

**Prescott Area  
Wildland/Urban Interface Commission  
Minutes  
August 4, 2016**

**Participants:** Lois Hoskinson, Bob Betts, Denny Foulk, KC Yowell, Dustin Chavez, Darrell Anderson, James Robbins, Craig Brown, Cal Wallahan, Neal Sneller, Jack Smith, Doug Harwood, Isiah Keene, Simon Ingraham, Ben De Blois, Ben Roe, Mary Ann Clark, Mike Franklin, Russ Shumate, Neil Cooperrider, David Bowden, Jeff Phillips, Bill Brye, Julia Bernal, Marty Zytkowski, Jerry Borgelt, Betty Higgins, Ginny Shugars, Marty Trembly, Patrice Russell, Loren Bykerk, Cory Culbertson, Bill Fields, Roger Swenson, Mike Brockert, Sarah Tomsy, Marques Munis, Sheri Ditto, Shirley Howell, John Beddow, Kirk Weber, Ron Chilston, Steven Brown, Paul Scrivens, Earl Carpenter, Paul Mazade, George Sheats, James Young, Ken Karkula, Jim Poore, Judy Egan, Cynthia Gentle, Jim Lark, Rick Chase, Dennis Light, Jeff Schalaus, Terry Nolan, Leigh Cosby, Sue Tone, Eric Steffey, Don Devendorf, JD Greenberg

**Recorder:** Seleatha Mendibles

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

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

**2. Chairman's Remarks**

Changes to 2016 WFHF grant application requirements-In previous years, PAWUIC was able to identify a community for a number of acres and to have unassigned acres under the PAWUIC umbrella for emerging Firewise communities or emergency situations. The newest requirements don't allow for that judgment latitude any more. It is now necessary to specifically identify land to be mitigated either by address or GPS coordinates. Many members of the commission have expressed their concerns with these new requirements as they severely impede PAWUIC's ability to further develop new Firewise communities. These concerns have been shared with AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management executives. We have made it abundantly clear that PAWUIC cannot leverage the further development of new Firewise communities without the flexibility to provide financial inducements to mitigate hazardous fuels and create defensible space. We will continue to underscore the uniqueness of PAWUIC's methods developed over our history to effectively recruit new Firewise communities.

Arizona Community Foundation- For the first time in our history PAWUIC applied for and received a \$2700 grant from AZ Community Foundation of Yavapai County. This grant allows PAWUIC to create defensible space for elderly and disabled members of the community. We will use volunteers to do the work, while funds will be utilized to provide the tools and safety gear for the volunteers. Certified Firewise assessors are requested for assistance in doing the initial assessments and providing direction to the volunteers. Work would be on a Saturday and the goal is to service up to twenty homes within the first year of the project.

NRCS/Oro Flame mine project- This project creates a 200 FT fuel break to connecting two existing fuel breaks recently created by the PNF on either side of this property adjacent to Ponderosa Park. By combining funds from NRCS and State Forestry's WFHF grant, PAWUIC was able to help this landowner protect his land and provide a larger buffer against wildfire coming from the south of town.

Insurance update- PAWUIC solicited USAA to provide premium discounts to Arizona Firewise communities similar to what was offered in California, Colorado and Texas. Allstate in California is now offering homeowners a separate deductible on their wildfire premium within their homeowners' policy. You may choose a larger deductible and save money on the cost of the wildfire premium component. Check with your agent for specific information.

Donations- Communities are continuing to respond to the donation challenge from the Foothills. Wildwood and Williamson Valley Community Organization contributed to PAWUIC's general fund. Donations have also been received from Kroger and Amazon through the loyalty card programs. It is necessary to renew your enrollment in the Fry's Community Rewards program this month.

