



GRAND COUNTY WILDFIRE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2015

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 1:06pm on April 16, 2015. Sixteen people were in attendance...see list at end of minutes.

Mission Statement

After Schelly handed out the minutes from the January 15th meeting, she asked the council's opinion on changing the mission of the Grand County Wildfire Council to state, **"Through education and action, promote wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and survival."** The words **"and action"** would be added to better reflect the goals and vision of the Grand County Wildlife Council to not only educate but also eventually assist with mitigation projects. Katlin moved and Eric seconded to accept the inclusion of **"and action"** in the Grand County Wildfire Council mission statement. Motion Passed.

Nominations for Secretary

Next up, Schelly mentioned that the Secretary position was currently vacant and asked for nominations. Eric nominated Katlin to be secretary. Katlin accepted. There were no other nominations, so Katlin was appointed by acclamation.

Creating A Fire Adapted Home Brochure

Under Outreach and Education Updates, Schelly informed the group that she is currently getting Kopy Kat to print 1000 brochures from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety on *"Creating a Fire Adapted Home."* The brochure is a really nice full-color pamphlet on ways to protect your roof, windows, siding, and deck from wildfire. Brochures will be available at all fire districts once they are back from the printer.

Ready, Set, Go Action Guide

Schelly is currently working on updating the *Ready, Set, Go!* action guide and will get it out once she's done with it and it's back from the printer.

Fully Involved Column

Schelly asked for volunteers to write Fully Involved Articles for the Sky-Hi Newspaper. The fire districts have every other Wednesday reserved for fire-related articles. Katlin volunteered to write one about the May 2nd Wildfire Preparedness Day. It was then suggested that the following article be regarding the importance of knowing your physical address in case of emergency. Katlin will look into other possible articles for the future. Any ideas are welcome. Contact Schelly if you have an idea for an article.

Deb Brynoff from the Grand County Board of Realtors also spoke about a mass mailing they are working on and asked the council to find out a number of mailings that would go out so that she can finalize the grant. The mailing will be in regard to wildfires and insurance policies. It will be similar to the one put out by the Summit Wildfire Council last year.



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WUI Conference

Schelly attended a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Conference in Reno a few weeks ago. She said it was really good and she learned a lot. Schelly also mentioned that there will be another WUI conference in Snowmass on September 24-26, 2015. Lynn spoke more about the conference and the Call for Presentations. Presentation proposals are due on May 1st and she encouraged the council to consider presenting on the triumphs and challenges we've experienced since our inception. No decisions were made, but Lynn did pass out Call for Presentation Applications as well as Save the Date notices.

Wildfire Awareness Week

Wildfire Awareness Week will be the first week in June. Schelly will once again ask the County Commissioners to sign a Proclamation declaring that week as Grand County Wildfire Awareness Week. Lynn suggested that we look for banners that were made at one time for each of the fire districts that state "Wildfire Awareness Week" and hang them up. It was also suggested that the fire districts have open houses to increase awareness.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

So far, the only thing we have planned is that Schelly will be working a booth at the 9news Health Fair in Granby on May 2nd.

Fire Adapted Communities

Schelly noted that the Grand County Wildfire Council was added to a statewide list of organizations working to prevent wildfires. This statewide board of wildfire councils will work to create a unified voice on wildfire prevention and mitigation.

Furthermore, it was brought up that there are a lot of acronyms regarding wildfire prevention that are a bit confusing. An effort to decode the acronyms may be beneficial to the general public. This point led into a discussion on "A Year of Living Less Dangerously from Wildfire". There seem to be a lot of different campaigns for wildfire prevention and all of them together are a bit overwhelming. It was suggested that we narrow it down and focus on one or two of them to make it easier for people to understand and do.

NFPA Standards

Schelly mentioned that Grand County has a pre-disaster mitigation plan; however, none of us really know what the action items are regarding wildfire. She will put this on the agenda to discuss at the next Wildfire Council meeting.

Ryan also brought up the importance of county commissioner support in wildfire prevention and mitigation. He mentioned that Summit County has a high degree of county commissioner support and that the building codes reflect that (i.e. defensible space is required on all new building permits). He felt



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there was a lack of commissioner involvement in the Grand County Wildfire Council and that it may hamper future large scale efforts to prevent and/or mitigate wildfire in Grand County. Katlin suggested that we talk to the County Commissioners and see if the Grand County Wildfire Council could maybe become an advisory board to the Commissioners on wildfire matters, similar to that of the Noxious Weed Board. She will follow up on that.

Mitigation Committee Updates

The Mitigation Committee did not meet since the last meeting but it has scheduled its upcoming meetings. The meetings will be held at the Grand Fire District in Granby at 2pm on May 21st, July 23rd, and September 24th.

Brad also reported on a seminar he went to regarding the differences that wet vs dry years have on fire potential, as well as beetle kill vs. non-beetle kill, lightning strikes, and the correlation between temperature in the north Atlantic and the severity of the fire season in the western US.

Wildfire and Insurance Issues

Discussion on this topic was postponed till the next meeting. However, as mentioned above, the Grand County Board of Realtors is working on a grant for their mass mailing.

Funding

Lynn, from BLM, mentioned that the BLM has Community Assistance Grants available. No deadline has been set yet for the grant application, but it was suggested that the Grand County Wildfire Council act as a clearing house for homeowners associations and other organizations to send their applications through. It will give the applications more weight and help them compete nationally against all the other applications.

It was suggested that the Homeowners Association from Homestead Hills may want to apply for funds for their cistern project through this grant application.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45.

Next meeting: July 16, 2015 at 12pm at the Fraser EOC, 350 County Road 5103



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Attendees

Lynn Barclay, BLM
Ryan McNertney, CSFS
Matt Schlitz, CSFS
Jennifer Scott, DNR
Adam Gosey, EG Fire
Todd Holzwarth, EG Fire
Eric Gettenberg, EG Fire
Deb Brynoff, GC Board of Realtors
Wayne Schafer, GC Sheriff
Schelly Olson, Grand Fire
Brad White, Grand Fire
Steve Lawless, Homestead Hills
Katlin Miller, MPCD
Linda Spaet, Trail Ck Estates
Todd Camm, USFS
Nicole Boeckers, YMCA SMR