



To: Curry Wildfire Preparation Team
From: Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations
Date: October 25, 2007
Re: Meeting Notes from the 10/25/07 CWPT Meeting

Curry County Wildfire Preparation Team Meeting Notes

Meeting Participants:

- Chris John, South Coast Watershed Council
- Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations, University of Oregon
- Joanne Ruoff, Coos Forest Protective Association
- Dana Hicks, South Coast Watershed Council
- Mike Murphy, City of Port Orford/Langlois Fire Department

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Date	Meeting	Time	Location
11/29/07	CWPT meeting	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Gold Beach
TBD	CWPT meeting	TBD	Gold Beach
1/9/08	<i>Potential:</i> 2 nd meeting with the Curry Fire Chief's Association	7:00 pm	Harbor Fire Department

Updates

Because a number of people were unable to make the conference call, we agreed to have a shorter call focused on the biomass utilization briefing and follow-up tasks. We also spent a few minutes discussing comments on the draft action items and agreed that we would table the rest of the discussion until the November meeting.

General notes:

- Joanne made a comment that the reference to trees in Buffington Park needs to be taken out of the report. There is a plan to create an educational forest reserve inside of the park and the reference is not relevant.
- Joanne and Mike requested that prior to the next meeting, we send CDs with all of the draft documents, maps, and PowerPoint presentations. Kathy agreed to do this and will send all CDs to Joanne at 26 Hamlet St. Port Orford, 97465.
- The group discussed the fires in Southern California and the need to capitalize on the teachable moments. Kathy agreed to contact Megan about developing a press release talking about the fire plan and how it relates to the ongoing fire situation in Southern California.

- Joanne suggested that we may be able to review the CFPA brochure on water storage by the next meeting.

Biomass utilization forum

Dana Hicks suggested that the Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) organization could potentially play a role in facilitating a biomass coalition in Curry County. The RC&D has experience participating in biomass utilization and fire planning efforts in Josephine and Jackson Counties. The RC&D provides leadership and support to rural communities, facilitation, grant writing and administration, and other projects. Another benefit of the RC&D is that it has 501(c)3 status, which enable the organization to go after and administer grant funds.

Kathy suggested that Amy Wilson with the RC&D attend the next CWPT meeting to become more familiar with the Curry County Fire Plan and discuss the next steps for developing a Curry County biomass utilization coalition. The group agreed next steps should include:

- Send the one-page biomass briefing to participants at the 9/27 forum, as well as the county commissioners.
- Invite Amy Wilson to attend the 11/29 CWPT meeting and set a timeline and objectives for next steps
- Convene a meeting with interested stakeholders to form the biomass coalition
- Identify opportunities for feasibility studies in the county.

Susan Brown, Curry County Economic Development Director emailed to let us know that there is a woods products company that is looking to start a hardwood flooring mill north of Gold Beach. They also plan to install a CoGen (3-5 mw) within the near future. This might be an opportunity to partner. We will contact the owner, Jim Litherland (503-739-1320).

Finally, the group also agreed that it would be beneficial to brief the Commissioners on biomass utilization efforts and the fire plan as a whole. Chris agreed to outreach to the Commissioners to identify the best timing and forum to provide this kind of briefing.

Action Items:

The group discussed one main action item - # 3.3: Install water storage systems. Dana asked if this applied only to residential landowners or rural landowners as well. Her concern was that there could be legal issues related to Oregon Water Resources if landowners draw from streams to create more water storage. Joanne clarified that CFPA talks to landowners only about drawing from their private wells to create holding tanks. Kathy will clarify the language in the action item and Joanne will share the CFPA water storage brochure at an upcoming meeting.

Comments emailed by Megan:

- o Spell out RC&D in the biomass action item.
- o Action 4.4 "eradicate gorse and other noxious weeds." It might be better to say "control gorse and other noxious weeds." We've eliminated the word eradicate from all of our BLM documents because we recognize it is nearly an impossible task to eradicate noxious weeds in projects.

- Action 6.1 - We might want to remove BLM as a lead for the home tour. While the BLM could potentially provide logistical support for publicizing the event, the BLM plays a very minor role when it comes to managing individual homeowners.
- New Action item for education and outreach: "Utilize local media to publicize successful implementation of the Fire Plan as opportunities arise." The action items could include developing a list of key foreseeable accomplishments, key projects, etc that would be of interest to the media. We could, if not already being done, include a list of media contacts in an appendix.

Comments from Ryan:

- *Contractor list:* Liesl with the SCWA will send an Excel file with the list of contractors they have compile as part of the Rural Landowner's Resource Guide. The list includes all types of contractors for Coos, Curry, Josephine, Jackson and Douglas Counties.
- *Emergency Preparedness Committee:* Georganne convened the first meeting of the Emergency Preparedness on October 22nd. She said she would be happy to have a CWPT person attend future meetings. The committee could be a good venue for coordinating outreach to the social service providers. It would be a good strategy for the CWPT to appoint a liaison to represent the fire plan.
- *Community Phone Tree Systems:* Ryan had a phone call with Tom Taylor (Winchuck RFPD) about their volunteer-based community phone tree system. Their community was divided into 7 "super blocks" that could each be reached by radio. In total there were 24 "blocks" that were defined by the ability of neighbors within those blocks to walk to the next house down to communicate if phone and radio didn't work. In addition they kept data on who had resources (tractors, trucks, Hamm radios, etc.). He said the Y2K scare was a motivating factor. But another key to their success was that the volunteer fire department at the time was very active and was really successful at (building social capital) They would do BBQ's, fundraisers and all sorts of events.