



## **Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee**

# **Conference Call Minutes – September 2, 2020**

Notes by: Faith Berry

Time: 12:00 pm MT 9/2/2020

**Roll Call:** Jolene Ackerman, Jeremy Taylor, Faith Berry, Erin O'Connor, Johnathan Bruno, Zachary Ellinger, Deb Fleming, Jeremy Sullens

**Approve August Minutes:** Committee reviewed, after minor changes minutes will be accepted motion made and approved to accept minutes with changes.

### **NWCG Program Manager Introduction (Jeremy Sullens)**

Worked with Predictive Services, then was a District Ranger in California and now a Program Manager with NWCG.

### **Firewise Subcommittee (Zach Ellinger)**

Jeremy and Zach are working to help revise and manage this subcommittee after Pam retired. Zach is detailed as Pam's replacement at the US Forest Service after Pm retired. This is a short-term detail. He is working to facilitate a transition after he moves on. Zach and Jeremy were not sure what the intent and purpose of the subcommittee was.

Jolene Ackerman shared that there never was clear direction about the purpose of the subcommittee, and there was no regular communication back from the subcommittee or defined work plan. They did review the NFPA 2-year budget. She shared that if the subcommittee does continue to exist it needs to be overhauled with defined goals and clear communication/transparency. They did participate in Firewise work like the Firewise sites of excellence and getting feedback that could be provided back to NFPA. Sometimes they reacted to things, like the logo. Having a Firewise Subcommittee would be beneficial to have input in and know about emerging issues like the staffing changes at NFPA.

Make the Firewise Subcommittee a working subgroup. It needs a goal and purpose. Zach will take any recommendations and implement them.

There is also uncertainty about who is on subcommittee, is the roster on the website still accurate? Jeremy asked if we can use the last email list and find out who is still active. Jolene does have some archives. John Fish and Rhonda Stuphen also from Florida were on the group.

Staff from NFPA with the Firewise USA® program are also interested in participating. Jolene said in the past employees from NFPA shared interest in participating like Tom Welle. The committee shared interested in having them participate.

Zachary will bring these comments forward to the subcommittee.

## Draft WUIMC Historical Record and Committee Document

We have no record or history or knowledge about how these things come to pass. For new group of people, they can be informed and provide more transparency on the committee. Jeremy will talk to Will May and Pam to give us an outline that will integrate with the document Jolene created; this will all be on Teams link. Any information, charter etc. appreciated to help build this document. John Fish may have some historical record going back to the initiation of the Committee. Jeremy is looking forward to getting input and will connect w John Fish.

## WUI Specialist Task Book Working Group

Greg, Erin, Faith and John involved in this. John shared they had the first call, and there were some questions related to the task book wondering if it is related to the mitigation specialist position. There is a need for new information for the supplemental. They also need the NWCG contact information.

Do we know the status of the documents that were submitted for the Mitigation Specialist position? Jeremy asked Deb if she has status. She has not heard anything, and they are waiting for a response. Heath Cota US Forest Service contact about the position was training with military and currently unavailable. Jeremy will check on the status of the Mitigation Specialist position and get back to John. We want to see what was submitted with the supplemental, such as the job description. Once we get the answers, we need we can move forward with the task book.

A question was asked by committee members whether the task book is on the Microsoft Teams folder? Jeremy answered that there is some information on Teams, that Pam provided to Jeremy. He shared with the Committee how to find these items.

John shared that the draft may be completed by the end of September if he gets the information he needs, we can then take a peek and share the Committee's overall view.

## Website Update

Jeremy shared there have been some side bar conversations after the phone call about requested updates for the website. Some people were looking for content and having difficulty finding it, and some content got lost in the transition. We need to determine what is missing and what we should include. We also need to make sure the roster is up to date. There have been some questions about information we can't find where it may be located how to recapture it. Firewise Subcommittee information on the webpage is very minimal, we need to revise it and bring up to speed if we want to keep. Make this more robust.

Information on the webpage that needs to be updated:

- Names
  - Greg Philipp
  - Steve McGuan
  - *Vacant*
  - *Advisors*
- Publications
  - Any missing publications?
  - ***The Desk Reference Guide:*** does this need to be revisited on a regular basis? In June 2019 there were some minor updates, then WUIMC received some criticism from an agency about not updating the entire Guide. We need to address those necessary updates.



## **Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee**

Maybe Jen has a later and greater version or something we can work from suggest we connect with her first. Suggested that we revisit at least once or twice a year.

***Action Item: Update the Desk Reference Guide and replace it on the website.***

- Minutes
  - January and March Missing (January meeting was moved so no January meeting minutes. March meeting was cancelled.

Fire Adapted Communities Talking Points are different per the Fire Adapted Community Learning Network. (2013). John Bruno shared the website for the FAC Learning Network had a virus on a piece and they had, some security issues so not to go there right now to look on their site.

We have glossary terms and a Desk Reference. The other document is the mitigation pocket guide that the committee will get to see. Is the field tech guide still relevant? Let's look at this document and see if we want to keep it. There may be an additional document below this that may need to be attached. Please go through the webpage and we may want to talk more about this next meeting.

Please let Jeremy know if there are any other topics for next meeting

*Meeting adjourned: 2:50 pm*

*Next meeting: October 7th (conference call)*