

WILDLAND FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

3/28/2018

NRB 4<sup>th</sup> floor EOB room 449

1111 Washington St SE

Olympia, WA 98504

**Committee Members Present:**

Jim DeTro – County Commissioner (Eastside) – *conference call*  
Cody Desautel – Tribal Nations Representative  
Gary Berndt – Wildland Fire Liaison, Chair  
Dave Johnson – Fire Commissioner  
Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt – State Land Trust Beneficiary  
Tony Craven – Small Forest Landowner  
Dave LaFave – Fire Chief (Westside)  
J.D. Marshall – Industry Landowner (Timber) – *conference call*  
Chuck LeBlanc – State Fire Marshal – *conference call*  
Rodney Smoldon – Federal Fire Agency – *conference call*  
Tom Bugert – Statewide Environmental Representative – *conference call*

**Committee Members Absent:**

Randy Johnson – Fire Chief (Eastside)  
Lee Hemmer – Industry Landowner (Range)  
Joe Gardner – County Commissioner (Westside)

**Guests/Other Attendees:**

Gerry Day, Deputy Supervisor for Wildfire  
Loren Torgerson, Wildfire Policy Advisor  
Ken Elliott, Wildfire Division  
Deputy Supervisor for Wildfire  
Chuck Turley, Wildfire Division Manager  
Jim Passage, Guest  
Kara Karboski, WA State Fire Adapted Community Learning Network  
T.J. Martinell, reporter for LENS  
Jason Callahan, Guest  
Jim Cahill, OFM  
Leslie Connelly, OFM

**I. Opening, Roll Call**

Chair Berndt call the meeting of the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. on March 28th, 2018 in Olympia, WA.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Berndt called for approval of the minutes from the February 28th, 2018 committee meeting. Committee member Tony Craven moved to approve the minutes, Committee member Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### III. Old Business

- a. Chair Berndt called for a vote to accept AAR. Committee member Dave Johnson moved to approve, Committee member Tony Craven seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- b. Loren gave an update on Wildland Strategic Plan. Approximately 240 respondents to the survey so far. Loren talked about public meetings and workshops in Spokane and Wenatchee. The public meetings will be in the evenings and the workshops, which require registration, will be held the following day. Currently, Spokane will be April 23 and 24 and Wenatchee will be April 30 and May 1. There may be working groups formed from those sessions.
- c. Gerry Day discussed IT briefing on Wildfire systems improvement. There are multiple systems that currently don't interface well.
- d. JD Marshall will provide information on Idaho "unprotected lands".
- e. Chuck Turley and Gerry Day went over information regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> party DNR fire billing numbers.
- f. Gerry Day spoke about FFPA. Gerry talked about a backlog to reviews of assessments and how there have been none completed over the last 8 years, which DNR is now working on.
- g. Committee member Cody Desautel stated that the Forest Health Resiliency Subgroup (FHRSG) has changed its name to the Forest Health Advisory Committee (FHAC).

### IV. Chairman Report

Chairman Berndt presented a written Chairman Report

### V. DNR Update

DNR Update presented by Chuck Turley.

- a. 700+ people at Team training last week.
- b. 3 Fire Training Academies, which started with just basic training in 2015 has evolved into being able now to offer higher level training to returning recruits.
- c. 2 sessions for National Guard training. DNR has trained almost 1,000 members over the last 5 years.
- d. There is a need for type 3 fire managers
- e. Chuck and Gerry spoke on the DNR Summary report. It has been decided for now to keep as is, and will be decided in the April WFAC meeting to archive complete items and keep only the items that are still in action. Aaron Schmidt will provide an updated version one week prior to the WFAC meeting for that month that will state which ones to archive and which to keep.
- f. Derek Churchill gave an update on the Forest Health 20 year plan and the activities of the Forest Health Advisory Committee. That committee meets quarterly and the WFAC will get information when there are developments about planned priority projects.

- g. Gerry Day gave a legislative update and spoke on three particular bills that had passed, which were 6109, 2733 and 2561. Regarding 6109, WUI with the DNR developing a “WUI map” for counties. Regarding 2733, developing a prescribed burning program done by DNR. Regarding 2561, the WFAC role was discussed and a “task” will be developed for their role. Some of the product development is to be assigned to the consultant group currently completing the Wildfire Strategic Plan, and a task should be presented for review at the April meeting. Loren Torgerson spoke in more detail about 2561, saying a status report will be due to the Legislature on 12/31/2018, a final report is due on 11/15/2019 and the section of law expires on 12/31/2019.

**VI. New Business**

- a. WFAC April meeting has been moved from the NRB in Olympia to the conference room in the SE regional office in Ellensburg.
- b. Kara Karboski introduced herself, presented handouts and talked about who she represents (Washington State Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network) and their involvement in future WFAC meetings.
- c. Jim Cahill, representing OFM, requested that their agency be included in the review of EIRS data that DNR is planning to do with the Legislative committees regarding a JLARC report.

**VII. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 12:47 p.m. The next meeting will be held at the Southeast Regional office, 713 Bowers Rd, Ellensburg, WA 98926.