



Minutes – August 2, 2023

Time: 1200 MT 8/2/2023

Roll Call

Ashley Whitworth, Dan Beveridge, Martin Cassellius, Erin O'Connor, Sheryl Page, Jon Skinner, Faith Berry, Sarah Lee, Andy Pascarella

Approve Meeting Minutes

Postponed; will follow up via email.

Discussion/Follow-up Items

Standard for Mitigation in the WUI update: the Standard was released and received some immediate commentary/feedback, e.g., Cohesive Strategy Addendum was not published when Standard was submitted and needs to be incorporated in some fashion. E. O'Connor created a digital update tracker to capture potential changes or comments. Committee members should feel free to add comments or inputs to the tracker. If comments are received, they should be reviewed by the committee. The comments don't necessarily need to drive the changes, but they should be reviewed.

Fall Meeting (All)

- Planning Group (2-3 people): Jon Skinner, Faith Berry, and Erin O'Connor.
- Intend to be in person with virtual option.
- 6th National Cohesive Strategy Workshop:
 - Santa Fe, NM | November 6-10, 2023.
 - Anticipate the conference is 3-4 days rather than full 5 of the work week.
 - CoCo training is anticipated on front or back end.

WUI Definition (Steward: FMB)

- "The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetation fuels."
- Discussion among Communication committee (NWCG) that definition may need to be updated.
- Contacted our committee to consider reassessment/revision of the definition.
- F. Berry sits on the community education and prevention committee (CEPC):
 - Also discussing the currency of this definition.
 - Suggests considering collaborating with another committee to contribute.
- S. Lee notes that if CEPC and our committee are in agreement about revision, a joint proposal should be brought to the Fire Management Board.
- S. Page agrees that definition should be updated and proposes combined committees could propose an issue paper.
 - USFS considering revision of HFRA definition of WUI since it has many implications.
- E. O'Connor notes that a definition update would have far reaching implications.
- F. Berry - FEMA has also been having the same discussion about the term and its relevancy/currency.

- Also supports updating the definition.

Wildfire Mitigation Field Guide (Sheryl)

Report-out and update Field Guide Google Folder:

- Final reviews complete.
- Ensuring alternate text and photo captions as well as information on figures are complete and referenced to hand over to publications committee.
- Turn-over to publications committee not planned yet but on the horizon.
- Revisions should be sent to S. Lee, and she will work with publications on that task.

WUIMC SOPs (Erin)

Report out and update:

- Last met at the end of June.
- J. Ackerman, E. O'Connor met with S. Lee.
- Review of objectives and mission statement with the committee in order to not have development occur in a vacuum:
 - Previous version didn't align well with the current work of the committee.
 - "the WUIMC provides national leadership and guidance for mitigation best practices in the WUI while also engaging with practitioners at all level and promoting FAC."
 - S. Page and F. Berry support the re-write.
- E. O'Connor will send updates in a follow-up email to allow time to review and provide input.
- Objectives have also been updated.
- Chair rotation discussion:
 - There has not been a formally adopted process to ensure equitability among representatives/members.
 - Request to formalize proposed.
 - NWCG has vice-chair present for 2 years and they transition to chair for 2 years.
 - Personal experiences show value in having a vice-chair to chair transition.
 - Subcommittee will work on a variety of options for such a rotation that could be adopted by this committee.
 - F. Berry proposes a clause allowing for flexibility to support unique instances (retirement, new appointments, etc.).

Wildfire Mitigation Team Lead & Team Member (Andy, Sheryl)

- Pascarella CWMS detailer in WO.
- Timeline shared.
- Positions exist in the WF Qualifications supplement - some of the rare positions in this supplement that have Position Task Books (PTB).
- Position Descriptions have been drafted & reviewed by USFS.
- Next step is to get these pushed to the Incident Business Branch by September 2023 for inclusion in the 2024 AD Pay Plan.
- Updated AD pay plan normally updated by April.
- CMATs have been using THSP mnemonic in the interim.
 - ❓ EO | Is it up to each state agency to adopt?
 - S. Page response | each state would have to determine whether they adopt the qualification.
 - As more qualified personnel develop and more agencies adopt the qualification, the positions will gain more traction and the possibility of inclusion in 310-1 .
 - ❓ EO | What is needed from the committee?
 - A. Pascarella requests members review the PD and provide input to provide external input on the process, making its advancement more likely.
 - ★ F. Berry noted that previous committee members had developed WF mitigation specialist for the NIMS system.



Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee

Potential Associate Member (All)

- Jennifer Hanson (former member now with the BLM) advocated for the role by J. Skinner
 - Advocated by S. Page, M. Cassellius, F. Berry, A. Whitworth
 - Unanimous agreement to allow.

Report-outs/Round Robin (All)

- S. Page - CWDG round 2 announced.
 - USFS just presented National Community WF Mitigation Strategy to directors.
 - Once reviewed by them it will be shared with this group.
- F. Berry - FEMA released a Marshall Fire Mitigation Assessment Team report.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: September 6, 2023, via Teams Video Conference