

GCWC Steering Committee
Meeting
April 23, 2021

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Schelly Olson at 12:02pm. Meeting held via in-person and Zoom.

#### Members Present (34):

See attached list

#### **Review of Past Minutes:**

No Minutes for January meeting. Virtual recording available.

#### Financial Update:

US Bank: \$32,405

• ASAP (BLM Funds): \$35,000

#### Mitigation Committee Report:

- 2021 Cost-Share: We have funds available and are accepting applications. https://bewildfireready.org/fuels-reduction-cost-share-program/
- 2021 Chipping Days:
  - May 22<sup>nd</sup> Kremmling (Old Park Station, 31 GCR 1935)
  - June 12<sup>th</sup> Grand Lake (Across from Trail Ridge Marina, 12669 US Hwy 34)
  - July 10<sup>th</sup> East Grand Fire (77601 US Hwy 40, Fraser)
  - July 31<sup>st</sup> Grand Lake (Across from Trail Ridge Marina, 12669 US Hwy 34)
  - August 21<sup>st</sup> Grand Fire (60500 US Hwy 40, Granby)
  - All dates are Saturdays from 10am to 3pm.
    - https://bewildfireready.org/community-chipping-days/
- Hazard Tree Removal Program: Joel Cochran of OEM spoke about the county's plans to work with Team Rubicon on Hazard Tree Removal along county roadways.

#### **Education Committee Report:**

- Firewise Ambassador Program is set for September 19-20. Speak with Schelly if you have questions or want more info.
- May 1 is National Wildfire Preparedness Day
- New Education Committee for GCWC: Sue Valente, Deb Doberson, Mary Sangster, Laurie Pope, Marty Tod, Katlin Miller, Schelly Olson, others who want to join...

#### **Old Business:**

- Community Risk Assessments for the WiRe project are done. 5 communities completed.
- WiRe project: Compiling data and formulating results.
- Grant Writers and Funding Opportunities: Grant Writers are NEEDED to assist with applying for funding opportunities.



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#### **New Business:**

- Election of Board Members (2 year term from 2021-2023):
  - o Katlin Miller nominated Brian Faith.
  - o Ryan McNertney nominated Schelly Olson.
  - Schelly Olson nominated Merrit Linke.
  - All nominees accepted their nominations.
  - As we currently have 4 positions on the board (not including the 2 positions that were up for election) and our bylaws state that we can have between 5-9 Directors, Katlin made a motion to elect all three nominees to the Board for a total of 7 Directors on the BOD, Ryan McNertney seconded. When voted upon, there was a unanimous vote of approval amongst the attendees.
    - Current Directors
      - Schelly Olson (until 2023)
      - Merrit Linke (until 2023)
      - Brian Faith (until 2023)
      - Katlin Miller (until 2022)
      - Adam Gosey (until 2022)
      - Clancy Philipsborn (until 2022)
      - Philip Brinkmann (until 2022)
- 2020 Colorado Gives Day Statistics: \$6,648 donated
- Total Donations to GCWC 2020: \$20,340
- 2021 CO Wildland Fire Conference: 9/21-23/21 in Grand Junction.
  - o GCWC will sponsor a couple people if they want to attend. Chat with Schelly if interested.
- Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant (FRWRM)
  - GCWC is looking to apply for a large forest mitigation project in the Fraser Valley. Schelly, Adam, Zach,
     Philip and others will get together to work on the application.
- CWCB Grant: Grand County and Northern Water are applying for this grant to cover EWP program costs.
- Grand Foundation Request: Schelly applied to the Grand Foundation for Wildfire Mitigation and ETF Recovery projects. The Grand Foundation graciously donated \$125,000 to the Council for these projects.

Adjournment: 1:40 pm

**Lunch:** We had pizza and salad for lunch prior to the start of the meeting.

## How safe is your house?

80% of respondents said they want information on how to reduce wildfire risk on their property.

## Check off the mitigation actions as you accomplish them this month:

Moved wood piles 30 feet from the home
Mowed weeds/grasses to a height of 4 inches or less, in a 30-foot radius around all structures
Created a fuel-free boundary immediately surrounding the home and any other structures (about 5 feet). Often this simply means pulling weeds or raking pine needles away, to get down to bare mineral soil. Fill with rocks or other non-combustibles.
Cleaned gutters of flammable debris
Removed debris from under decks
Removed miscellaneous combustibles from around the home (e.g., leftover construction materials)
Maintained paint/stain on wood decks and wood sided homes
Made a schedule for when to repeat these tasks
Set up a home ignition zone assessment with your local fire department for a personalized to-do list
Talked with neighbors about wildfire mitigation

## Have you talked to your neighbors about wildfire mitigation yet?

activities

Folks who talk to their neighbors about wildfire are more likely to take mitigation action, according to the survey. That means your voice matters!

