

**Summit County Wildfire Council
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2017
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Mount Royal Room
County Commons
Frisco, CO**

Attendees: Dan Schroder, Jim Curnutte, Paul Kuhn, Ken Weigand, JoAnne Nadalin, Chapin LaChance, Dan Moroz, Steve Lipsher, Jen Barchers, Char Bloom, Peter Grosshuesch, Matt Benedict, Eric White, Bill Jackson, Justin Conrad, Ryan McCulley, Sue Stokes, Matt Schlitz

- I. Approval of Agenda:** Jim Curnutte opened the meeting at 1:32 p.m. and introductions were made around the room. The agenda was approved without changes.
- II. Approval of June 15, 2017 Minutes:** JoAnne Nadalin moved to approve the June 15, 2017 minutes. Char Bloom seconded the motion; all were in favor and the minutes were approved.
- III. 2017 Chipping Program – Outcomes to Date:** Dan Schroder talked about chipping metrics and how they've grown each year. He said the goal is to keep this topic at the front of people's minds. Two council members said that 2nd homeowners in particular are beginning to get used to the program, which is good, as they generally don't receive the same opportunities for communication as permanent homeowners. The program has been really well received by the community in general. Dan Moroz asked if it would be helpful for Dan S to have more help next year with an intern.
- IV. Discussion on Limiting Number of Slash Piles:** One neighborhood in particular put out an extraordinary number of slash piles, causing problems with the contractor, who was worried about getting behind on the other neighborhoods that week. Dan has been mediating between the homeowners and the contractor. Discussion ensued as to whether it is better to limit the amount of slash a resident can put out, and how that could be managed (e.g. a fee for extra), versus the benefit of removing these fuels from neighborhoods. Another question was whether a firewood contractor could take some of the logs that have been put out. It was suggested that people should be encouraged to take advantage of the fuel reduction program and that these type of situations could be managed on a case by case basis.
- V. Montezuma Tier 3 Grant Request:** Dan S has spoken with the mayor of Montezuma regarding a request to install a 5th hydrant as a bleed to prevent freezing. The town has a federal grant but needs a match of \$30,000 which they don't have. Dan Moroz said he believes this falls under the CWPP and that there have been issues with fires in winter in Montezuma when hydrants have frozen. Dan Schroder will talk more with the town and thinks they can wait until next year's grant cycle. The group was in support.
- VI. Discussion on Requests for Amendments to Approved Wildfire Grants:** We've had

several people who were awarded grants in 2017 come back to us with changes – extra money needed, participants dropped out/joined, etc. We've approved these changes, but they come with a bit of extra administrative work. Matt B said he sees no issue with how these requests have been handled, especially as these requests would most likely have been approved initially had they been known at the time. Jim C explained that the scoring group had handled the approval of these changes. The group was ok with this.

- VII. Peak 2 Fire Re-Cap:** Matt Benedict gave a re-cap of this fire which first became known with the sighting of smoke on July 5, 2017. The fire grew to 90 acres and lasted 8 days and was managed by a Type I incident management team. It mostly affected lodgepole pine, with a 60% mortality. The fire was located between Frisco and the Peak 7 neighborhood of Breckenridge. The Peak 7 neighborhood was evacuated for 3 days. Matt said we will see more of these fires and will get better at handling them.

Discussion followed in which council members discussed ideas as to what else we can be doing to prevent these fires. These included continuing logging, more public education and bringing fire in as well as looking at opportunities for the towns and County to fund treatments on Forest Service lands that are close to neighborhoods. Also, JoAnn suggested everyone encourage community members to support the (Bennett/Gardner) Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2017.

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

Matt S - There will be a Fire Mitigation workshop on 10.6.17 from 9 - 11am at the Senior Center.

JoAnn N - Silverthorne are looking into taking down dead trees on their open space.

Dan M - Lake Dillon and Copper Mountain making authority beginning Jan 1.

Char B - It would be good to evaluate the cost of mitigation versus the cost of managing fire.

Jen B - At the Dillon Town Council meeting residents were briefed on the Tenderfoot fire. This fire was unusual for a Town surrounded mainly by roads and a reservoir.

Chapin LaChance - Highlands Drive project will include traffic control on Hwy 9 north for a few days.

Peter G - Passed on kudos from Breckenridge Town Council to everyone involved in managing the Peak 2 fire.

Paul Kuhn - Annual Open House coming up on October 4, including live burn demo.

Matt B - has maps and data for Peak 2 Fire.

Eric W - The Tenderfoot Fire should be 80% contained by the end of today.

Steve L - The Fire District's social media broadcast of the Tenderfoot Fire got 3007 views in addition to shares and reposts. There will be Ice Cream socials on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 4-7 p.m. at Station 8 in Dillon; Wednesday, Sept. 27, 4-7 p.m. at Station 11 in Keystone; Saturday, Sept. 30, 2-5 p.m. at Station 2 in Frisco. Spread the word!

Bill J - There are still over 4,000 acres under contract for cutting units. Next project will be thinning in older clear cut areas. Then, looking at all approved NEPA permits not yet active. Also, the Forest Service has a fuels specialist.

Justin - Will be starting pile burning again; in Breckenridge/Hwy 9, The Dredge area, Ophir and Mount Powell. Share the word as much as you can. They will be laying off seasonal firefighters in mid October then will have a job fair on Nov 2 in Edwards to begin the process

for next summer's positions.

Ryan - Currently supporting the national effort in Montana. Have reduced resources (helicopter etc.)

Jim C - The County planning department are working on completing Wildfire Code Amendments in the Summit County Land Use Code. Will present these to the council for review. Dan M mentioned that the updated Building and Fire codes will be adopted in 2018.

- IX. Education Updates:** Dan S said he plans to put out a handout/report with plenty of visuals to appeal to the Public.
- X. Legislative Updates:** None
- XI. Next Meeting Date:** November 16, 1:30 p.m.
- XII. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sue Stokes, Summit County Community Development