



## 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 That money can only be withdrawn on a reimbursement basis.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)