



## **GCWC Board Meeting Minutes**

### **April 14, 2017**

#### **9am**

The April 14<sup>th</sup> GCWC Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Schelly Olson, at 9:02. Other members present were: Ryan McNertney, Vice President; Adam Gosey, Treasurer; Katlin Miller, Secretary; Merrit Linke, Board Member; Brad White, Mitigation Committee Chair; Amy Sidener, Grand County DNR.

First, under the Mitigation Subcommittee Update, Brad updated the group on the Fuels Reduction Cost-Share program. We were originally granted \$60,000 for the program. There is approximately \$24,000 left for distribution; however, most of it has already been allocated. A portion of these funds will go to a large project adjacent to Northern Water property called the "Carter Project".

Moving on to the Chipping Program, Brad confirmed that we will have three chipping days this summer. They will be funded by the fuels mitigation cost-share program and the \$1,750 grant we received from Grand County BOCC. The first chipping day will be on June 10<sup>th</sup> in Kremmling, followed by June 24<sup>th</sup> in Fraser or Winter Park, and finally, July 8<sup>th</sup> in Grand Lake. Exact locations have yet to be determined, but it was suggested that we do Bighorn Park in Kremmling, the Road/Bridge Department in Fraser, and speak to the Grand Lake Rotary Club about a location in Grand Lake.

Finally, under Mitigation Subcommittee, Brad and Schelly spoke about the Fire Mitigation Crew. They said that Grand Fire is putting together a Fire Mitigation crew, composed of firefighters from throughout the county, that will help with projects that other contractors refuse to do. Prospective projects include: Ten Mile Estates, Stagecoach Meadows, and Columbine Lake. Some of these projects may be included in the current Fuels reduction Cost-Share program. If this is the case, the Mitigation Crew would essentially be the contractor for that project.

Under the Education Subcommittee, Schelly reported that Clancy and Pat are working on the Fire Adapted Open House to be held in Grand Lake on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-4pm. Schelly also reported that we reprinted two different IBHS brochures in February with a 2016 grant we received from Grand Foundation. Schelly and Katlin continue to write Fully Involved Articles, but we have had difficulty getting them into the Sky-Hi News due to their current lack of an Editor. Schelly and Katlin were also able to get information about GCWC on the back of the DMV registration cards that are sent out to every car owner in the county. Approximately 24,000 cards get sent out every year. Merrit next reported that he believes we will be able to send out info on wildfire preparedness with the Grand County property tax assessments. He suggested we speak to Tina Whitmer (Grand County Treasurer) and also offer our assistance with stuffing envelopes.

Schelly next presented a list of checks and deposits for the months of January-April. Most of the deposits and withdrawals have related to the cost-share program. Other withdrawals include: a returned check bank charge, reimbursement to Katlin for the lunch at January's Steering Committee meeting, a check to KopyKat for the brochures, renewal of our Colorado Nonprofit Association membership, payment for liability insurance, payments for FACO items that will be reimbursed, a check to Interstate Signs for our address signs, a deposit and registration fee to the Town of Grand Lake for the Open House on June 10<sup>th</sup>, registration fee for Pat Person to attend the Colorado Wildfire Conference, and payment to Paul Mintier (PMC) for his work on the cost-share program. Deposits, other than those related to the cost-share program, include: payment for signs, reimbursements from FACO, and the \$1750 BOCC grant. Schelly also



requested that the Board consider paying for her hotel at the Colorado Wildfire Conference. Katlin moved to pay for her hotel costs. Ryan seconded. Motion passed.

Moving on to New Business, Schelly informed the group that National Wildfire Preparedness Day is on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It also happens to be the same day at the 9news Health Fair in Granby. The group agreed to have our booth at the Health Fair be our community outreach event for National Wildfire Preparedness Day.

Amy next reported that she has begun the process to update the County's CWPP. She said it will be a lot of work, but, with Schelly's assistance, Amy hopes to have it done by the end of the year.

The conversation next shifted to future funding sources. The FEMA grant application will be due soon, but the group agreed that it would not be worth our time considering how competitive it is. The Grand Foundation grant is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Schelly and Merrit both thought we should apply for a "Junk the Juniper" pilot program to encourage people to remove common juniper bushes and replace them with fire resistant landscaping. The program would work as a voucher program to incentivize homeowners to remove juniper. In exchange for removal, homeowners would receive a voucher to a local nursery or landscaping business to purchase their Firewise landscaping goods. The group agreed to apply for "Junk the Junipers" through the Grand Foundation grant program. Next, Ryan updated the group on the Colorado DNR Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant. He said that it has been included in Senate Bill 17-259; he believes it will likely pass. Finally, Schelly told the group that she is still waiting to hear about the Joint Fire Sciences Research Grant. She hopes to hear something soon.

Moving on, The Colorado Wildfire Conference is April 19-21 in Pueblo. Schelly Olson, Amy Sidener, Pat Person, and Matt Schiltz are all planning to attend. While at the conference, Schelly will be leading a discussion titled "There's an App for That". She will learn about all the different wildfire assessment apps used throughout the state and hopefully find out which format is best. This type of "learning exchange" is what FACO promotes in order to compare ideas all at once.

Schelly also reported that she will be attending a CMAT (Community Mitigation Assistance Team) workshop in Boise in May.

Afterward, Katlin suggested to the Board that we once again consider doing a workshop for the realtors. It has been requested of us several times before. The group agreed that we should do a workshop this September for the realtors, insurance agents, county planners, and the building association at Silver Creek Inn. It would be similar to the PPWPP workshop that several people attended last year, and a possible speaker might be Carol Walker of the Rocky Mountain Institute of Insurance. The suggested days of the week were to Tuesday or Thursday evening.

Finally, the group discussed the agenda for the upcoming Steering Committee meeting. The group decided that the agenda should follow that of the Board meeting. We would also try to get the past Summit County Wildfire Mitigation Specialist or someone from the Summit County Wildfire Council to attend as the guest speaker. The group also agreed to have pizza at the Steering Committee meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.