



## GCWC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes April 28, 2017

The April 27<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting was Called to Order by Board Chair, Schelly Olson, at 11:30am. Eleven members were in attendance. See the complete list of attendees at the end of these Minutes.

First up, Schelly invited all guests to get some pizza and return to their seats. While everyone was eating, Pat Person presented a thirteen minute video on the Black Forest Fire that she watched at the Colorado Wildfire Council last week. The point of the video was that is it better to be proactive than reactive.

The Summit County Fire Mitigation guys that we had hoped to have as our guest speakers were unable to attend the meeting. As a result, Amy and Pat spoke about the workshops they attended at the Colorado Wildfire Conference in Pueblo.

Amy spoke about a Resiliency Working Group that was developed to form guidelines for communities on how to bounce back after catastrophe. It is called the "Colorado Resiliency Framework", and it can be viewed at [www.coloradounited.com](http://www.coloradounited.com). Another good websites is [www.planningforhazards.com](http://www.planningforhazards.com). Amy learned that "for every dollar spent in risk reduction, four dollars are saved in recovery." Amy also emphasized that mitigation might not save your home, but it will definitely increase your chances of survival. Another interesting fact that Amy mentioned was that there were 4800 wildfires in Colorado last year but only seven of them were the result of natural causes.

Pat attended a couple workshops on Rapid Site Assessments. The West Region Wildfire Council developed a Rapid Site Assessment that would provide a qualitative rating of Low to Extreme wildfire risk for each home that was assessed. Homeowners would then receive a postcard in the mail stating the rating of their home and an option for a more detailed home assessment. The program, including the assessments and postcards, cost approximately \$3 per home. A different group, known as the Wildfire Research Team (WiRe), studied the socio-psychologic impact of wildfire risk on people. Through the use of "nudge" letters, WiRe discovered that people with 'Moderate' risk were most likely to not do any pre-disaster mitigation and were also the most likely to lose their home. The "nudge" letters compared each home's risk to that of its neighbors as well as community average. The thought was that the letter would 'nudge' the homeowner into doing mitigation work to make their home more comparable to their neighbors' home and the community's average rating. WiRe also found that finances are not the main reason why people don't do mitigation; people just assume the fire department will save their home. To conclude, Pat mentioned that the Boulder Wildfire Partners have used these Rapid Site Assessments and letters to provide insurance certificates to homeowners that pass the assessments. These certificates are officially recognized and accepted by insurance companies.

Moving on to the Treasurer's Report, Adam reported that the Council currently has \$24,098.07 in the bank account and \$20,000 remaining in the BLM Community Assistance Grant Account. So far this year, the Council's **total income has been \$37,169.22**, including revenues from: the cost-share program, address signs, donations, and grant income. **Total expenses so far this year are \$23,571.87**, including expenditures from: bank charges,



dues, meetings and conferences, insurance, printing, workshops, the website, advertising, address signs, fundraising, and the CSFS cost-share program. **Net income so far this year is \$13,597.35.**

Under the Mitigation Committee report, Paul said that the total funds promised by the CSFS for the Fuels Reduction Cost-Share Program (\$60,000) are expected to be expended by June 2017. So far, eleven people have been paid a total of \$29,435, and 118 acres have been mitigated.

Three dates have been selected for the Community Chipping Days this summer. 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. The Chipping Days will be funded by the fuels mitigation cost-share program and the \$1,750 grant we received from Grand County BOCC.

Schelly and Paul spoke about the Fire Mitigation Crew (or Hazardous Fuels Reduction 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, 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. Katlin expressed concern with the potential for "Conflict of Interest" issues. Paul (through his business PMC Wildland Systems) is our hired Cost-Share Program Coordinator and is the one who inspects the projects before and after the work is done. He has also recently been hired by Grand Fire as their Wildfire Specialist. He will be the crew leader for the Mitigation Crew. Katlin just asked that Paul (and anyone from Grand Fire...i.e. Brad and Schelly) not be the individual that approves the cost-share applications for which the Grand Fire Mitigation Crew is the 'contractor'. She asked that Adam or Ryan sign off for those projects to eliminate the "Conflict of Interest" concern. Ryan agreed to do that.

Moving on to Education, GCWC will be hosting a Fire Adapted Open House in Grand Lake on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 12-4pm. The logistics are still being hammered out, but we hope to have several vendors there that are involved in wildfire prevention, preparedness, and survival. Clancy and Pat are the leads on this program.

At our recent Board of Directors Meeting, the Board decided to host a workshop in the fall (September) for realtors, insurance agents, the builders association, and county planners. 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.

Next up, the group discussed advertising for the Council. We need to get some Community Chipping Day announcements out soon. Schelly next mentioned that Grand Fire will likely be doing a Prescribed Fire on Granby Ranch in the fall, and we should start educating the public about that to build the community's trust. Schelly has also started to run PSAs on the local radio about the Wildfire Council. 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. We also hope to send out info on wildfire preparedness with the Grand County property tax



assessments. Finally, Schelly suggested that we consider implementing a “Neighborhood Ambassadors” program. Neighborhood Ambassadors would represent different communities and HOAs around the county. Those ambassadors would be responsible for being the middle man between the Council and the neighborhoods. They would help getting the word out about wildfire prevention and council activities. Christian Hornbaker agreed to be the first Neighborhood Ambassador.

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.

Schelly next reported that Amy 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.

Schelly next informed the group that she and Katlin applied for a grant through the Grand Foundation 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 (up to \$100) to a local nursery or landscaping business to purchase their Firewise landscaping goods.

Afterwards, Schelly stated that we are still waiting to hear back about the Joint Fire Sciences Program Grant that was submitted in 2016 by the Boulder Research Team. 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. Though we have not heard any final news yet, the Boulder Research Team told Schelly that they believe we are a finalist and may soon know the result of our application.

Finally, the group discussed future funding sources. Schelly brought up the Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program. We would have to submit an application through the Colorado State Forest Service. After thorough discussion, the group decided to wait until next year to apply and instead spend this year doing the necessary planning for the grant application. Ryan also noted that the DNR Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant (WRRG) that we have applied for in the past has made it through the Senate and House of Representatives and is now waiting for the Governor to sign it. Ryan believed this would be a better grant opportunity for us than the Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: TBD at Grand Fire.**

**GCWC Steering Committee Members in Attendance**

Schelly 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  
Merrit Linke, GCWC Board Member, Grand County BOCC  
Paul Mintier, PMC Wildland Systems



Amy Sidener, Grand County Division of Natural Resources  
Pat Person, Property Manager  
Christian Hornbaker, Grand County OEM  
David Kunkle, East Grand Fire/Kunkle Services  
Jim White, Town of Grand Lake