



Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee

Conference Call Minutes – December 2, 2020

Notes by: Faith Berry

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

Roll Call: Erin O'Conner, Jeremy Taylor, Faith Berry, Sarah McCaffrey, Jonathan Bruno, Jonathon Skinner, Deb Fleming, Jolene Ackerman, Karen Curtis, Marty Cassellius.

Approve October Minutes: For future minutes for committee member comments say a person made a comment

Motion made that than we approve minutes, minutes approved.

Introduce Karen Curtiss (Jeremy)

Karen Curtis is working under a temporary assignment in Pam Leschak's position as National Program Manager. Karen is rewriting the position so that it gets classified and can be posted. Karen started her career in the Pacific NW and served in a WUI position in Central OR since 2014, working in regional coordinator position. She is currently working on special tasks for the Washington, DC Office doing NRCS work in developing new positions for the Forest Service. She is filling in after Zachary held the position. She is also working with the Firewise Subcommittee and a subcommittee on the CEPC committee.

US Fire Administration WUI Mitigation (Faith)

In 2014, a team of individuals came together as they realized there is a gap in need for mitigation specialist training. The current training was developed and first offered in 2016 in both an in-person offerings and some online training. The NFA team will be exploring both options for future development of the training.

A meeting has been set with two branches of the NFA to explore possibilities of offering the training through the US Fire Administration. Jeremy and Jon will share information with the NFA representatives about the possibility of this training.

WUI Specialist Position and Task Book/ Mitigation Best Practices Training (Jon Bruno)

There will not be any huge adjustments to the curriculum currently. The primary concern is how do we get to larger audience? We have reached about 150 students a year, to expand the reach of the class we are looking at having it two tracks. One would be a non-professional training opportunity and the second would be how to get it as a professionally recognized and certified position training.

Jon good work pushing this forward with USFA as a potential offering on their platform, we are looking at creating an introductory course prior to offering the full mitigation class. We have sent out a new request and flyer offering an opportunity for individuals to take the full mitigation specialist training in person. Currently 20 people have already signed up to take the training. They are looking for committee members who can participate as guest speakers Jeremy and Jon have had to start the process to have it shared through NWCG from scratch, but they are also looking at using current class content to create a non-professional position training opportunity possibly online.

They are looking for a variety of types of assistance such as support to increase the number of students. They are looking forward to having people assisting the instructors be in the class to make sure we are hearing from the students about what we need.

Action Item: Reach out directly to Jon if we are interested in participating as a student or guest speaker for the Mitigation Best Practices Training in 2021.

They have drafted and submitted task book and the training material for review. The information within the task book will need to be re-reviewed and address the comments provided to then be resubmitted in 2021.

The Forest Service is taking the lead to submit the WUI Specialist Position into the next Federal Supplement, and we need to stay on top of this. We are getting movement but need to make sure that it continues to be promoted. If we want to support this we need to do this in a unified force to get this moving forward.

Action Item: Jon will share a needs statement that will also be posted in Teams platform.

A task book question was asked about the working group. We had formed a small working group and need to look at what types of material needs to be worked on, and any changes needed. There is a lot of CMAT material is currently in the task book that will need to be removed.

2021 Work Plan Items (All)

As a committee we can look at activities of what we are doing, and identify needs moving into 2021. A lot of work is being done on mitigation efforts across the country and attention is being given to the policy makers on all WUI items. We want to increase interest and be in the forefront of WUI items.

Items we each need feedback on from perspective agencies. What ways are more effective the WUI committee can work and increase interest.

1. Answer the question what is mitigation and what are we doing as a committee?
 - a. Litmus test what we are doing and how are the projects our committee is managing work?
 - b. Use knowledge from the committee members to talk about alignment, do a better job of working together to develop a cohesive approach.
2. We don't have FAC Learning Network represented on the committee, we can have subject matter experts voted into the committee as an advisory position to the committee.
 - a. *Action Item: Task ask Jon to have the person from FAC Learning network represented here. Once determined, ask the WUI MC vote on the addition of a FAC representative.*
3. How do all these programs fit into the national approach that is the Cohesive Strategy?
 - a. It is important to see how all mitigation programs align.
 - b. The US Forest Service is hosting a summit to see how all these resources are working together, how will we participate?
 - c. How do we standardize mitigation items, such terms as the home ignition zones, how do we get them to reflect same information?
 - d. Identify miscommunications instead of standardizing mitigation messaging. It may be better to identify what is bad messaging that may give people incorrect information relating specific to mitigation.
 - i. *Action Item: Share ideas on how to make a good venue or element to help get best messaging out as it addresses mitigation and best practices of mitigation.*
4. Review and continue to develop the Mitigation Field Guide
5. Review and make revision recommendations to the IRPG, as needed, and push forward with the committee.
6. Complete the WUI Specialist Position and task book.
7. Review and update the desk reference guide, based upon current frameworks.



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8. Reinvigorate the Firewise subcommittee to provide feedback and guidance about activities based upon best practices, there are constantly new trainings, some of what is being created is similar, so do we endorse principles?
 - a. Endorse people we know and support.

Action Item: Jeremy asked if we could share information from our organization, what is it that we share and look at what some of the differences, look at language and as a committee look at items that have a unified voice. Share with Jeremy the material we produce.

Action Item: Our Committee will work on desk reference guide, WUI field handbook, and look at what documents our agency produces to discuss next meeting what is going on in each agency.

Jeremy would like to have a round robin for next meeting for current activity relevant to the committee.

Meeting adjourned: 1:00pm MT

Next meeting: January 6th, 2021 (conference call)