



## **GCWC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes July 21, 2016**

The July 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Moving on to the Treasurer's Report, Adam reported that from December 31<sup>st</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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.

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 restriction 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.

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".

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, propaganda, 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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