



To: Curry Wildfire Preparation Team
From: Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations
Date: January 29, 2008
Re: Meeting Notes from the 1/29/08 CWPT Conference Call

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)
- Bill Elam, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District
- John Flannigan, Coos Forest Protective Association
- Paul Flanagan, Coos Forest Protective Association
- Megan Harper, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District
- Barry Hogge, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District, Fuels management specialist
- Chris John, South Coast Watershed Association
- Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations, University of Oregon
- Maggie McHugh, past and future CWPT Facilitator
- Mike Murphy, Port Orford City Administrator and Langlois Fire Chief
- Ryan Ojerio, Resource Innovations, University of Oregon
- Joanne Ruoff, Coos Forest Protective Association
- William Sharp, Brookings Fire Chief
- Rick Shultz, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District, AFMO
- Amy Wilson, Southwest Oregon RC&D
- Jim Wolf, GIS Analyst

National Fire Plan Grant

At the last meeting we discussed some challenges and questions regarding this grant to fund fuels reduction work on private lands. Ann Walker and Rick Shultz have provided clarification and are optimistic about the grant's competitiveness.

One of the grant criteria is that the projects are high priorities identified by the Oregon State Communities at Risk Assessment, which prioritizes risk across the entire state. The risk assessment in the Curry County CWPP prioritizes high-risk areas relative to other places in the county. Although none of the communities in Curry County show up as high risk on the state assessment, there are high-risk areas sites in the County. Kathy suggested that we look at where both the county risk assessment and the state risk assessment identify sites as high-risk and use that map to narrow the list of projects. Jim said he could overlay the two layers in GIS to produce the map.

The grant criteria also stipulate that the projects are adjacent to federal lands. The definition of adjacency is purposefully vague. Adjacent lands could share a common border with federal lands. However, private lands that don't share a border could also be considered adjacent if they are in a position where fire could spread from one property to the other.



NEPA may be required on private lands; if NEPA is conducted by the adjacent federal agency it can reduce the cost/acre estimate. The BLM Coos Bay district may be able to do the analysis and apply a categorical exclusion. Rick said it sounds promising, but will need to look at project specifics before saying for certain if his agency could use a categorical exclusion.

Finally, the CWPT needs to consider some of the logistics with implementing the grant. The county will administer the grant, but there will need to be some work to educate residents, coordinate with landowners, do site evaluations, and write prescriptions. CFPA staffs are in the best position to take on this role. Kathy suggested including some funds for outreach, perhaps %5 to cover the time for education and coordination.

There is some flexibility in the grant including the budget. Earl said that he listed a number of different treatment options so the actual cost/acre will vary. Also the grant includes language that the CWPT and partners will explore opportunities to use the biomass generated from the projects, but it is too early to say if the quantity and quality of biomass is economically viable and the grant will not require the biomass utilization.

The grant subgroup will continue to work on the plan and send out a revised plan for comments on Tuesday of next week so that Kathy, Earl and Michael Brace can submit the final plan by Friday of next week. Kathy suggested that Rick continue to participate in future meetings and conference calls to provide input on how the BLM can support the CWPT's fuels projects.

Review of Public Comments and Presentations

Megan issued the press release and some newspapers ran stories in the county, but so far only one emailed comment has been submitted from the public. Chuck Fidleoff from the Outreach Gospel Mission wrote to suggest that the plan include an action to ensure that surplus resources, such as food leftover in the wake of a major fire suppression effort, are funneled to social service organizations rather than a landfill. None of the meeting participants had heard specific comments from the public. A few of the CWPT members made presentations and heard general comments summarized below.

- Dana Hicks gave a presentation to the community of Agness and said folks were supportive of the CWPP and efforts to reduce wildfire risk. They stated an interest in getting funding for fuels reduction work and are eager to see on the ground action. Kathy noted that the NFP grant application could highlight community support for fuels reduction projects.
- Mike Murphy briefed the city council and they were supportive.
- Chris and Joanne did a presentation to the Port Orford Watershed Council and they had positive remarks and were generally supportive of the CWPP.
- John Flannigan reported that Mike Robinson, CFPA district manager, is pleased to see it getting done and interested to see how it can tie in with SB 360.
- Chief Sharp presented the plan to the Brookings City Council.



- Megan added that the BLM, Coos Bay district manager is supportive of the MOU.

Action Plan Updates

Ryan provided a few updates on efforts to identify resources and partners for some action items in the CWPP.

Partnership with the Curry County Board of Realtors

Ryan spoke with Mary O'Holleran with the Curry County Board of Realtors. She said that the board meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month and it would be a good venue to outreach to real estate agents. The CWPT will still need to take a lead in initiating this effort, but perhaps there is an individual on the board who has a personal interest in wildfire issues and they would serve as a liaison or ambassador for wildfire education to the board. Ryan followed up with an email to Mary and said that someone from the CWPT would be in contact with her in the future.

- ◆ Mary O'Holleran – (541) 412-8424 or mary@blupac.com

Working with Insurance Agents

Ryan has pursued a number of leads in an effort to find an accredited continuing education course for insurance agents on structural vulnerability. There aren't any such courses being offered although there was such a course offered in Oregon by Federal Insurance Company, a firm based on the East coast. They have been unresponsive to requests to obtain a copy of their course curriculum. He has also tried to identify a lead organization that could create and implement such a course. Two possibilities are the Northwest Insurance Council and Allstate. In 2006 the NW Insurance Council participated in a wildfire summit in Oregon. The Allstate Foundation provides community assistance grants and has funded education about wildfire in Alaska and through a grant to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

- ◆ NW Insurance Council, Sandy Hincky – Program Developer (206) 829-0997
http://www.nwinsurance.org/aaf_nom.htm
- ◆ Allstate Northwest Region, Lindsay Pease - (800) 497-7977 ext. 5174
<http://www.allstate.com/citizenship/foundation/region/northwest.aspx>

Another option for the CWPT is to develop their own structural vulnerability course and to apply for accreditation through the State Insurance Division. Deelee Poole has offered to provide assistance in the accreditation process.

