



GRAND COUNTY WILDFIRE COUNCIL

2015 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

*“Through education **and action**, promote wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and survival.”*

Call to Order by Schelly Olson at 12:30

Present See attached list of attendees

Introductions

Outreach/Education Plans:

- Ready, Set, Go! brochure needs to be updated with the newest version printed by IAFC in the fall of 2014
- Fire Adapted Communities information was passed around, integrate into code
- Need to reach out to Kevin Thompson with BLM
- The council should host another round of Summer Workshops in each fire district
- Certified Burner Classes provided by CDFPC are scheduled at GFD 2/27 to 3/1, recommended by state and feds to limit liability

Mitigation Updates:

- Subcommittee will meet January 29th
- Help with mitigation efforts on vacant land
- Mitigation:
 - Identify needs
 - Find the funding
 - Mitigate, maintain
-

Wildfire and Insurance Issues:

- Summit County Association of Realtors shared their mailer, willing to help fund a Grand County mailing
- Pat Person:
 - Will monitor state legislative efforts
 - Would like guidelines from CSFS on optimal forest density on private land
- USAA is giving breaks to owners in Firewise Communities

- Insurance companies are doing drive bys
- Anyone with insurance issues needs to contact Bobbie Baca at the state

Funding:

- BLM money to fund ads for burner class and Wildfire Awareness Week

Other Business:

Other topics of conversation included in the meeting were: realtors and their contacts with second homeowners,

Adjournment/Next Meeting: Meeting was adjourned at 14:00. Next meeting is April 16, 2015 at 12:00 at the Indian Peaks Building past the Commons



GRAND COUNTY WILDFIRE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2015

Snow Mountain Ranch YMCA

Minutes Submitted by Katlin Miller

The quarterly meeting of the Grand County Wildfire Council was called to order by Chairman Schelly Olson at 1:06pm on April 16, 2015. Sixteen people were in attendance...see list at end of minutes.

Mission Statement

After Schelly handed out the minutes from the January 15th meeting, she asked the council’s opinion on changing the mission of the Grand County Wildfire Council to state, **“Through education and action, promote wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and survival.”** The words **“and action”** would be added to better reflect the goals and vision of the Grand County Wildlife Council to not only educate but also eventually assist with mitigation projects. Katlin moved and Eric seconded to accept the inclusion of **“and action”** in the Grand County Wildfire Council mission statement. Motion Passed.

Nominations for Secretary

Next up, Schelly mentioned that the Secretary position was currently vacant and asked for nominations. Eric nominated Katlin to be secretary. Katlin accepted. There were no other nominations, so Katlin was appointed by acclamation.

Creating A Fire Adapted Home Brochure

Under Outreach and Education Updates, Schelly informed the group that she is currently getting Kopy Kat to print 1000 brochures from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety on *“Creating a Fire Adapted Home.”* The brochure is a really nice full-color pamphlet on ways to protect your roof, windows, siding, and deck from wildfire. Brochures will be available at all fire districts once they are back from the printer.

Ready, Set, Go Action Guide

Schelly is currently working on updating the *Ready, Set, Go!* action guide and will get it out once she’s done with it and it’s back from the printer.

Fully Involved Column

Schelly asked for volunteers to write Fully Involved Articles for the Sky-Hi Newspaper. The fire districts have every other Wednesday reserved for fire-related articles. Katlin volunteered to write one about the May 2nd Wildfire Preparedness Day. It was then suggested that the following article be regarding the importance of knowing your physical address in case of emergency. Katlin will look into other possible articles for the future. Any ideas are welcome. Contact Schelly if you have an idea for an article.

Deb Brynoff from the Grand County Board of Realtors also spoke about a mass mailing they are working on and asked the council to find out a number of mailings that would go out so that she can finalize the grant. The mailing will be in regard to wildfires and insurance policies. It will be similar to the one put out by the Summit Wildfire Council last year.