Chamber of Commerce- PAWUIC is a proud member of the Prescott Chamber of Commerce and is thought of as an important not-for-profit business in this community. Neal Sneller will share how important our efforts are in today's presentation. PAWUIC is also connected to the Chamber's website ([www.Prescott.org](http://www.Prescott.org)), which keeps statistics on website activity. PAWUIC has had 3,947 hits through May 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Study on Wildfire Risk Reduction Behavior in Prescott- Eric Steffey, Ph.D. candidate from ASU, forwarded the draft of the questionnaires and cover letter. County Supervisors and City Council members also received copies of the drafts. Prescott residents will begin receiving copies next week. Participation in this study is important. The findings of the study to be useful in the long term helping our citizens protect themselves from wildfire. An article will be published in the Daily Courier. Thank you to the City of Prescott, the Prescott Fire Department and the Daily Courier.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

### 4. Financial Report- Voted on and approved by Commission.

- **Treasurer's Report**

June 1, 2016 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	20,254.13
Total Deposits	\$	800.28
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	21,054.41
Debits/Expenses	\$	1,728.98
Ending Bank Balance	\$	19,325.43
Pending Expense Balance	\$	709.99
Checkbook Balance as of June 30	\$	18,615.44
Title III Monies 2015	\$	8,710.30
Title III Monies 2016	\$	6,750.30
Actual Operational Monies	\$	3,155.14
July 1, 2016 Beginning Bank Balance	\$	19,325.43
Total Deposits	\$	29,907.52
Subtotal plus Credits/Deposits	\$	49,232.95
Debits/Expenses	\$	20,452.82
Ending Bank Balance	\$	28,780.13
Pending Expense Balance	\$	5,923.13

Checkbook Balance as of June 30	\$	22,857.00
Title III Monies 2015	\$	8,710.30
Title III Monies 2016	\$	6,750.30
Actual Operational Monies	\$	4,696.70

**5. Agency and Community Activity Reports/Issues**

**AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management** - Crews started the final phase of the Granite Oaks project with NRCS. This phase should be complete in about two weeks. Work has begun on projects in the Dewey/Humboldt area. With the realignment transition, focus will be more on winter fuels projects, such as fuel breaks in the Crown King area, property mitigation in Walker, Oro Flame area and Yavapai Hills. The fire season has been busy, with a great deal of initial attack work, collaborating with different agencies.

**AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Forest Health**- Bob Celaya has been lecturing the majority of the summer and forwarded an email update. An increase in pinyon bark beetle activity has been noted in the Payson area. No activity has been noted in the Prescott area, but let him know about any infestation observations.

**Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority**- The official merger and name change went into effect July 1. Fire restrictions have been lifted. A few resources are back from fire assignments. Completed 4 property assessments.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**- Finishing another year of Joint Chiefs' work, with about 200 acres left to complete. Have received 3 eligible applications for funding. 500 acres of brush treatments are pending.

**Jerome FD**- About 560 loads of slash have been piled for burning. Homeowners and crews have clocked about 1432 man hours toward mitigation. There is a great deal of interest from new homeowners to participate.

**Prescott FD**- Chipping services are still available. Two new crew members have been hired, with five additional seasonal employees coming on soon. It is important to note that free chipping services from the Prescott Fire Department are for homeowner-created slash. Defensible space slash created by contractors is to be removed by the contractor. Coordinating with State Forestry to complete additional work at ERAU. Will also be working at Prescott Lakes and Goldwater Lake.

**Prescott NF**- Fuels-Moderate fire activity in the area. State Forestry and BLM assisted in putting out several starts in the Crown King area. Crews are doing burns in the Ranch area and at the Highland Center. West zone prevention has started a new campaign "Fire has a Role" and is looking for community and partnership participation and support. The focus is to empower communities and teach about the role fire has in natural resources and restoration. For additional questions, feedback and ideas, please contact Dustin Chavez.

**Yavapai County Board of Supervisors/YCOEM**- Hosting a fuels mitigation workshop/meeting on 9/22 at 1100 Commerce Drive from 11-4. Please RSVP with Denny Foulk. Denny is also asking if there is any interest in a class on how to develop a mitigation project. The free slash program begins again at all County transfer stations. It will be every day this month.

**Firewise Communities**

**Dewey/Humboldt**- Held its first board and community meetings and have written a draft action plan in an effort to become Firewise. They are continuing to use CAFMA in completing property assessments. A Firewise event and fall clean-up is tentatively scheduled for September with Central AZ Fire and Medical Authority assisting.

