

**Prescott Area
Wildland Urban Interface Commission
Minutes
December 5, 2019**

Participants: Bob Betts, Meghan Taylor-Gebler, Douglas Taylor-Gebler, Christie Hamman, Mikayla Becker, Joe Pendergast, Paul Scrivens, David Bowden, Chuck Silveira, Miles Graybill, Jim Campbell, Judy Palmer, Pete Gordon, Barb Ross, Lois Hoskinson, Terry Keplar, Russ Lafayette, Ken Karkula, Mike Donovan, Rick Martin, Ernesto Manzanedo, Thomas Yssel, Richard Hall, Don Shafer, Mary Ann Clark, Pete Lang, Julius Koenigsknecht, Richard Poulton, Loren Bykerk, Jim Buchanan, Eleanor Sisson, Jim Poore, Henry Dahlberg, Cynthia Gentle, Donna Fagan, Mary Gray, Jerry Borgelt, Earl Carpenter, Ben Roe, Andie Smith, Steve Canter, Steve Lombardo, Debbie Miller, Mary Mallory, Don Devendorf, Wade Ward, Tracey Dashiell, Craig Brown, Marty Zytkowski

Recorder: Seleatha Mendibles

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

2. Chairman's Remarks- Bob Betts

12/5 is the lighting of the national Christmas tree.

Please sign the get well card for Bill Fields who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

At our November meeting I talked about how smoke was getting in my eyes and prescribed burns were better than a raging wildfire. I found this article in the Colorado Sun on planned burns. <https://bit.ly/34MDwJ9> It has some good talking points for leaders in our Firewise communities to assuage the anxiety some folks have about the prescribed and pile burns which will be going on throughout the winter as weather conditions permit.

In Colorado the USFS is introducing civilians to a close up view of prescribed burns to help educate the public on the use of fire to create more resiliency and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire which is a part of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Want to subscribe? westerncohesivestrategy@gmail.com

There is a grant proposal coming before the Resource Advisory Committee later this month from Dave Irvine at the Highlands Center to do exactly what Colorado is doing. Prescribed burns will be performed on acres within the Highlands Center's lands with educational dialogue open to the public. We and the PNF will keep you posted.

In spite of all the craziness going on in Washington, two congressional legislators from California have introduced a bill that could help all of us. Specifically, the Wildfire Defense Act will authorize \$1 billion per year to:

- * Establish guidelines for communities to design and develop new Community Wildfire Defense Plans (CWDP) that are developed in coordination with community members, first responders, and relevant state agencies. CWDPs will focus on implementing strategies and activities relating to:

- Improving evacuations and access for first responders

- Addressing the specific needs of vulnerable populations, including the elderly and those with disabilities
- Increasing the resiliency of critical infrastructure and homes
- Creating community-scale defensible space to slow or stop the spread of wildfire by clearing brush and other fire hazards around homes, businesses, and other facilities
- Deploying distributed energy resources like microgrids with battery storage
- Implementing strategic land use planning
- Educating community members
- Building local capacity to implement and oversee the plan
- Coordinating with existing wildfire plans like a Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- * Provide grants of up to \$250,000 to develop a CWDP and grants of up to \$10 million to implement a CWDP
- Grants will be prioritized for low-income communities that are in a wildfire hazard area and for communities recently impacted by a major wildfire
- * Study how a CWDP could be used as certification for insurance companies assessing a community resilience.
- * Complete a report on all federal authorities and programs to protect communities from wildfires.
- * Continuously update wildfire hazard maps.
- * Assess impediments to emergency radio communications across federal, state, and local land management and emergency response agencies.

The article in Insurance News Net is at <https://bit.ly/2RfBope>

The National Association of State Foresters urged the Trump administration to prioritize Chinese removal of retaliatory timber tariffs. I would like to read some excerpts from a letter to Secretary Sonny Purdue.

All wood markets, including foreign markets for U.S. wood, allow Americans to generate the revenue necessary for retaining ownership of their land, keeping it forested, and managing it in ways that ensure long-term productivity and health. To put it simply: Markets for wood are critical to maintaining the health, resilience, and productivity of forests in the United States. Most of the hardwood lumber produced in the U.S. is grown on private forestland; 24% is exported to China and 22% is exported to other countries. When forestland owners and managers have access to robust wood markets, all Americans benefit. The retaliatory Chinese tariffs targeting U.S. timber exports threaten to permanently disrupt existing export markets for U.S. timber. Right now, we are seeing an acute decline in market capacity nationwide due to mill closures caused by the Chinese retaliatory tariffs. America's wood products manufacturing sector is in danger of significant and permanent loss. Already, thousands of men and women have lost their jobs in mills and logging, and the livelihoods of millions more tied to the timber industry hang in the balance. If we lose any wood markets, we will see less active forest management. And without active forest management, there will be more catastrophic wildfires and more economically depressed rural communities. We will attempt to track this legislation and try to monitor the headwinds to this bill. We will keep you apprised on progress or lack thereof.

Yesterday B.O.S. Vice Chairman Craig Brown was elected to the Chairman position for calendar 2020. And the board also extended the deadline for using the Title III grants until 6/30/2020.