Your risk is connected to your neighbor's—if their house catches on fire, it's more likely yours will. Work with your neighbors to reduce risk!

## Solutions to your top barriers to mitigation action

#### It's physically difficult

You can <u>hire a contractor</u> to do the work for you. Check out our list of contractors, under "Tree Contractors List" (link below).



#### Unaware of vegetation removal options

FREE Community Chipping Days You trim the limbs & trees and bring the slash to us for chipping. 10am – 3pm on the following dates (locations TBD):

- May 22nd Kremmling
- June 12th Grand Lake
- July 10th East Grand
- July 31st Grand Lake
- August 21st Granby



Community Chipping Days can save time. Your local fire department can also make you a <u>personalized</u> <u>to-do list</u> so that you can plan it all out.



#### It's expensive

Check out our <u>Cost Share Reimbursement Program</u> for hazardous fuels reduction projects (link below).



#### Don't know how to reduce wildfire risk?

Call your local fire department for a <u>free site visit on</u> <u>your property</u> (contact info on front page). They will go in-depth, marking specific trees for removal, recommending actions for the home itself, etc.



bewildfireready.org/info-for-residents/

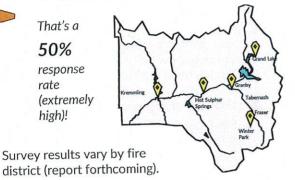


In 2020, we mailed out 1,112 surveys on wildfire risk.

556 households responded.

That's a

50% response rate (extremely high)!



#### Our mission:

Grand County Wildfire Council's (GCWC) mission is, "Through education and action, promote wildland fire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and survival." We are dedicated to building a Fire Adapted Community!





#### In each community, we found a gap in evacuation planning—emergency alert sign-ups. 73% have an

evacuation plan,

but only

46% have signed up for CodeRED



The Grand County Sheriff's Office uses CodeRED to tell you when to evacuate during a wildfire.

#### Sign-up tips:

- Do not enter a landline
- Enter your address to get location-specific alerts
- Download the CodeRED app if you have a smartphone





bewildfireready.org/code-red/

#### Now you've signed up for CodeRED, what's next? **Evacuation Checklist**

Download the Ready, Set, Go! Action Guide for tips on planning,

emergency supplies, and family communication:



bewildfireready.org/ready-set-go/

#### Before a wildfire:

- ☐ Evacuation kit prepared & in car (May -November; see pg. 10 of the action guide)
- ☐ Everyone in the house knows how to contact each other during an emergency
- Out-of-town emergency contact chosen
- ☐ Important documents photographed and safely stored
- Annual insurance coverage review done

#### During a wildfire:

- ☐ Stay aware of the latest news/updates
- □ Pack valuables in car
- ☐ Close all windows/doors and leave out ladder and hoses for firefighters
- ☐ Leave as early as possible!

If you have any questions, please contact us!

970-627-7121

BeWildfireReady@gmail.com

#### Or contact your local fire department:

East Grand Fire (Fraser/WP): 970-726-5284

Grand Lake Fire:

970-627-8428

Grand Fire (Granby): 970-887-3380

Hot Sulphur Springs/ Parshall Fire:

970-725-3414

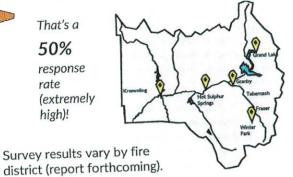
Kremmling Fire: 970-724-3795

When you evacuate, leave your home in fighting shape →

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#### **Evacuation Checklist**

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# If Not Now... When 22



Act today to make YOUR community a nationally recognized FIREWISE USA® site

Call the Grand County Wildfire Council to get started 970.627.7121 Or contact your local Fire District



**East Grand** 970-726-5824



Grand (Granby) 970-887-3380



Grand Lake 970-627-8428



HSS/Parshall 970-725-3414



Kremmling 970-724-3795

Learn more at:

BeWildfireReady.org/Firewise-Communities





REWISE USA

Plan It. Do