

**Prescott Area
Wildland Urban Interface Commission
Minutes
March 7, 2019**

Participants: Marty Trembly, Richard Poulton, Al West, Thomas Yssel, Eli Jensen, Leigh Cosby, , Ginny Shugars, Richard Hall, Marty Zytowski, Bill Fields, John Margineli, Terry Kepler, Sarah Tomsy, Hugh Valley, Steve Engler, Miles Graybill, Rick Chase, Wade Ward, Dennis Light, Russ LaFayette, Jasper Lanning, Ruth Anne Norris, Jeff Phillips, Marla Meier, Jim Zimmerman, Lois Hoskinson, Belinda Taylor, Julius Koenigsknecht, Bob Betts, Joe Pendergast, Dawn Salcito, Richard Edgecomb, Loren Bykerk, Jim Buchanan, Vickie Wendt, Patrice Russell, Mary Conner, Tom DiCamillo, Mary Ann Clark, Rick Moshier, Michael Bleater, C. Silveira, Jerry Borgelt, Rick Martin, Lyle Burns, Ben Roe, Darrell Anderson, Rich Van Demark, Doug Taylor-Gebler, Meghan Taylor-Gebler, Marsha Collier Katie Speranske, Ken Rhodes, Shirley Howell, Ron Norfleet

Recorder: Lois Hoskinson

1. Call to Order/Introductions

- a. Meeting was called to order at 7:58 and introductions of new members were made. Significantly missing past chairman, Michael Orr

2. Vice-Chairman's Remarks- Jim Buchanan

The Executive Board met earlier this week

Shirley Howell talked about the Board meeting and the future of PAWUIC

- a. Met Tuesday March 5th, good discussion on moving forward for the PAWUIC organization
- b. At the last meeting nominations for Chairman were asked for to replace Mike Orr. A nomination was given naming Bob Betts. At that time there was no vote because Bob wanted time to consider the option.
- c. Today, Shirley Howell asked for other nominations from the floor. There were no nominations or volunteers for the position of Chairman
- d. Bob Betts has agreed to be an interim Chairman for the months of April and May. A vote was taken and approved for Bob to be the interim chairman.
- e. Going forward the Board is going to hold meetings to reorganize the structure of PAWUIC. The reorganization will look at redistributing the work load, spread it out so no one person will feel overburdened. If you would like to participate in the meetings, you are welcome and we would appreciate your help and advice. The next meeting is Tuesday March 19th at 2:00 at the Shelby Hansen conference room at the U of A Cooperative Extension building, next door. Please let Lois know if you wish to participate in the discussion regarding the restructure and reorganization, so we can have the correct amount of handouts. The different jobs will be discussed and redefined, broken down into pieces and we will also be preparing a job description book – a procedures book so that people that come in will have more information.

Jim spoke to the fact that the Executive Board recognized that we do not have a Standard Operation Procedures manual that break responsibilities out. So in the next two months, we will be working to define that. Next we will be coming back to you requesting a chairman from the membership. The Chairman's role will be broken out and divided so it is not an overwhelming task.

3. Guest Speaker-NRCS (National Resource Conservation Services) Dawn Salcito

Dawn is a programs assistant with the NRCS. She is also a Board Member of the Triangle Natural Resource Conservation District - NRCD for short. Triangle/Chino Winds NRCD also partially funds Dawn's job with the NRCS. Conservation Districts are a local unit of government which are given a broad mandate to provide for the conservation and restoration of lands, waters, wildlife and other natural resources; to protect the water rights, tax base, public lands and general health and welfare of the people. There are 32 natural resources conservation districts and 10 Tribal Natural Conservation districts in Arizona. These conservation districts are managed by an elected and appointed board from the district area.

Conservation Districts support voluntary conservation practices such as:

- Improve water conservation using high efficiency irrigation systems
- Improving soil health, and reducing wind and water erosion
- Sound grazing management with reliable water sources
- Restoration of wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and wetlands
- Control of noxious weeds and invasive species
- Improving our forest and rangeland watersheds and reducing wildfire hazards
- Working landscapes that provide food, water, wildlife, recreation, and open spaces
- Classroom education about conservation of our natural resources.

Triangle/Chino Winds NRCS combine efforts to achieve similar goals and address similar problems. Both districts financially support Western Yavapai Conservation Education Center (WYCEC) whose goal is to reach 10,000 students per schoolyear. This year in April they will have reached approximately 9,300 K-4 & high school students. Their goal is to teach kids where their food comes from and how it gets to the plate. Triangle/Chino Winds have two more very important goals. Service and Coordination. Last summer, Dawn announced the Central Districts were looking for a cultural resource specialist. They raised funds from local ranches and took advantage of a Technical Assistance Grant and were able to hire an Archeologist last October. While waiting on permitting, we developed a place of work with the NRCS. In the last 4 months he has been able to complete 8 cultural resource clearances. This hire has helped us achieve our goal of service and coordination. Our Cultural Resource Specialist has enabled us to be of good service to our neighbors and government agencies alike. Coordination has been achieved through developing plans of work with the NRCS, Forest Service, DFFM and other districts. NRCD's desire is to work on all land types throughout Yavapai County.