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The Joint Chiefs project has earmarked PAWUIC to receive funds for doing work on our side of the fence adjacent to work being done in the PNF. ALSO SOME OF THOSE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS THAT CANNOT WAIT TO BE REIMBURSED. WITH APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WE WILL SET UP A SYSTEM SIMILAR TO WHAT DEWEY-HUMBOLDT PIONEERED.

Guest speaker is Michael Lamar, Prescott City Manager. Mr. Lamar has more than 17 years of professional government executive experience. He served as County Manager in Morgan County, Georgia, for 11 years, preceded by six years as the City Manager of Trenton, Florida. Mr. Lamar is credentialed by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Georgia, and a Bachelor's degree in political science, which probably comes in handy from time to time.

3. Guest Speaker: Michael Lamar

Because of the diversity in work experiences, Michael understands the importance of emergency management. And equally as important is having established evacuation routes. Time is of the essence during natural disasters such as wildland fire. The City of Prescott is dedicated to decreasing the loss of life and property through coordination with PAWUIC and the participating agencies in Yavapai County. Another important point is mitigating the danger around our own homes by clearing brush and creating defensible space. The cross-boundary coordination between homeowners and agencies allows for multiple large scale projects to assist in mitigating fire danger in our area. In addition, will be coordinating with Public Works for snow removal and planning for snow events. Will also be meeting with the PNF to coordinate project work and funding. And as a reminder, there is a fuels mitigation grant for homeowners. This grant matches \$500 and is available until 6/30/2020.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

5. Financial Report- Treasurer's Report

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|------------------|--------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| November 1, 2019 | Beginning Bank Balance | \$ | 44,012.26 |
| | Total Deposits | \$ | 19,401.66 |
| | Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits | \$ | 63,413.92 |
| | Debits/Expenses | \$ | 21,029.50 |
| | Ending Bank Balance | \$ | 42,384.42 |
| | Pending Expense Balance | \$ | 7,846.97 |
| | November 30, 2019 Checkbook Balance | \$ | 34,537.45 |
| | Title III FF1819 | \$ | 2,150.00 |
| | Unisource Donation (Remaining Funds) | \$ | 552.51 |
| | NRCS Payment for DOC invoices | \$ | 3,342.29 |
| | Actual Operational Monies | \$ | 28,492.65 |

Grant Status:

WFHF17-201 and 18-201 still have funds available.

WFHF19- Not granted yet.

Title III grant was extended to 6/30/2020.

Grant funding from the Joint Chief's project was awarded to PAWUIC.

There are 4 communities who have not renewed their firewise certification, with an additional two in process.

6. Agency and Community Activity Reports/Issues

AZ Dept. of Forestry and Fire Management/AZ DOC Crew- Crews are finishing up a project at Willow Springs Girls Scout camp. Hoping to finish the Prescott Canyon Estates project by the end of the calendar year. Working with PAWUIC to identify additional projects. Also working in the Williamson Valley corridor and O'Neil Rd. by Outer Loop. Will be moving to Pioneer Parkway. Crew work will be highly visible and could create some trail closures.

APS- Overhead work continues. This project creates defensible space around equipment power poles. From 2000-2019, there have been over 470 large wildfire events anchored by APS rights of way. The coordination with agencies is essential to this success.

City of Prescott FD- Working with Public Works on snow clearing after the last snow event. Cleaning up felled trees caused by the heavy snow.

Emergency Management- Continuing work regarding preparedness. Code Red and Ready Set Go programs are ongoing.

Yavapai County Board of Supervisors- Title III grant was extended to 6/30/2020. There is still a great deal of money to spend. Reminder to clear felled trees to be firewise.

Prescott National Forest- Timber: The Wolf Creek Watershed Improvement project is complete. Most of the cutting is complete, still working on piling. The same contractor is working on 414 acre hand thinning project along the Wolf Creek cut off. The Francis stewardship is in progress. This is a mechanical thinning project between Copper Basin road and Thumb Butte road and is 505 acres. Several trails, including parts of the circle trail will be rerouted.

Fuels: Permanent fire hire is complete and temp hire has begun. Indian Creek mastication project is ongoing with 500 acres complete and 500 more to go. Spruce Mountain burning is complete. The Amulet piles are finished and the majority of piles in the Groom Creek area are also finished.

The Bradshaw District Ranger just signed two NEPA decisions. Hassayampa and Chino Landscape projects include multiple vegetation treatments and creates a great deal of work opportunities with partners. The Chino Valley office is temporarily closed for renovation.

Judy Palmer, Regional Fire Director presented the Regional Fire Directors Award to Pete Gordon for his collaboration with partners, cooperators and communities. He has mentored many over the years and his contributions here will last a lifetime. Pete is retiring at the end of the month after a 30 year career in fire.

Yavapai Hills- Met with Don Devendorf to review the evacuation plan for over 1100 residents.

7. New Business-

- Volunteers are needed for the Wildfire Expo in April and the Home and Garden show in May.
- 50/50 Raffle- donated the winning money back to PAWUIC.

Adjourned: 8:59 a.m. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6th at 8:00 a.m.