ Lafayette, Marla Meier, Dennis B. Light, Miles Graybill, Marsha Collier, Jim Buchanan, Marty Trembly, Don Devendorf, Steve Lombardo, Augie Giliberto, Bill Swahlen, Peter Glenn, George Sheats, Richard Poulton, Cory Carlson, Marty Zytowski, Katie Speranske, Judy Eagan, John Mangimeli, Ted Everett, Sarah Tomskey, Bill Fields, Ginny Shugars, Loren Bykerk, Shirley Howell, Richard Hall, Ron Norfleet, Ben Roe

**Recorder: Seleatha Mendibles**

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order.

**2. Chairman's Remarks- Bob Betts**

At the March meeting Treasurer, Andie Smith, highlighted the fact that during 2018 PAWUIC's expenses had risen more than \$10,000 while community donations had fallen by over \$4,000 year over year. I'm hoping that we are on the cusp of reversing that egregious trend after receiving a \$3,000 community donation from Hassayampa Village. By using the TechSoup program we have received a \$317 in kind donation from Microsoft for a Windows upgrade.

This Saturday is Wildfire Preparedness Day sponsored by State Farm Insurance and the NFPA. A third of the \$500 grant recipients in Arizona are from Yavapai County. On May 1 Yavapai County Board of Supervisors declared by proclamation that May be officially designated as Wildfire Preparedness MONTH! Congratulations to our Firewise communities that received an award.

At that Supervisor's meeting I presented a quantified statement of the partnership between the County and PAWUIC. Their support for 2018-19 includes: \$275,000 for defensible space and search and rescue; \$200,000 annual maintenance on the massive grinder obtained by a PAWUIC grant in 2009 used frequently on Walker fuels mitigation projects; \$110,000 for cost of free slash days across the county transfer stations; \$32,491 for probationer crews mitigating fuels along the roadways. All totaled more than \$617,000 is being spent to support wildfire safety in Yavapai County.

The winter moisture was a welcomed relief to the statewide drought conditions and the current wildfire risk demonstrated by the AZ Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal shows April and May with lower wildfire risk. However, as our new crop of grasses begins to cure in June and July areas surrounding Prescott proper will have a high risk with low intensity. The low intensity is because it is grass and is a very short burn time.

There has been no movement since the spring break of the AZ legislature on House Bill 2359. That bill as now amended provides an ability for AZ taxpayers to itemize charitable deductions

on their state return regardless of whether they chose standard deduction on their federal return. The current law would require the taxpayer to use the state's standard deduction, if they use the standard deduction on their federal return. This is believed to pose a threat to greater charitable giving, because it lowers the advantage to the taxpayer of making charitable contributions and could hurt AZ nonprofits.

I showed this new application from the AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management at the last meeting. I downloaded it to my iPhone and it is very slick for tracking wildfires, receiving alerts, seeing fire restrictions, access to the wildfire risk assessment portal, Ready Set Go info. Just a lot of good stuff in one place. Download from the iPhone app store or Google Play. Search on "Arizona Department of Forestry..." Questions? Contact Tiffany Davila at 602-540-1036 or [tdavila@dffm.az.gov](mailto:tdavila@dffm.az.gov)

Due to the Rodeo days and the Yavapai County Fair this building will not be available to us for meetings in July and September 2019. Please give some thought as to whether we should have meeting elsewhere on those dates. We will take a vote in the new business section of the meeting. The commission voted to continue not having meetings in July and September.

### 3. Emergency Response Study Findings- Chief Dennis Light

The Standards of Cover ESCI study was completed in March. Fire, EMS, technical rescue, hazardous materials and fire prevention were evaluated. Thirteen business groups and 10 citizen groups were interviewed. Representatives from the Prescott mayor and council, city manager, firefighter association executive board, and firefighters were also interviewed. The response workload has increased 12.1% over the last 9 years. The PFD has been operating with the same amount of resources since the late 90's, which impacts response times. Current response times are 9.5-10 minutes. The national best standards are a 6 minute response time.

