



To: Curry Wildfire Preparation Team
From: Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations
Date: January 8, 2008
Re: Meeting Notes from the 1/2/08 CWPT Meeting

Curry County Wildfire Preparation Team Meeting Notes

Meeting Participants:

- Michael Brace, Curry County Emergency Services Coordinator
- Earl Burke, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District (retired)
- Cobie Cavanaugh, Fire Management Officer, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
- John Flannigan, Coos Forest Protective Association
- Megan Harper, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District
- Dana Hicks, South Coast Watershed Association
- Chris John, South Coast Watershed Association
- Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations, University of Oregon
- Mike Murphy, City Administrator and Fire Chief, Port Orford
- Ryan Ojerio, Resource Innovations, University of Oregon
- Joanne Ruoff, Coos Forest Protective Association
- William Sharp, Brookings Fire Chief
- Amy Wilson, Southwest Oregon RC&D

Tasks

- The next CWPT meeting will be a conference call the last week in January:
 - Tuesday, January 29th, at 11:00 AM. Kathy will send out a draft agenda and call-in #.
- Ryan will:
 - Send 2 CDs with CWPP, PowerPoint Presentation and map files to Joanne and Mike Murphy
 - Update the website and include separate chapters of the plan and coordinate with Philip Barker at the Curry County Computer Services to add a link to the County webpage.
- Cobie and Megan will:
 - Review the MOU and work with Kathy to make revisions.
- Chief Sharp will:
 - Track down contact information for a person who may be able to act as a liaison between the CWPT and realtors in Curry County.
- Kathy will:
 - Draft a letter for the Commissioners to the Forest Service and BLM
 - Contact Ann Walker to get clarification about the NFP grant requirements.
 - Talk with Michael Brace to schedule a presentation to the Emergency Preparedness Committee
 - Coordinate with John and contact Maggie McHugh to see if she is interested in being the facilitator for future CWPT meetings.
- TBD - Contact local reporters to see if they can publish highlights from the fire plan.



Review of the Draft Plan

Kathy passed out hard copies of the plan and the CWPT reviewed some of the newer chapters and made comments about areas that will need to be revised.

Cobie suggested adding content to the section on mutual aid to better delineate the extent to which mutual aid is available and where agencies are responsible for providing mutual aid. Cobie, John and Chief Sharp offered to review the text and make suggestions to the group at the end of the public comment period. It was also suggested to move the mutual aid section next to the section that describes the Rural Fire Districts capabilities.

Next the CWPT noted that the table 4.4 that lists the ISO ratings for fire districts may not be up-to-date. Chief Sharp noted that the Brookings ISO rating is a 4 rather than a 7. The table should be edited so that it correctly identifies the entities as fire districts rather than communities. Some of the ratings are an 8b rather than an 8, and it should be noted that those areas outside of a protection district are a 10. Verifying and updated this table will be added as a task to complete before the final version of the plan is printed.

Kathy noted that the public review period is also a great opportunity for CWPT members to review the plan and note changes and corrections such as these. As well, the lead organizations for the action plan need to be confirmed and revised in the final CWPP.

Additional changes and recommendations are listed below; a thorough copy edit during the public comment period will remedy these, other typos and changes.

- Acknowledgements – add Roy Gilkey, CFPA
- Burn Permit Information – needs to be tweaked a bit – talk with John Flannigan.
- Maps – include “draft” on all maps
- Appendices – include the CFPA action form that they provide to homeowners during their visits.
- Page Numbers - reformat page numbers to 2-1, 2-3, 2-4 etc.. to make it easier to navigate to specific chapters.
- Binding – the CWPT recommended spiral binding rather than in a three ring binder.
- Tabs – the CWPT decided not to include tabs to delineate chapters.
- Map Captions – make sure that captions are placed correctly and contain some explanation of the maps.
- Map Size – the CWPT felt that the map sizes were adequate, but that text should be added to direct people to where they can download higher resolutions maps for larger printing.

Printing and Revisions

Chapter 2, the Community Guide is intended to be tool for community members. Printing additional separate copies may make it more readily available. The CWPT decided that they would revisit the decision at the next conference call to do a separate printing run after a review of the budget. For future revisions of the CWPP, Kathy noted that other counties have done



annual updates and revisions and printed them as separate addendums to the CWPP rather than doing a complete revision of the plan.

Formation of the Biomass Coalition

Amy Wilson from the RC&D attended the meeting to share her experiences working on biomass issues. Currently she is working with Jackson County to explore opportunities to use biomass but a major challenge is identifying projects that will not be opposed through litigation.

