



## Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2016

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 12:45 pm on January 21, 2016. Seventeen people were in attendance...see list below.

### Northern Water Presentation

The meeting began with a presentation from Amy Johnson of Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. She gave a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation on Northern Water's Readiness, Response, and Recovery Plan. Northern Water is looking to be a member of the initial response team when wildfire strikes. By being a member of the team, Northern Water hopes to voice their concerns regarding possible impacts of wildfire and firefighting tactics on their water systems, and have the ability to provide the most accurate information possible to their staff and constituents. Amy asked all the fire and emergency responder personnel from each fire district and the county to please review the plan and provide feedback.

### Minutes

Next up, Brad moved to approve the minutes from October meeting. Motion Passed.

### Financial Report

Under Committee Reports, Adam Gosey, GCWC Treasurer, gave the Financial Report. For the Fiscal Year 2015, GCWC received \$16,954.15 in income and spent \$16,123.45 in expenditures (net income of \$830.70). Income came from address signs, a grant from the BLM, a grant from the Colorado Association of Realtors for the realtor mailing, and other contributions. Expenditures included: address signs, advertising, promotional items, print materials, the realtor mailing, accounting fees, office supplies, defensible space workshop, conference fees, travel/lodging, and website costs. The current account balance is \$3,671.75. There is also a separate account under the BLM with \$40,000 in it for the grant we received to do mitigation work and a chipping program. That money can only be withdrawn on a reimbursement basis.

### Mitigation Committee

Brad updated the group on the status of grant applications. In 2015, we applied for 4 different grants...

- 1) BLM Community Assistance Grant (\$150,000). Awarded \$40,000. The mitigation committee is still discussing how to distribute the allocated funds. Defensible space projects and a small-scale chipping program are currently on the plate.
- 2) CO DNR Grant (\$140,000). DENIED
- 3) Fire Prevention and Safety Grant through FEMA (\$50,000). Grant status unknown. Still awarding 2014 grants.
- 4) Grand BOCC Grant (\$10,000). DENIED

Brad has also set the following tentative meeting dates for the Mitigation Subcommittee. Meetings will likely begin at 3pm. These dates are subject to change, so individuals wanting to be on the committee are encouraged to contact Brad to get on his list for verification of times/dates.

- 2/25/16
- 5/19/16
- 8/25/16
- 11/17/16

### Education Committee

Under the Education Committee, Schelly asked for input on the possibility of hosting a “Train the Trainer” Workshop. This workshop would be put on by the US Forest Service and the National Volunteer Fire Council to train fire professionals how to do Home Ignition Zone Assessments. Schelly noted that all the fire districts currently do Home Ignition Zone Assessments, but everyone does them a little differently. The benefit of this workshop is that everyone would be trained to do the assessments exactly the same way. Overall, everyone seemed to support the workshop and wanted Schelly to set a date.

So far this fall/winter, we have only put out a couple Fully Involved Articles in the Sky-Hi News. However, Schelly informed the group that she has two articles that will be coming out soon: one on Code Red and the other on closing your bedroom door at night. Look for them in the paper in the next month or two.

May 7<sup>th</sup> is National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day. On this day, communities are encouraged to do activities that will make the community safer from the impacts of wildfire. Apparently, there are grant funds available to do projects; however, Schelly said that there are only 125 grants available nationwide valued at \$500 apiece. Accordingly, they are very hard to get. Nevertheless, communities are still encouraged to do mitigation or education projects on that day despite the lack of grant funding.

Lastly, Steve Lawless from Homestead Hills inquired about Pile Burning Handouts or Information. He is concerned that many citizens may not know how to properly build or ignite burn piles. Jennifer Scott of Grand County DNR says she has lots of information on that. Steve also asked if someone might be able to attend the Homestead Hills Annual Meeting on the third Saturday in July to speak about Pile Burning. Schelly and Jen agreed that someone could probably attend that meeting.

### Old Business

Under Old Business, Schelly handed out copies of the updated bylaws agreed upon by the current board members. She briefly reviewed the main changes and asked if there any questions. Seeing no questions or objections, the Bylaws were approved as read.

Next up, as stated in the Bylaws, Board of Directors Elections must be held at the first Board Meeting of the calendar year. As such, Schelly asked for nominations. Adam Gosey, Ryan McNertney, Katlin Miller, Clancy Phillipsborn, and Schelly Olson were all nominated for board positions. There were no other nominations. All five nominees accepted their nominations, and the membership voted to accept these five candidates as the new Board of Directors. Because the Bylaws state that the Board of Directors shall have staggered terms, it was determined that the first 3 board members (alphabetized by last name) shall hold two-year terms. The remaining two board members shall each serve a one-year term. Starting in 2017, all board member terms shall be for 2 years.