**Hassayampa**- Hired contractors to mitigate undeveloped lots, but concerned that the piles weren't picked up by PFD. (see comments in PFD section above). Title III funds are for work done

in the Home Ignition Zone, therefore there must be a house on the lot to receive these grant funds.

**Ponderosa Park-** Expressed appreciation to the probation crews for the work they completed at Indian Creek and the roadways.

**Rancho Vista Hills-** Expressed appreciation to Denny for attending and speaking at the last Firewise day despite his heavy workload during the Tenderfoot fire.

**Additional-** Bill Fields expressed concern over the changes in the fire department's structure occurring over the last three years. Other members expressed concerns. Chief Light spoke about how important it is to communicate their needs and concerns to elected officials. He encouraged community members to attend the scheduled budget meetings. He will also bring expressed concerns to the city meetings that he attends. PFD is applying for every grant opportunity possible to help bridge the gap in budgeting shortfalls.

## 6. Old Business

### Grant Updates-

Please don't pay for mitigation work with cash. Checks, bank transfers and credit cards will be the only documentation accepted now for reimbursement/match by the Department of Forestry and Fire Management Grants Office.

**WFHF 14-206,** AZ State Forestry and Fire Management has granted an extension from 10/31 to 12/31 and a reallocation of unused acreage subsidy from Prescott Summit and Ponderosa Park to the Ranch at Prescott, Hassayampa and the Oro Flame Mine project.

**WFHF 15-208,** No updates.

**WFHF 2016,** approved for half the 148 acres requested. Communities involved in the grant, please be prepared to identify properties by address or GPS coordinates where the work will be completed. This information is needed by the end of August in order for PAWUIC to receive the funds.

**Clarification on Title III-** The County narrowly defines Title III mitigation to the home ignition zone, area within 200 feet of the house. Therefore empty lots are not eligible for mitigation with Title III funds. WFHF funds can be used on empty lots. Dumpsters and chilling must be asked for specifically and granted under Title III. Lands only partially treated with FWHF funds, Title III can be used to complete the work, providing it is within 200 feet of the house.

## 7. New Business

None to report at this time.

### Committee Reports/Task Force

#### Watershed Management- Ben De Blois/Jim Buchanan

Primary focus of the taskforce is head water flow through the city. Working with the Northern Arizona Forest Fund to treat several acres.

#### Assessor Training and Continuing Education- Marsha Collier

Nothing to report at this time.

#### Guest Speaker-Neal Sneller, Membership Director of Prescott Chamber of Commerce- What if a wildfire got into Prescott proper?

Neal shared a brief history of fire in the downtown area and how Prescott has always had a fire problem as evidenced by the Great Fire of 1900 and other fire events. The cost to rebuild downtown following that fire was the equivalent of \$45 million in today's dollars.

The visitor center receives about 32,000 walk-in visitors and 19,000 phone calls. The website tracks online visitors as well as Facebook and Twitter. Visitors make up a great deal of revenue for the city, which could be severely impacted if fire were to make it into Prescott proper. Neal shared the impacts on California tourism during their Soberanes wildfire near Carmel that burned 45,800 acres. Destroyed 57 homes and eleven other structures. The primary fuel was something Prescott is very familiar with; chaparral. Just one of the favorite tourist spots, The Post Ranch Inn lost 70% of its bookings in their \$2,000/night rooms. There was a 50% decrease in all of Big Sur's business activity. More than 2,000 homes were threatened. That gives you a feel for the devastating effect that another wildfire in downtown Prescott might cause.

With PAWUIC's commitment to creating Firewise communities in and around Prescott proper, these impacts can be lessened. Firewise brochures are available at the Chamber of Commerce for the many visitors stopping in. PAWUIC benefits from community partnership by joining the business/nonprofit network and community visibility.

#### **Announcements/Adjournment**

The September meeting will include a presentation by Region 3 Regional Forester, Cal Joyner. Agency partners will be staying on after the meeting for a discussion session. If community members have questions for the Regional Forester, please submit them to Lois at [www.PAWUIC1@gmail.com](mailto:www.PAWUIC1@gmail.com).

#### **Adjournment at 9:22 a.m.**

**Note: Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 1, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.**