WUI Conference

Schelly attended a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Conference in Reno a few weeks ago. She said it was really good and she learned a lot. Schelly also mentioned that there will be another WUI conference in Snowmass on September 24-26, 2015. Lynn spoke more about the conference and the Call for Presentations. Presentation proposals are due on May 1st and she encouraged the council to consider presenting on the triumphs and challenges we've experienced since our inception. No decisions were made, but Lynn did pass out Call for Presentation Applications as well as Save the Date notices.

Wildfire Awareness Week

Wildfire Awareness Week will be the first week in June. Schelly will once again ask the County Commissioners to sign a Proclamation declaring that week as Grand County Wildfire Awareness Week. Lynn suggested that we look for banners that were made at one time for each of the fire districts that state "Wildfire Awareness Week" and hang them up. It was also suggested that the fire districts have open houses to increase awareness.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

So far, the only thing we have planned is that Schelly will be working a booth at the 9news Health Fair in Granby on May 2nd.

Fire Adapted Communities

Schelly noted that the Grand County Wildfire Council was added to a statewide list of organizations working to prevent wildfires. This statewide board of wildfire councils will work to create a unified voice on wildfire prevention and mitigation.

Furthermore, it was brought up that there are a lot of acronyms regarding wildfire prevention that are a bit confusing. An effort to decode the acronyms may be beneficial to the general public. This point led into a discussion on "A Year of Living Less Dangerously from Wildfire". There seem to be a lot of different campaigns for wildfire prevention and all of them together are a bit overwhelming. It was suggested that we narrow it down and focus on one or two of them to make it easier for people to understand and do.

NFPA Standards

Schelly mentioned that Grand County has a pre-disaster mitigation plan; however, none of us really know what the action items are regarding wildfire. She will put this on the agenda to discuss at the next Wildfire Council meeting.

Ryan also brought up the importance of county commissioner support in wildfire prevention and mitigation. He mentioned that Summit County has a high degree of county commissioner support and that the building codes reflect that (i.e. defensible space is required on all new building permits). He felt there was a lack of commissioner involvement in the Grand County Wildfire Council and that it may hamper future large scale efforts to prevent and/or mitigate wildfire in Grand County. Katlin suggested that we talk to the County Commissioners and see if the Grand County Wildfire Council could maybe become an advisory board to the Commissioners on wildfire matters, similar to that of the Noxious Weed Board. She will follow up on that.

Mitigation Committee Updates

The Mitigation Committee did not meet since the last meeting but it has scheduled its upcoming meetings. The meetings will be held at the Grand Fire District in Granby at 2pm on May 21st, July 23rd, and September 24th.

Brad also reported on a seminar he went to regarding the differences that wet vs dry years have on fire potential, as well as beetle kill vs. non-beetle kill, lightning strikes, and the correlation between temperature in the north Atlantic and the severity of the fire season in the western US.

Wildfire and Insurance Issues

Discussion on this topic was postponed till the next meeting. However, as mentioned above, the Grand County Board of Realtors is working on a grant for their mass mailing.

Funding

Lynn, from BLM, mentioned that the BLM has Community Assistance Grants available. No deadline has been set yet for the grant application, but it was suggested that the Grand County Wildfire Council act as a clearing house for homeowners associations and other organizations to send their applications through. It will give the applications more weight and help them compete nationally against all the other applications.

It was suggested that the Homeowners Association from Homestead Hills may want to apply for funds for their cistern project through this grant application.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45.

Next meeting: July 16, 2015 at 12pm at the Fraser EOC, 350 County Road 5103



Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2015

Fraser EOC Meeting Room

Minutes Submitted by Katlin Miller

The quarterly meeting of the Grand County Wildfire Council was called to order by Chairman Schelly Olson at 12:15 pm on July 16, 2015. Sixteen people were in attendance...see list at the bottom of the minutes.

The minutes from the April 2015 meeting were dispersed to the group. No changes were mentioned, so the minutes were approved as read. Schelly did, however, suggest that we change our mission statement from "Through education and action, promote wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and survival" to **"Through education and action, promote wildland fire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and survival."** With no objection, the change to the mission statement was approved as suggested.