### New Business

Under New Business, Schelly reported that an Addressing Task Force has been created to solve the addressing issues in the county. Currently, many county roads have both a number and a name. The problem is that names are not unique. There are many Elk Lanes in the county, but there is only one of County Road number. It is important for emergency situations that everyone is speaking the same language; because county road numbers are unique, that is the language that should be spoken. To help eliminate confusion, the county is looking to eliminate county road names all together. The historic name, however, will be retired in the record books in case someone needs to look it up.

Also, under new business, Schelly told the group that Portland State University has sent out surveys to all the fire districts and the county. The survey pertains to Community Wildfire Resilience. Individuals receiving the surveys are encouraged to fill them out and send them back to Portland State university.

Finally, the next Colorado Fire Adapted Colorado Board Meeting will be in Grand Junction from February 17-19, 2016. As a board member of FACO, Schelly is planning to attend. She said that she does not know the cost yet but may be asking the board to help cover a portion of the cost.

*Meeting Adjourned at 2:15pm.*

**Next meeting: Thursday, April 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)  
Paul Mintier (PMC Wildland Systems LLC)  
Matt Schiltz (Colorado State Forest Service)  
Steve Lawless (Homestead Hills)  
Jennifer Scott (Grand County DNR)  
Amy Johnson (Northern Water)  
Noel Curran (Office of Emergency Management)  
Deb Dobersen (Valley at Winter Park)  
Mike Dobersen (Valley at Winter Park Water District)  
Mike Long (Grand Lake Fire)  
Max Basemann (Kremmling Fire)  
Neil McWilliams (Snow Mountain Ranch)



## Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2016

NO MINUTES RECORDED FOR APRIL 21, 2016 MEETING.



## Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2016

Snow Mountain Ranch YMCA

*Minutes Submitted by Katlin Miller*

GCWC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes July 21, 2016 The July 21st GCWC Meeting was Called to Order by Board Chair, Schelly Olson, at 2:04pm. Twelve members were in attendance. See the complete list of attendees at the end of these Minutes.

### April Meeting Review, Introduction

There were no minutes from the April Council meeting; however, Schelly reviewed what was discussed. Schelly noted that the Fire Adapted Network ([www.fireadaptednetwork.com](http://www.fireadaptednetwork.com)) is a great resource for wildfire and mitigation information. She recommended everyone subscribe to their newsletter and blog. Also at the last meeting, Schelly spoke about the Pike Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners (PPWPP) workshop to be held in Colorado Springs on May 13th. The workshop was titled "Ashes to Assets: Assessing Wildfire Risk". It turns out that she, Pat Person, Matt Schiltz, and Clancy Phillipsborn all attended the workshop and had an enjoyable and educational time.

### Treasurer's Report

Moving on to the Treasurer's Report, Adam reported that from December 31st to July 21st our total income has been \$41,542.81. Schelly clarified that \$40,000 was the BLM Community Assistance Grant we received in 2015. True income in 2016 has been \$1,542.81, all of which has come from Reflective Address Signs. Expenses thus far in 2016 total \$1,588.60. Expenses include: accounting fees, bank service charges, website fees, conference fees, address signs, and the chipping program. The GCWC bank account currently has \$14,625.96 in it, and there is \$29,000 remaining in the BLM account that has also been set aside for us. It was moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

### Mitigation Committee

Under the Mitigation Committee report, Brad presented the statistics from the Grand Lake Chipping Day. We had 31 people drop off slash, 27 from the Grand Lake area and 4 from the Granby area. In total, we had 38 truckloads and 22 trailer loads dropped off that day. The combined total of acres served was approximately 85 acres. Finally, we received \$250.27 in donations. Brad calculated the cost per acre to

be approximately \$14, well under the CSFS standard of \$400/acre. Brad and Ryan also estimated that we received 4500ft<sup>3</sup> of raw material that turned into 22 yd<sup>3</sup> of chip.

Also under Mitigation Committee, Brad explained that Ron Cousineau, District Forester for the CSFS Granby Office, came to him recently about some grant money that was available through the CSFS for mitigation work. Brad and Schelly worked together to fill out the grant application, and as a result, we received verbal confirmation that we have been approved for approximately \$60,000. We haven't received all the details of the grant just yet, but we are hoping to get some projects done this summer and fall. The deadline for grant expenditure is September of 2017. This money is to be used strictly for mitigation work.

