



Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee

Conference Call Minutes – January 6, 2021

Notes by: Faith Berry

Time: 1200 MT 1/6/2021

Roll Call

Jeremy Taylor, Jonathan Bruno, Faith Berry, Martin Casselius, Erin, Jonathan Skinner, Deb Fleming, Jolene Ackerman, Karen Curtis, Jennifer Hansen, Sarah McCaffery

Approve December Minutes

Minutes approved.

Action item: Swap two paragraphs under USFA, WUI specialist Position change header, Forest service will take it, WUI mitigation specialist position changes necessary. Some minor changes to make, a few typos

NWCG FY22 Funding Request (Jeremy)

Deadline for applying is 1/22/21.

There were no projects identified for funding at this time.

NWCG Annual Meeting February 9th and 10th (Jeremy)

Two ½ day meetings will be held. Jeremy and Erin will be participating. They will provide a briefing to NWCG addressing the committee accomplishments and working items for the 2021 year.

FAC Network Representation (Jonathan Bruno)

A FAC Network member will be invited to participate with the WUI MC as a non-voting member. They would participate as a subject matter expert on committee topics to guide and share in some of the responsibilities.

There was discussion about including other subject matter experts to other future meetings. Discussion was made regarding the committee consider including NFPA as part of the Firewise subcommittee. It was decided to talk about this when we get to Firewise Subcommittee redevelopment or at a later time.

For now, an invite for someone from the FAC Learning Network will be provided and brought before the WUI MC when appropriate.

Action item: John B. will contact Michele Medley Daniel from FAC and ask who is interested in participating.

2021 Work Plan Items and Deadlines (All)

1. Desk Reference Guide Working Group: (Jennifer)

Jeremy and Faith volunteered to help

Action Item; Will present a draft to the committee by March.

2. Firewise Subcommittee: (Erin & Karen)

Need to revive committee. Plan a meeting and get it up and running. One agenda item is how to invite NFPA.

Need to define what the purpose of committee is, figure out goals before inviting NFPA. History question raised about Firewise subcommittee was it initiated as an oversight committee, but now has the role shifted. The committee had a role supervising NFPA grants.

Karen, Jeremy and Gwen had a discussion about this and discussed grant administration. The committee is dormant and was unable to assist this year. It is unusual to have subcommittee reviewing one program, decision made to keep the subcommittee on hold right now and determine what is this committee's role moving forward. Explore renaming and revamping the subcommittee. Maybe put FAC member there.

It was decided to wait until the position Pam held is filled and then work with them to decide what to do with the Firewise subcommittee, because it is part of our charter. At that time the objectives can be rewritten.

Action Item; Erin has some of the names and people to help with the subcommittee when the role is filled, and they decide when and how to move forward.

3. WUI Specialist Position/ Task Book Subcommittee (Jon Bruno)

Jonathan will get updated task book and position Deb provided feedback and John will get back to Jeremy.

We need to include Mike Mattfeldt, Forest Service POC overseeing the position, to include him on discussions regarding the position.

Action Item John will send out an invite to Jeremy and Deb to rekindle what was left off and look at next steps needed.

4. Draft Mitigation Field Guide (Jon Bruno)

Action item; The deadline for final comments is by the 22nd of January and please reach out if you need longer.

Action item; Jon will send the guide to Jeremy to send out again. When the document is at the point to send out to PMS for publication, they will send it to Deb to help facilitate.

5. Wildfire Mitigation Programs and Mitigation Alignment? (Discussion)

This will be further discussed at a later date as a topic of focus and investigation after advisement of the executive board meeting.

IRPG Feedback Request is Due Feb 1, 2021

Round Robin:

Jolene: Completed WUI program strategy, including information about Firewise sites. They are looking at the home ignition zone strategy, some have been completed on I pads some forms, moving forward they are creating a consistent reporting strategy and an online format.

Faith: USFA webpage updates ongoing.



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John Skinner: There are 4 state forest mitigation positions open. OPM decided that the series needs to include a biology major. They are also working on a 5-year strategic plan working with communities and BLM on importance of wildfire mitigation and trying to get more funding to get more funding looking at last year's fire season.

Sarah McCaffery: Forest Service completing the final assessment around the science of smoke and prescribed fire.

Martin Casselius: The Fuels group is exploring the FY 21 funding bill to decide what will the risk assessment look like for the next 5 years and what investment it will take? Will this build on hazard potential map, the latest version, WUI and municipal watersheds? Depends on funding.

Karen: Vacancies open in fire prevention specialist job series, and there is more emphasis for the jobs to have more training in biological sciences. Lots of interest in public utilities mitigation best practices and more interest in Oregon and Washington about this because of the recent Oregon fires. Since 2016 the federal government has had an emphasis on resilient structures on federal properties. The Forest Service is looking at its own structures as far as engineering and alignment and starting to work on identifying retrofit needs to improve resiliency with its own facilities.

Deb Fleming: No report

Jonathan Bruno: WUI mitigation specialist is now available virtually. He is working with the trainers to help answer student questions. They will host module on community engagement CWPP's etc. with Sarah.

Jeremy is also an instructor. Every Thursday 4 pm mountain time in February they will be offering a training class and they would love to have folks from the WUI Committee participate. There are opportunities to participate as part of a panel discussion, maybe on mitigation funding. Jon will send out information on the training. Other instructors include, Steve Quarrels, and an employee of Nationwide Insurance to talk about wildfire and insurance

Meeting adjourned 1315 MT

Next meeting: February 3rd, 2021 (conference call)