Financial Report

Under Committee Reports, Adam Gosey, GCWC Treasurer, gave the Financial Report. For Fiscal Year 2015, we have so far received \$4,823.24 in income and spent \$3,351.47 in expenditures. Expenditures have gone to address signs, promotional items, print materials, and website costs. Income has come from address signs and a grant from the BLM. Schelly and Adam recently set up a GCWC Bank Account and it currently has \$4562.82 in it.

Mitigation Committee

Brad White, from the Mitigation Committee, next reported that the upcoming Mitigation Committee meeting will be on **July 23rd at 2pm at Grand Fire**. They will be discussing the BLM Community Assistance Grant as well as a possible collaboration between the US Forest Service and Grand Fire Districts on a Local/Federal Cooperation Grant.

Education Committee

Under Education Committee, Schelly reported that we have been doing *Fully Involved* articles in the Sky-Hi News every other week. She acknowledged that some of last year's articles have been repeated and that the formatting on some of the articles was a little off. However, she said Sky-Hi did this without advisement and that she would be submitting articles in PDF format from now on to control the formatting.

Schelly also said that the "Fire Adapted Home" Brochure has been published and distributed to the various fire departments. We will also make the brochure electronically available on the website.

The new "Ready, Set, Go" brochure is at the printer's and will be out soon. It will also be electronically downloadable once it's done. Schelly mentioned that it is the most comprehensive brochure to date and that it closely aligns with NFPA's Firewise guidelines. With regard to the Ready, Set, Go Brochure, the cost of the brochure is \$1400. Grand Fire received a grant for \$1000, so the remaining \$400 will come from the Council.

Schelly next reported that the GCWC tent has been put up twice this year...at the Grand Lake Chili Cook-off and at the Granby 4th of July celebration.

Lastly, Schelly has been working on some new promotional items for the GCWC. She has ordered some bags with our logo on them and has looked into koozies. The koozies are on hold until we have more money.

Old Business

Under Old Business, Schelly reported that the grant for the Realtor Mailing has been secured and now she is working on the text for the mailer. Some of the text will come straight from the Summit County Brochure, but some of it will be tailored specifically for Grand County. Katlin has also been tasked with getting the addresses from the Assessor's Office.

Next up, the Colorado Wildland Fire Conference will be held in Snowmass on September 24-26, 2015. There will be a Fire Adapted Community Poster presentation that Schelly is going to put a poster together for. She is also attending on behalf of Fire Adapted Colorado. It was suggested that maybe we should consider possibly reimbursing people who wish to attend the conference on behalf of the GCWC; however, no decisions were made.

Schelly then announced that she and Katlin had submitted the BLM Community Assistance Grant for the GCWC earlier this month. The projects we applied for were: a) Chipper Program, b) Demonstration Plot, c) Various mitigation projects, d) Water Cisterns. She also said that we have made it through the initial sort and are still in consideration for the grant. We should know more by the next meeting in October.

Lastly, under Old Business, Schelly spoke about the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. She said that there are 4 big projects listed in the plan that she will email out to the group and that we can talk about at the next meeting. We also discussed possibly having the GCWC advocate for the WUI code under the Fire Code when it goes to the Board of County Commissioners for discussion.

New Business

Under New Business, Schelly informed the group that Grand County Wildfire Council is officially incorporated and has received 501(c)(3) status as a “Public safety, disaster preparedness, and relief” organization. She had to spend \$400 of GCWC funds to receive the non-profit status. Schelly will be looking to get Colorado State Tax Exempt status soon. She also informed everyone that in order to get the 501(c)3 status, she had to list officers for the organization. As such, the present appointed officers are:

Chairman: Schelly Olson
Vice Chair: Ryan McNertney
Secretary: Katlin Miller
Treasurer: Adam Gosey
Member at Large: Brad White

Katlin then spoke about the draft Bylaws. She distributed the bylaws for everyone to review. Some discussion revolved around the membership, with regard to voting vs. non-voting members and delegation of seats based on class (i.e. fire district, government agency, town, private land, special district, non-profit organization, etc...). Discussion also led to the distribution of delegates throughout the county, with East Grand being more represented than West Grand, and how we can possibly alleviate that imbalance. One suggestion was to do town hall meetings to get more involvement in the Council. Katlin asked the group to take the draft bylaws home, review, and send comments to her at miller.katlin@gmail.com. There will be more discussion on Bylaws at the October meeting.