Based on the survey results, a strategic plan is being developed to address the concerns brought forward. Expanding staffing and deployment is at the top of the list, with improving response time a close second. For the system to perform most effectively, the department needs additional people, tools and time. If there are any questions related to this report, please don't hesitate to reach out. (928) 777-1770

### 4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

### 5. Financial Report- Treasurer's Report

March 1, 2019 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	40,563.68
Total Deposits	\$	12,447.04
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	53,010.72
Debits/Expenses	\$	9,699.16
Ending Bank Balance	\$	43,311.56
Pending Expense Balance	\$	4,152.73
March 29, 2019 Checkbook Balance	\$	39,158.83
Title III Monies 2016	\$	3,500.00
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	35,658.83

## 6. Agency and Community Activity Reports/Issues

**AZ Dept. of Forestry and Fire Management-** David Tenney was appointed as the new AZ state forester. DOC crews are pulling back some, only making smaller project commitments that are short term. Currently doing mechanical work in Dewey area.

**Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority-** Completed 13 firewise assessments and one community assessment at High Valley Ranch. Will be attending Stoneridge firewise day on 5/4. They are in the process of becoming a firewise community. Two new engine bosses are starting. Fire ops 101 is this weekend. This is an opportunity for community members to see first-hand what firefighters do on calls. One engine is in Wickenburg. Annual training is complete.

**City of Prescott FD-** Crews are finishing projects in the Oak Knoll/Sweet Acres area. The chipper is back up and running, but the crew is currently short-handed. Patience is appreciated.

**Emergency Management-** Gearing up for the season.

**Prescott National Forest-** Groom RX burn is scheduled to start tomorrow with up to 220 acres scheduled. This will be a broadcast burn. The Amulet stewardship contract is finishing up operations and should be complete by the end of the month. Very happy with the results. Schoolhouse stewardship contract is ongoing with about 600 acres of 700 thinned. Operations are paused until the fall. Aspen creek phase II is funded by the Northern AZ Forest Fund is a hand thinning project. Arrow fire is the contractor and have completed about 152 acres. This project is off Copper Basin Rd. and is a good place to collect down and dead fuel wood. Preparedness- Lookouts, Heli tack, hot shots, and the tanker base are fully staffed. Four engines and Crew 2 should be staffed by mid-May. The Lynx Fire was human caused, but final investigation results are still pending. It burned 16 areas total. There is a window for prescribed burning through the 10<sup>th</sup>. Will likely not burn every day.

**Board of Supervisors-** Proclamation for Wildfire Community Preparedness was recited. Advertisements start mid-May with mailers being sent out to four "hot spot" areas of the community.

### **Communities:**

**Dewey/Humboldt-** Upper Blue Hills water tanks dedication is scheduled for 5/22. This project has taken 5 years to complete.

**Mountain Club-** Having great success with chipper days and pine needle collection days. Have hauled hundreds of tons of slash since program was started in 2011.

**Prescott Summit-** DOC crew and Arrow fire has been working in this area for months. 101 lots and 38 houses have been completed, with about 5 additional lots remaining.

**Rancho Vista Hills-** Betty Higgins has moved into a retirement home. A new president will have huge shoes to fill. There were 14 homeowners who applied to use the 17-201 grant. Hoping to get more homeowners to work on their properties.

## 7. Old Business-

### Grant Updates

WFHF-17-201, expires 11/31/19- amendment pending, but should be approved. Extension to 3/31/20 was requested.

WFHF-18-201, expires 10/31/20-first submission is being prepared.

WFHF-19-201, short turnaround for requests. Lois will be sending an email with requirements. Responses are due by 5/15/19.

PAWUIC is applying for a grant to be used for educational purposes.

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Grant writers are needed! Belinda Taylor is no longer in the area full time and won't be continuing to do this.

**8. New Business-**

- Home and Garden show- scheduled for 5/17-19. Volunteers are still needed.
- 2019 Firewise Expo- Many thanks to the volunteers. PAWUIC has banked 439.75 volunteer hours which translates to \$8,677.35 in kind cost.
- This was Leigh Cosby's last expo. Will need another volunteer to step into her role.
- PAWUIC is transitioning to Yavapai Firewise. A new design created by Marla Meier was shared.
- Jeep posse search and rescue specializes in fire evacuations. Will be hosting a fundraiser, pancake breakfast, on 5/18 at Applebee's. Money raised will go towards upgrading the communications vehicle.
- Making changes to the organization structure of PAWUIC. Recoding tasks associated with the roles of the Board. Volunteers are needed and an operational committee has been established. Will be meeting monthly after the regular meetings.
- 50/50 Raffle- Bill Fields won and donated the money back to PAWUIC.

**Adjourned: 9:25 a.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 6 at 8:00 a.m.**