



GCWC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes January 19, 2017

The January 19th Steering Committee Meeting was Called to Order by Board Chair, Schelly Olson, at 11:52pm. Eighteen members were in attendance. See the complete list of attendees at the end of these Minutes.

First up, Eric Lovgren, Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, gave a presentation to the group about Fire Adapted Communities. Eric placed an emphasis on the People, Places, and Actions that make a difference in Fire Adapted Communities. Eric also spent some time discussing planning and zoning regulations that are important in becoming a Fire Adapted Community.

Schelly next presented the Minutes from the October 20th Steering Committee Meeting.

Moving on to the Treasurer's Report, the Council currently has \$10,528.61 in the bank account. The Council's **total income for 2016 was \$38,833.84** and included revenues from: address signs, donations, grant income, and the CSFS cost-share program. **Total expenses for 2016 summed to \$31,976.98** and included expenditures from: meetings, insurance, accounting and office supplies, printing, promotional items, the website, conference fees, address signs, the fire suppression pond at Homestead Hills, the chipping program, community assessments, and the CSFS cost-share program. **Net income for 2016 totaled \$6,858.86.** There is still \$20,000 remaining in the BLM Community Assistance Grant account and \$48,851.36 from the CSFS mitigation cost-share program. The \$2,000 from the Grand Foundation will be spent on brochures this month. Finally, the Grand Foundation just notified us that we've been granted \$1,750 for our 2017 Community Chipping Program.

Under the Mitigation Committee report, Brad said that the total funds promised by the CSFS in 2016 for our Fuels Reduction Cost-Share Program are expected to be expended by June 2017. The funds will include 3 Community Chipping Days. Brad also reported that he has requested an additional \$40,000 from the CSFS to continue the cost-share program. There has been no confirmation yet of continued funding. **The next Mitigation Committee Meeting will be February 16th at 11am at Grand Fire.**

Amy Sidener, from Grand County Division of Natural Resources, next reported that her office has issued 290 permits so far this season that includes more than 2,500 piles. Amy estimates that more than 4,800,000 cubic feet of piles has been permitted. On average, Grand County DNR permits about 350 piles per year. The burn season typically lasts until April 1st but may be extended till the end of April, depending on the weather conditions.

Under the Education Committee, Schelly reported that Fire Hydrant Clearing is a hot topic right now. The question of whose responsibility it is to clear fire hydrants of snow and ice has apparently been trending on Facebook. The group verified that it is the owner of the hydrant that is technically responsible for clearing hydrants of snow and ice. In most cases, the owner is the "Water District". Nevertheless, the group agreed that, in practicality, it is EVERYONE'S responsibility to clear hydrants. When a fire ignites in your home, you'd want the nearest hydrant accessible (regardless of whether it was or was not your responsibility to make it accessible). Schelly intends to write our next Fully Involved Article on this topic.



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Also under the Education Committee, we discussed additional ways to get the word out about the Grand County Wildfire Council and Firewise principles. Suggestions included adding info sheets to property tax notices and burn permits. Merrit Linke agreed to follow up on property tax notices. Amy Sidener agreed to hand out info with burn permits. **Post-meeting note: Sara Rosene, Grand County Clerk, contacted Shelly and agreed to add info about Grand County Wildfire Council on Vehicle Registration Notices that go out every month. Sara said that her office sends out about 23,000 of these notices a year.**

Under Old Business, Shelly stated that the Joint Fire Sciences Program Grant that was submitted in 2016 by the Boulder Research Team has not been selected yet. This grant was to fund a research project that would identify residents' expectations of wildfire management and the relationship between those expectations and their management decisions. Grant selection is expected to be finalized by March 2017.

Also under Old Business, the Grand County Board of Realtors is still interested in hosting a Wildfire Workshop in June in the style of the PPWPP Workshop. It was suggested that the workshop include more videos of what happens when wildfire strikes and how various fuel types burn differently.

Moving on to New Business, Shelly reported to the group that the Board of Directors met earlier this month to discuss an Annual Plan of Work for 2017. It is still being finalized, as is the 2017 Budget.

Next under New Business, we held an election for the two Board of Director positions that were expired. The positions had been held by Shelly Olson and Clancy Phillipsborn. First, Shelly asked for nominations. The individuals nominated for the two positions included: Shelly Olson, Merrit Linke, Ron Thompson, Amy Sidener, and Clancy Phillipsborn. Attendees were next asked to vote for two nominees using a close ballot voting system. The results revealed that Shelly Olson and Merrit Linke had the most votes, and were thus elected as Board Members, each for a 2-year term.

Finally, under New Business, Shelly encouraged everyone to join the Fire Adapted Network. You can sign up as an Affiliate Member at www.fireadaptednetwork.org.

Meeting adjourned at 2pm.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: Thursday, April 27th, 11:30am at Grand Fire.
Possible Speaker: Summit County Wildfire Council Member**

GCWC Steering Committee Members in Attendance

SHELLY OLSON, GCWC Chair, Grand Fire
RYAN MCNERTNEY, GCWC Vice Chair, Colorado State Forest Service
ADAM GOSEY, GCWC Treasurer, East Grand Fire
KATLIN MILLER, GCWC Secretary, Middle Park Conservation District
BRAD WHITE, GCWC Mitigation Committee Chair, Grand Fire



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Paul Mintier, PMC Wildland Systems
Amy Sidener, Grand County Division of Natural Resources
Matt Schiltz, Colorado State Forest Service
Merrit Linke, Grand County BOCC
Bill Steinmiller, Sunset Ridge POA
Hailey Vigil, Allegiant Management
Bill Tetlow, Winter Park Highlands
Deb Dobersen, Valley at Winter Park
Mike Dobersen, Valley at Winter Park Water District
Deb Brynoff, Grand County Board of Realtors
Paul Chavoustie, Town of Granby
Cheryl Dale, Grand Lake Fire
Pat Person, Property Manager

Eric Lovgren, Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/Eagle County Community Development