



Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2024

Time: 1200 MT 4/3/2024

Roll Call

Berry; Whitworth; Pascarella; Bruno; Ackerman; Page; O'Connor; Beveridge; Cassellius

Approve March Meeting Minutes

Late delivery of minutes requires a shift to approval at next month's meeting.

Discussion/Follow-up Items

- **New meeting invite through early 2025:**
 - With chair change impending, EO will deliver this but will be Cassellius's responsibility moving forward.
- **Wildfire Mitigation Field Guide status (Sheryl/Erin):**
 - NOT APPROVED – a few concerns brought forward:
 - Heavy use of forestry and forests – desire to make inclusive of all ecosystems.
 - Limited errors need to be resolved.
 - Page will share links with the workgroup to review how comments should be addressed, SP thinks it will be straightforward to resolve issues.
 - Anyone interested can participate – SP will reach out (mid-April timeframe).
 - Good additional recommendations provided.
 - DOI's Office of Wildland Fire and NPS representatives not included thus far in production:
 - Prompting a representative invitation to the subcommittee.
 - Page recommended the inclusion of Department of Defense as a new committee member as well.
 - O'Connor noted that there has been interest shown from DOD, but they need time to settle into their new membership with NWCG
 - Berry questions if we ought to invite new NWCG liaison (Katie O'Hara) to familiarize her with work and group.
- **WUIMC SOPs (Jolene/Faith/Erin):**
 - Chair & Vice Chair rotation solidified and finalized.
 - Reviewed many sections in need of work.
 - Two main items that may be of interest to the larger committee:
 - Adjusted mission statement & objectives – full committee review of alterations:
 - Propose that chair leads review of these items annually.
 - Request that full group reviews during interim for approval.
 - Communications portion:
 - History appendix of items that committee has worked on over the years (Ackerman & Skinner).
 - EO will get another meeting scheduled with the hope to have updates populated by the summer.

Report-outs/Round Robin (All)

- **Berry:** Pam Lescheck (former committee member) was offered a legacy award at WUI conference from IAFC.
 - IAFC holding conference 4/15-18 Fuels & Fire Behavior.
 - USFA hosting evacuation roundtable (NASA, NIST, and others).
 - USFA is also hosting the world fire congress (5/6-8) 30 countries convening in Washington DC to discuss WF issues.
 - Contact Berry if you are interested in more information.
- **Page:** Litzenberg confirmed for May.
 - **Need to ensure next meeting schedule reflects this**
 - CWDG Round 2 – aiming for early May announcement.
 - Observations from first 2 rounds related to CWPPs – best management practices and equivalents.
 - Pascarella's last meeting with the committee.
- **Pascarella:** Mit Specialist team member and leader quals:
 - Quils should be included in the AD pay plan.
 - Next step is to get folks qualified; especially difficult now since any folks with existing quals have departed USFS (only agency currently formally supporting qual).
 - Producing a request letter to allow a grandfather process. Contingent on:
 - Training courses completed
 - USFS employee
 - Willing to train other employees
 - Offer to remain involved until Page can find a replacement
- **Bruno:** Wants to raise awareness of the FAC Collaborative:
 - Group working with the USFS.
 - Has been around for a little while – anticipates more movement and strategy as 2024 progresses.
 - Serve as advisory role to WFLC.
 - Question about how it's set up and functioning:
 - "Soft information sharing body in the last year".
 - Coordinator position (call facilitator) exists with the group that assembles notes and distributes information.
- **Ackerman:** On planning committee again for Cohesive Strategy conference:
 - **Requesting topics and presenters to develop agenda and make presentations equitably distributed among 3 main topics.**
 - Moved up to September rather than previous October delivery from 2023 (09/16-20/2024).
 - O'Connor requests folks keep in mind the opportunity for this committee to meet in person at some point.
- **Casselius:** BIA issue of cultural burning and how it's dealt with, and what it is not going away:
 - There are concerns about how much knowledge has been lost at the tribes.
 - Origin of reintroduction originally created in CA.
 - Recent reawakening of interest in the Midwest region.
 - Berry recommends including intertribal timber group (coalition?) to include in these conversations.
 - Cultural burning is certainly something that the tribes are all interested in.

Meeting adjourned

***Next meeting: May 1, 2024, via Microsoft Teams Video Conference*