#### Education Committee

Under Education Committee, Schelly reported that we have been awarded \$2,000 to be used for agency support as a whole and marketing support of the wildfire education program. Pat suggested that we use the money to buy promotional items and door prizes for educational workshops we host. Schelly agreed that would be a good use for the money as we are almost out of 'swag'.

Also under Education Committee, there was much discussion about the current fire restrictions throughout Grand County. Some wondered if there might be more fire restrictions signs available to post around their subdivisions. Others wondered if there were more signs available to post around the county in general. It was suggested that the HOA's might consider posting the fire restriction info on their websites and direct homeowners to visit those sites for more details. Noelle Curran, from the Grand County Office of Emergency Management, also said that [www.gcemergency.com](http://www.gcemergency.com) is the County's website for emergency information, and it is always up-to-date with simple to understand information. With regard to the signs in general, Noelle said that their office has been trying to get the word out as best they can. There are only 4 electronic reader boards in the county, so they are limited on where they can put them. Otherwise, they use social media and the newspaper to reach people. Katlin asked if they could use the CodeRed system to notify residents, but Noelle said that they try to limit CodeRed's use to emergency situations only (where people must act). Finally, Pat asked notifications regarding Red Flag Days. Apparently, there are several apps that you can download to receive notifications about Red Flag Days and Wildfires near you. Such apps include: Red Cross App, Weather Underground App, Wildfires Near Me App, and NOAA App.

Finally, under Education Committee, Noelle mentioned that the Red Cross has a Home Fire campaign going on. They have boxes of smoke detectors and are giving them out to people that need to replace old broken ones. These smoke detectors are free to the public; anyone can get one, but their priority is trailer parks.

#### Old Business

Under Old Business, Schelly mentioned the Homework Assignment from the last meeting. Members were to find articles of interest regarding wildfire and bring them to this meeting. However, since only Katlin has submitted any articles, the assignment has been extended till next meeting. Everyone is encouraged to find articles or topics regarding wildfire risk, prevention, preparedness, and mitigation. You may send these articles to Schelly at [bewildfireready@gmail.com](mailto:bewildfireready@gmail.com) or bring them to the next meeting. To read Katlin's article (reviewed and edited by Schelly and Ron Cousineau), go to [www.grandgazette.net/july-21-2016/](http://www.grandgazette.net/july-21-2016/) and check out page 8. The article is titled "Fire in a Natural (and Unnatural) Landscape".

#### New Business

Moving on to New Business, the Grand County Board of Realtors has expressed interest in co-sponsoring a meeting with GCWC about wildfire risk and mitigation. Schelly suggested that we do a workshop similar to the PPWPP “Ashes to Assets” workshop that she and others attended. Schelly has already spoken to the Realtors about, and they also think it’s a great idea. The tentative date for this workshop will be September of this year. Realtors will also be able to receive Continuing Ed credits for attending this workshop.

Finally, under New Business, Katlin and Brad presented the group with a draft “Project Request Form”. This form is to be used by people who have an idea for a project they would like the GCWC to help them with. This is not the form that will be used for landowners wanting reimbursement for mitigation projects under the CSFS grant discussed above. This form is for new projects not currently funded by the GCWC. Suggestions for improvements to the form included, adding a question at the top stating “What exactly are you requesting from the GCWC (i.e. money (specific dollar amount), materials, time, propoganda, etc...)” and adding a question at the end of the form “What (if anything) have your neighbors done to mitigate for wildfire?”

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 20th, 2pm at Grand Fire**

GCWC Steering Committee Members in Attendance

Schelly Olson, GCWC Chair,

Grand Fire Adam Gosey, GCWC Treasurer,

East Grand Fire Katlin Miller, GCWC Secretary, Middle Park Conservation District

Brad White, GCWC Mitigation Committee Chair, Grand Fire

Noelle Curran, Grand County Office of Emergency Management

Mikaela Taylor, Grand County Office of Emergency Management

Amy Sidener, Grand County Division of Natural Resources

Matt Schiltz, Colorado State Forest Service

Nicole Boeckers, Snow Mountain Ranch (YMCA)

Amy Johnson, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

Steve Lawless, Homestead Hills HOA

Bob Colosimo, Winter Park Highlands



**Meeting Minutes**

October 20, 2016

**NO MINUTES RECORDED FOR OCTOBER 20, 2016 MEETING.**