

**Summit County Wildfire Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2016  
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Joanne Nadalin, Susan Lee, Gary Curmode, Dan Moroz, Howard Hallman, Shellie Duplan, Eric White, Jim Cox, Paul Kuhn, Chapin LaChance, Jon Diurba, Char Bloom, Ken Wiegand, Jeff Berino, Beth Huron, Dan Schroder

- I. Approval of Agenda:** Dan Schroder acted as chair in Dan Gibbs' absence. Dan opened the meeting at 1:35 p.m. and introductions were made around the room. Jon Diurba is the new Emergency Manager for the county. The agenda was approved without changes.
- II. Approval of July 21, 2016 Minutes:** Joanne Nadalin moved to approve the July 21, 2016 minutes. Char Bloom seconded the motion; all were in favor and the minutes were approved.
- III. 2016 Chipping Program Outcomes:** Dan Schroder gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the 2016 chipping program outcomes. See Attachment A for chipping program metrics, including participation, woody biomass utilization and participation breakdown by town. Overall, the program was very successful in spite of a few challenges involving contaminated and late piles.
  - 1,971 homes participated.
  - 5,979 piles were put out.
  - 5,480 cubic yards of chips were collected.
  - Mapping shows that many adjacent lots were treated, suggesting that neighbors influenced each other to participate in the program.
  - Dan and Doug spent a significant amount of time communicating with participants, especially with regard to late, missed or contaminated piles.

Several council members expressed interest in receiving program participation metrics specific to their communities in order to target homeowners for future participation. Discussion followed on the implications of sharing chipping participation information between jurisdictions:

- County email communications are not always protected and it may be possible for insurance companies to obtain information that would negatively affect a homeowner's ability to get insurance.
- Other options for sharing information include delivering it personally or sending it in paper format.
- Providing more general numbers to encourage neighbors to participate may reduce insurance risk; e.g. "50% of your neighbors in 'X community' participated. Let's see if we can get that number to 75%".

**IV. 2016 Chipping Program Expenditure Report:** Total program costs, including revenue from the sale of chips to Climax and reimbursement from the Department of Natural Resources grant, totaled \$98,145.90. Compared to the cost of an actual wildfire, prevention is much less expensive. Refer to Attachment B for a breakdown of program expenses.

**V. DNR Grant Request Update:** Due to a reduction in funding for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildfire grant program and the number of applicants for the grants, Summit County was not awarded a DNR grant for 2017.

**VI. 2017 Grant Program Funding:**

- Total county funds available for the 2016 grant program: \$254,345
- Hazardous Fuel Reduction grants awarded in 2016 - \$83,091
- CWPP grants awarded in 2016 - \$38,400
- Chipping program expenses for 2016 - \$98,145
- Residual - \$28,301

Without revenue from selling chips to Climax and the DNR grant, the program would have overspent \$65,539.

**VII. 2017 Chipping Program Opportunities:** Dan Schroder presented several options for restructuring the chipping program, taking into consideration the lack of DNR funding:

- Re-prioritize grant hierarchy (Chipping, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, CWPP).
- Self-fund and maintain the program structure of the past two years.
- Offer all-season slash drop locations and chip on-site.
- Designate specific weeks for slash drop locations and chip on-site.
- Chipping by RSVP only.

Discussion followed on whether to make modifications to the chipping program:

- Not all fuels mitigation is the same. Target the most hazardous fuel types.
- Have the county purchase a truck or acquire one from another department that could move large amounts of wood.
- Buffalo Mountain Metro District is open to hosting a central location for slash drop-off.
- Dedicate a staff member to contact individual homeowners using a targeted approach, rather than advertise to the public at large.
- Provide homeowners with general information on fire mitigation strategies rather than a detailed assessment of their property to alleviate insurance risk.
- Target homeowners vs. home residents. Mailing wildfire information with tax bills would prevent opening the homeowner up to insurance risk while ensuring that information gets to the actual homeowner.
- Have county staff contact the Vail Fire Marshall to find out how his department implemented a door to door program using firefighters who were on light duty.
- The public responds favorably to having firefighters contact them directly about wildfire mitigation.
- Continue to run the chipping program in its current format for one more year, based on successes of the last three years.

- Continue to collect metrics even without the DNR grant requirements.
- Communicate better with contractors to know where work is being done.
- Public reaction to the 2016 wildfire response in the county (Frey's Gulch and French Creek) was favorable.

**VIII. Request to Fund 2017 Education and Outreach:** Dan Schroder and Jackie Pike from Red, White & Blue (RWB) Fire developed a modified version of the University of Nevada Extension's "Ember House" to teach ember awareness. The ember house was very successful as a learning tool at the RWB open house. Dan asked whether the council supports approval of \$20,000 for 2017 outreach and education efforts. Char Bloom moved to approve \$20,000 for 2017; Gary Curmode seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**IX. Round Table Discussion – Activities of Wildfire Council Members and Partners:**

- The Forest Health Task Force held a Statewide Forest Collaborative in October. Forest monitoring is going very well, with completion of all plots this year due to mild weather. The monitoring program will be expanded next year with help from the Forest Service.
- Ken Wiegand encouraged wildfire staff to write an end-of-year article highlighting wildfire mitigation successes and reminding the public that fire danger is still present.