- ◆ State of Oregon, Dee Poole – Continuing Education Coordinator (503) 947-7248

Special Needs Populations Database and Disaster Registry

Jana Waterman is the project manager on an effort to develop a special needs database for Coos, Curry, Douglas and Lane Counties (Health Resources and Services Administration Region 3). She is in contact with Georganne Green at the Curry County Health Department and is in the process of collected data from throughout the region. She anticipates that the project will not be done until the end of August.

- ◆ Lane County Medical Society, Jana Waterman - (541) 686-0995,
janawaterman@comcast.net

There is a meeting in Eugene on March 19th from 1-3 PM in Eugene at the Department of Human Services. The meeting will include people from around the state to discuss disaster registries. Connie Sondoal, who coordinates a special needs disaster registry that served



residents in Josephine and Jackson County, can provide additional information. She also offered to talk with anyone on the CWPT who is interested in learning from her experiences in developing the disaster registry.

- ◆ Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Connie Saldana (541) 423-1383, or csaldana@rvcog.org

County Commissioners Adoption

Meeting participants agreed to try to finalize the plan and put it before the County Commissioners for adoption at their February 19th meeting. It may be difficult to finish a printed copy in time for the Commissioners to have at least week to review it, but the group agreed that electronic versions would suffice until the hard copies were available. Kathy suggested that they have a signing ceremony to gain some media coverage. Megan said that she could draft a press release.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The Memorandum of Understanding that Kathy drafted is intended to prompt federal agencies to consider the goals and priorities identified in the CWPP in their planning processes.

Meeting participants were satisfied with the draft MOU. Kathy said that the County Commissioners will need to review the MOU and that John Flannigan and Chief Sharp should take a close look at it as well, prior to the signing ceremony.

Kathy also drafted a letter for the County Commissioners to express their support for the MOU to the federal agencies. Megan pointed out that the letter needed to be revised to address Mark Johnson at the Coos Bay District rather than the Medford District, but the content of the letter was good.

Next Steps

Future Meetings and Implementation

Kathy offered to help with the transition and work with Maggie on putting together an agenda template for future meetings were implementation of the CWPP will be the main focus.

There is still NFP funding available for the original grant (approx. \$80K) some is available to pay Maggie for facilitation, but at the next conference, the CWPT will need to think about how to use the funds. Kathy suggested funding a demonstration project as one idea.

Chief Sharp and John Flannigan will be interim CWPT co-chairs until the new Curry County Emergency Management Coordinator is in place and up to speed. As co-chairs they will be a point of contact for Maggie and help develop meeting agendas.

This group will continue to meet by conference call each month, but every 3rd month they will convene in person at Gold Beach. The group decided that meetings would be Tuesday the last week of each month at **11:00 AM – 12:30 PM** (in person meetings will be a bit longer). The next meeting will be a conference call on **Tuesday, February 26th**.



First Biomass Coalition Meeting

Amy has scheduled the first Biomass Coalition meeting for **February 15th** at the County Commissioners Office from 10:00AM-12:00PM. She would like to have some input in developing the agenda. Chief Sharp offered to assist and Chris John said that he could be a liaison to the CWPT as well. Ryan suggested that the first meeting would be a good chance for participants to identify issues that they would like to learn more about and which experts are available to come present to the group to build their knowledge base. Another participant suggested a review of potential sites to develop biomass initiatives.

CWPP Printing

Kathy asked the group about printing quantities. She estimates that there is enough in the budget for about 50 copies of the complete CWPP. After some discussion, the group agreed to print copies of the hard plan for CWPT members and key stakeholder organizations, but save some funds to print the introduction and community guide to key findings and action plan (Chapters 1 and 2) which could work as a stand-alone document. Mike Murphy suggested making some CD versions as well so people would have access to an electronic version without having to rely on a dial-up connection to download documents from the website.

Next Meeting

Conference Call – Tuesday, February 26th 2008 at 11 am.



To Do List

Kathy

- Follow up call to Cobie Cavanaugh to brief her on the NFP grant and meeting.
- Work with NFP subgroup and revise grant prior to submission.
Revise draft MOU and send to FS, BLM, County Commissioners, Chief Sharp and John Flannigan to review prior to signing.
- Put together a summary of CWPP briefings after checking in with folks and send to the County Commissioners by way of an update.
- Work with Maggie to develop agenda template for future meetings.

Ryan

- Work with Kathy to put together an annual calendar for the next year.
- Coordinate with Jim to make any necessary revisions to the maps.
- Complete hard copy edit by February 7^h.
- Send electronic version of the final CWPP to the County Commissioners by Friday the 8th.
- Mail or transport hard copies of the plan when completed.
- Email Georganne Green with information and contacts regarding the special needs database and disaster registry, cc Chief Sharp.

All

- Earl B., Michael B. and Kathy -Submit NFP grant by Friday, February 8th (?)
- Megan – draft a press release for the signing at the February 19th County Commissioners Meeting.
- Michael B. – Schedule time on the County Commissioners Agenda on the 19th of February.