Finally, under New Business, Katlin told the group that the Middle Park Conservation District will be doing an educational booth at the Middle Park Fair and Rodeo on Saturday, August 8th. The Conservation District has decided to focus this year’s booth on Wildfire and Wildfire Mitigation. She asked the GCWC if they would like to partner with MPCD on this booth. With no objection, Schelly told Katlin that the MPCD could borrow the GCWC tent, table, educational materials, and promotional materials for the booth. Katlin also said that anyone who wants to volunteer at the booth should contact her at miller.katlin@gmail.com.

Closing Roundtable

Under Closing Roundtable, Ryan McNertney, from Colorado State Forest Service, reported that they will be starting a Hazardous Tree Removal project, in collaboration with CDOT, along Highway 125 from August to December. Future projects will include stretches of highway along Gore Pass, Rabbit Ears Pass, and Highway 9.

Todd Camm will be leaving his post as the Fire Management Officer for the Sulphur Ranger District on August 8th. The new FMO has not been assigned.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2015 at NOON at GRAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT No. 1

Attendees

Schelly Olson (Grand Fire)
Ryan McNertney (Colorado State Forest Service)
Katlin Miller (Middle Park Conservation District)
Adam Gosey (East Grand Fire)
Brad White (Grand Fire)
Jennifer Scott (Grand County DNR)
Eric Gettenberg (East Grand Fire)
Erich Barber (Grand County EMS)
Ron Thompson (Grand Fire)
Mike Long (Grand Lake Fire)
Dave Holsinger (Homestead Hills)

Neil Willems (YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch)
Todd Camm (US Forest Service)
Jason Finchent (Denver Water)
Deb Dobersen (Valley at Winter Park)
Mike Dobersen (Valley at Winter Park Water District)



Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2015

Grand Firehouse Diner

Minutes Submitted by Katlin Miller

The quarterly meeting of the Grand County Wildfire Council was called to order by Chairman Schelly Olson at 12:15 pm on October 15, 2015. Twenty-one people were in attendance...see list at the bottom of the minutes.

Everyone introduced themselves and the agenda was approved.

Financial Report

Adam Gosey, GCWC Treasurer, gave the Financial Report. For Fiscal Year 2015, we have received \$15,374.84 in income and spent \$14,824.42 in expenditures. Income has come from address signs, a grant from the BLM, and a grant from the Colorado Association of Realtors for the realtor mailing. Expenditures have gone to address signs, promotional items, print materials, the realtor mailing, conference costs, accounting fees, office supplies, and website costs. Current assets total \$3,641.47.

Mitigation Committee

The Mitigation Committee has been working on grant applications to secure funds for mitigation projects. So far this year, we have applied for 4 different grants...

- 1) BLM Community Assistance Grant (\$150,000). Awarded \$40,000.
- 2) CO DNR Grant (\$140,000). Grant status unknown. Possible award date any day.
- 3) Fire Prevention and Safety Grant through FEMA (\$50,000). Grant status unknown. Still awarding 2014 grants.
- 4) Grand BOCC Grant (\$10,000). Grant status unknown.

Education Committee

Since July, we have held 2 workshops, attended 2 Fire Protection Week Open Houses and the Independent Living Forum, and placed Fully Involved Articles in the Sky-Hi News every other week. The first workshop was held at the Granby Fire Department on September 18, 2015, to discuss Defensible Space, Firewise Construction and Landscaping, and Ready, Set, Go. We also went on a field tour up Ten Mile Creek in the afternoon to test our knowledge with Fire Triage Checklists. We had 20 people attend this workshop. The second workshop was a Fire Adapted workshop held at the Fraser Library on October 8th to discuss the aspects of a Fire Adapted Community, home ignitability, and partnerships.