**X. Meeting Dates for 2017:** All meetings are on Thursdays, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

- January 19
- March 16
- June 15
- July 20
- September 21
- November 16

**XI. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Beth Huron, Summit County Community Development

## Attachment A

### Wildfire Prevention Metrics

	Chipping Season			Historical Total
	2014	2015	2016	
Piles	5,025	5,187	5,979	16,191
Homes (round 1 & round 2)	1,664	2,204	2,213	6,081
<b>Homes (no duplicates)</b>	<b>1,486</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>1,971</b>	<b>5,430</b>
Houses participate in both rounds	n/a	231	242	473
Acres	1,681	2,551	1,554	5,786
Chip Back Piles	n/a	n/a	21	21
Contaminated Piles	n/a	123	82	205
Late Piles	n/a	74	69	143
Cubic Yards of woody biomass tracked	4,400	6,300	5,480	16,180

### Woody Biomass Utilization

- Eagle Valley Clean Energy – Gypsum power plant
- Climax Mine – mine waste reclamation
- Swan River Restoration – stream bank stabilization
- Summit County Government – Buildings and Grounds landscaping
- Summit School District – landscaping
- Frisco Historic Park - landscaping
- Individual resident-at-large mulch pick up
- Individual resident-at-large firewood pick up

### Participation Breakdown by Town

2016 per-Town Tally (Piles/Homes)	Total	2015 per-Town Tally (Piles/Homes)	Total	2014 per-Town Tally (Piles/Homes)	Total
Blue River	385/119	Blue River	442/158	Blue River	507/192
Breckenridge	488/203	Breckenridge	530/245	Breckenridge	899/254
Frisco	257/143	Frisco	206/113	Frisco	258/116
Montezuma	13/2	Montezuma	13/8	Montezuma	29/7
Dillon	74/34	Dillon	108/43	Dillon	74/24
Silverthorne	590/281	Silverthorne	460/251	Silverthorne	121/57

<b>Attachment B: 2016 Chipping Expense, Revenue &amp; In-Kind Actual</b>			
<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Contracts</b>			
Co. Tree Specialists	Slash removal contractor	June 27 - September 30, 2016	\$120,000.00
Flex Fleet	Truck rental	June 24 - October 6, 2016	\$3,409.75
Flex Fleet	Truck repairs	Bumper and rear window	\$1,769.27
Timberline Disposal	Chip haul at \$6.875/cu.yd.	September and October 2016	\$37,675.00
Summit County Landfill	Contamination disposal	11 loads	\$2,041.01
Summer Seasonal Employee	Dave Blakeslee	30 hr/wk for 14 wks at \$16.07/hr	\$6,749.40
Summer Seasonal Employee	Jon Lindquist	30 hr/wk for 14 wks at \$16.07/hr	\$6,749.40
		TOTAL	\$178,393.83
<b>Outreach</b>			
OMO Graphic Design	Brochure, banner, ads		\$1,724.45
Street Media Bus Ad	Mobile billboard		\$1,100.00
R&B Sign Shop	Highway signs		\$93.12
Skyline 8 Movie Theatre	Onscreen advertising		\$475.00
Outside TV 8	PSA		\$250.00
Krystal 93 Radio	Radio ads		\$1,989.00
Summit Daily News	Chipping info	Memorial Day whole page	\$775.00
Summit Daily News	RFP, 2x 1/2 pg., 14x1/4 pg.	Once a week for 14 weeks	\$5,035.50
Always Mountain Time Radio	Radio ad, social media ads	June 27 - September 30, 2016	\$2,150.00
		TOTAL	\$13,592.07
<b>Revenue</b>			
Sale of Chips to Climax	\$8 per cubic yard	5,480 cubic yards	\$43,840.00
Reimbursement from DNR			\$50,000.00
		TOTAL	\$93,840.00
		TOTAL Expenses	\$191,985.90
		TOTAL Revenue	\$93,840.00
		TOTAL EXPENSES minus revenue	\$98,145.90
<b>In-Kind</b>			
Summit Association of Realtors	Brochure print & mail	12,000 copies	\$8,650.72
Summit County Staff Time	865 hours	at \$22.55 per hour	\$19,505.75
Participating Residents Time	1,971 homes at 1 hour each	at \$22.55 per hour	\$44,446.05
Summit County Planning	Authorized vehicle use	14 days at \$30 per day	\$420.00
Town of Breckenridge	Labor & Equip to load chips	52 loads at \$63.75 per load	\$3,315.00
Town of Dillon	Labor & Equip to load chips	7 loads at \$125 per load	\$875.00
Town of Silverthorne	Labor & Equip to load chips	10 loads at \$100 per load	\$1,000.00
		TOTAL	\$69,561.80