Transportation costs are also a big barrier as well as financial backing to generate capital to invest in the facilities to process biomass. For example, there are a couple of business people in Jackson County struggling to find banks to finance their wood pellet factory.

Amy is interested in exploring opportunities in Curry County and a first place to start would be to bring people to share ideas, especially those in industry who can describe the real economic challenges. It would be good to get started with this process now; future policy changes such as more stringent regulations on burning could make biomass utilization more feasible. A key to solving the transportation challenge is integrating sorting, processing and production so that the excess material can be dealt with on-site without having to transport it.

Each region has its own challenges so getting people together who are familiar with these issues is critical; especially entrepreneurs who are willing to take some financial risks.

The CWPT discussed how it is going to be important to involve Curry Transfer and Recycling (CRT), but without a staff position at CRT dedicated to recycling and biomass issues it is going to be challenging. But in the future CRT may be able to staff someone who is in charge of coordinating with communities on biomass collection and recycling.

Amy noted that coordinating can take a lot of time and energy. For example, with the biomass group in Jackson County, they wrote a grant so that they could hire a half-time coordinator. She is willing to help in the initial steps of forming such a group in the South Coast, but can't commit to coordinating the group over the long term. One of the first steps for the group will be to decide how involved the participants want to be. Will they simply meet periodically to discuss ideas or be more involved in projects and seeking grants? She noted that it makes sense to time the formation of the south coast biomass coalition with the upcoming NFP grant application.

Public Review Process

Kathy and Ryan presented the draft PowerPoint presentation for the public review of the draft CWPP. The CWPT offered some suggestions for the afternoon's County Commissioners' meeting. Ryan will make the presentation and talking point notes available on Resource Innovations webpage for CWPT members to use for their presentations.

Kathy distributed hard copies of the plan to CWPT members to place in the libraries throughout the county. Cobie offered to ensure that a copy made it out to Agness.

Kathy updated a list of CWPP presentations to ensure that key agencies and organizations are briefed on the plan. The Brookings city council briefing was changes to January 24th. A



volunteer from the CWPT is needed to present to the Emergency Preparedness Committee – Michael Brace may be able to present, but this needs to be confirmed.

Meeting and Next Steps

The group discussed who could serve as a committee chair for the CWPT. A committee chair would be a person who represents the group's interest and serves as a liaison to a third-party facilitator for the group. The CWPT agreed that the County Emergency Services Coordinator would be the logical person to serve as the chair. Since Michael is moving over to full time as the 911 coordinator within the Sheriff's department, the CWPT may need to wait for his position to be filled. Therefore, the CWPT may need an interim committee chair, but no one volunteered to take on the position. The CWPT will take up this decision at the next conference call.

In regards to facilitation, Earl Burke had considered taking on that role, but declined commenting that it would be beneficial for the group to have someone in that position who is a Curry County local. The CWPT was interested in finding out if Maggie McHugh may be interested in being the facilitator. Kathy will call her to find out if she is available and interested. The facilitator could be hired using leftover funds from the original NFP grant.

National Fire Plan Grant Application

Prior to the meeting Earl and Kathy had drafted the application and received feedback from Ann Walker with ODF. The grant is due on February 8th and can be for up to \$200,000 for fuels reduction work on private lands that are adjacent to federal lands.

Because the NFP funds must be directed towards projects on private lands, many of the CWPT's first priority critical communication sites are not eligible being located on federal lands. There are some private holdings near some of the sites that could be treated, but are small and it wouldn't make sense to treat these acres if there wasn't assurance from the U.S. Forest Service that adjacent federal acres would also be treated. The group discussed focusing on other lower priority projects on the list and wondered if the grant application had to specifically describe which sites would be treated or if that decision could be made later pending coordination with the U.S. Forest Service.

Amy raised another question regarding applicable environmental regulations. She noted that federal dollars, even those spent to accomplish projects on private lands, may be subject to NEPA requirements. Building these expenses into the cost/acre estimate may make the grant less attractive. But grants submitted by the ODF may be exempt from NEPA requirements.

Earl pointed out that the ODF has a ranking process for their grant submissions that makes it unlikely that their NFP grant will rank as a high priority. But the grant can be submitted through the BLM without having to compete with other ODF priorities.

Kathy agreed to call Ann and get clarification about how specific the application needs to be in identifying the project acres and she'll ask how other communities address the issue of NEPA requirements for their projects.



Next Meeting

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