Old Business

Under Old Business, Schelly discussed the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and the 5 Multi-Jurisdictional Action Items that relate to wildfire and the Grand County Wildfire Council. They include: 1) Develop and Implement Fuel Reduction

- 2) Adopt Wildfire Regulations
- 3) Adoption of International Fire Code
- 4) Complete Defensible Space Projects
- 5) Forests to Faucets Program

These action items were approved by both the Grand County BOCC and FEMA. Because GCWC was named as a Lead Agency for 3 of the 5 items, it is important that we work on these items. Should we not get the BOCC grant that we applied for, Schelly suggested we approach the Grand County Sheriff /Fire Warden, Brett Schroetlin, to see if he would make the GCWC a line item on his budget.

Next under Old Business, Katlin presented the group with updated draft bylaws for the Grand County Wildfire Council. Because "membership" seemed to be a point of contention with previous versions of the bylaws, the updated version includes a "steering committee" and a 5-member board of directors. The steering committee makes recommendations to the board of directors, but it would be the 5-member board that makes the final decision and upon which the liability falls. Anyone can be a part of the steering committee and the committee may change based on who attends each meeting. The board of directors would hold 4 year terms starting in 2016. The group as a whole showed support for the bylaws revision and no one objected.

Lastly, under Old Business, Schelly updated the group on the Address Sign Campaign. We have brought in about \$3,500 in address sign income so far this year (140 signs). Sign orders are still coming in daily and at least on HOA is considering a large order for all their homes.

New Business

Under New Business, Schelly reported that that Fire Adapted Colorado Conference she attended in Snowmass was really good. Schelly said there were many posters at the poster session with many great ideas but funding is a limiting factor for us compared to many of the other Fire Councils that were present.

Also, under new business, the group discussed possible fundraising ideas. Katlin suggested we do a calendar of Grand County firemen/women (and possibly Grand County police officers as well). The calendar would not come out until 2017. Jen Scott suggested we look for funding/sponsors to help cover the cost of the calendars.

Other fundraising ideas included asking the Fire Districts to consider raising their mill levies to support the council or doing impact fees that benefit the council.

It was also suggested that we look into free grant writing classes on COTRAIN.ORG. Linda at the library may also have a connection of online grant writing courses. Apparently, the State of Colorado also puts out an annual Philanthropy Book that lists all the philanthropy organizations in the state as well as the grants they offer. Lynn Barclay recommended that we think about the big picture when applying for grants and try to quantify an end state. She also said that we should have a grant form ready to go with budget numbers available so that it is easy to plug in the info when grants come up. Clancy Philipsborn said that he has experience grant writing and offered to help out as needed.

Closing Roundtable

Under Closing Roundtable, Bill Tetlow reported that Winter Park Highlands installed their second water cistern. They now have 2 cisterns and one pond.

Finally, the Grand County Wildfire Council thanks Lynn Barclay for her many years of service and wishes her the best in retirement.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2016 at NOON at the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch

Attendees:

Schelly Olson (Grand Fire)
Ryan McNertney (Colorado State Forest Service)
Katlin Miller (Middle Park Conservation District)
Adam Gosey (East Grand Fire)
Brad White (Grand Fire)
Leah McClain (Mountain Park Electric)
Bruce Van Bockern (Mountain Parks Electric)
Jerry Gibbons (Northern Water)
Paul Mintier (PMC Wildland Systems)
Bill Tetlow (Winter Park Highlands)
Steve Lawless (Homestead Hills)
Clancy Philipsborn (Grand View Highlands)
Lynn Barclay (BLM)
Jennifer Scott (Grand County DNR)
Brett Hanlon (Grand County Planning Dept)
Nicole Boeckers (YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch)
Justin Conrad (US Forest Service)
Jason Finehout (Denver Water)
Mandy Hanifen (SFAC)
Linda Spaet (Trail Creek Estates)
Pat Person (North Lake Granby POA)