4. Approval of February 2019 Minutes

- a. Minutes were approved

5. Financial Report- Treasurer's Report

February 1, 2019 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	45,754.39
Total Deposits	\$	2,112.12
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	47,866.51
Debits/Expenses	\$	7,302.83
Ending Bank Balance	\$	40,563.68
Pending Expense Balance	\$	156.84
February 28th, 2019 Checkbook Balance	\$	40,463.68
Title III Monies 2018	\$	3,500.00
AZ Community Foundation Grant	\$	-
Actual Operational Monies	\$	36,963.68

Thank you to Dewey-Humboldt for their donation of \$2,000.00. Also noted were that community donations year over year are down nearly \$3,000 while expenses have risen over \$10,000 2017 vs 2018.

6. Agency and Community Activity Reports/Issues

AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management- Large Projects in Dewey will continue once soil stabilizes

AZ DOC Mitigation Crew- They are not taking any more projects.

AZ Wildfire and Incident Management Academy-The wildfire Academy is expecting record attendance

APS – Finished the cycle in Prescott, are now working in the Verde area. There was little damage to lines from the recent storms. Working to complete structural Improvements and fire mitigation.

BLM – The projects by Costco & Embury Riddle continue.

Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority- the Upper Blue Hills water tanks are in place

City of Prescott FD- Working in Sherman Pines. Have completed 20 tons of chipping. The Arizona Wildfire Academy to be held next week will have 990 students and staff.

Jerome - Thank you to Lois & Shirley for their assistance on WFHF18-201 Grant specifics for the new 14 acre parcel. Jerome also received a new fire truck through grant dollars. Come view the new equipment March 30th at 4:00 at the Jerome Fire Station.

Office of Emergency Management – Cover a broad spectrum of situations. OEM has hired Tracey Dashiell to take Marcie's place. Need to support reorganization of PAWUIC – time to step up and take a piece of the pie. Talk to people within the communities to recruit new leadership.

Prescott National Forest- 2 Projects 1) Lynx Creek Watershed Improvement Project. It is a Hand Thinning Project east side of Walker Road, south side of Lynx Lake. Accomplished 509 acres. The Contractor has almost finished cutting and they are about half finished with piling. Good opportunity for oak and juniper fuelwood. 2) School House Stewardship Project - Mechanical thinning project between White Spar & Senator Highway. 20 plus inches of snow, so the Purchaser was operating on top of snow. With melting, work has had to slow down limiting their operations. They are making progress and the best time to work is when the ground is frozen. Wanted to thank those who live right on the boundary for their patience. They start early in the morning and it is noisy. Fire & Fuels – Gearing up for the Fire Season. Having preseason meetings with cooperators, trying to have engines and look-out staffing hired by mid-April or mid-May. There have been hiring challenges. The Basin Operations annual drill starts April 4th. Opportunity for all the agencies in the area to practice radio operation, communication & cooperation. Work out any kinks. There is no prescribed burning planned due to wetness. Update on the Hassayampa and Chino Projects - there is no progress yet with Fish & Wildlife. They are still doing everything they can to move the projects forward. Yesterday led by AZDFFM, several agencies went on a field trip to see the amazing work done on private land adjacent to Prescott National Forest. Wanted to let this group know one of the things that was mentioned many times is the incredible role that PAWUIC plays in facilitating these projects that happen to help to make this community more Firewise. Part of that success is the really strong leadership we have seen in the past few years. Please don't take for granted how important it is to have leadership that will step up. It could be a huge problem if we do not have a strong leadership to fill this position. We have seen in the past few years how beneficial it has been. Wants to encourage everyone to think about the role you can play to help keep PAWUIC successful.

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April 10th is the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects bi-annual meeting. PAWUIC is represented. At this meeting work is prioritized and resources coordinated. So if you want to provide input to the PAWUIC representative to pass on, let Bob or another representative know so your voice can be heard.

7. Old Business-

- a. Grant Updates
- b. WFHF-17-201, expires 11/31/19. Amendment pending
- c. SFA 17-101, expires 01/31/20.
- d. WFHF-18-201, expires 10/31/20 - 11 out of 12 orientation meetings completed
- e. Firewise Assessors Course – Pending

8. New Business

- a. **Home & Garden Show (Volunteers Needed)** Chief Light graciously arranged with Sandy Griffin for PAWUIC to have a booth at no cost. Need volunteers to staff the booth. Lois will send out an email asking for your help. Last year there were 16,000 people there and many were very interested. The dates are Friday May 17th, Saturday May 18th & Sunday May 19th.
- b. **2019 Firewise Expo** – The Firewise Expo is set for April 20 on Cortez Street from Union to Goodwin. Most of the agencies and organizations involved in Surviving a Wildfire are represented. This is our yearly Educational event where we reach out to the community and inform them what it means to be firewise and how to Survive a wildfire. Please sign up on the forms going around. There are many jobs both before and during that you can sign up for. The Expo takes ½ day of your time or less.
- c. **50/50 Raffle** - \$38.00 was collected. The \$19.00 was donated back to PAWUIC by Jim Zimmerman.

9. Announcements/Adjournment

- a. Bob asked Prescott residents-if you liked what you've seen happen in the last couple of years with city hall, Billie Orr is in the back and Billie is running again for Council Woman and Mr. Mengarelli is running again for Mayor. If you support these people, please sign their petitions on the way out.

Adjourned: 8:49 a.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd at 8:00 a.m.