



**To:** Curry Wildfire Preparation Team  
**From:** Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations  
**Date:** February 26, 2008  
**Re:** Meeting Notes from the 2/26/08 CWPT Conference Call

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## **Curry County Wildfire Preparation Team Meeting Notes**

### **Meeting Participants:**

- Earl Burke, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District (retired)
- John Flannigan, Coos Forest Protective Association
- Chris John, South Coast Watershed Association
- Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations, University of Oregon
- Maggie McHugh, past and future CWPT Facilitator
- 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
- Jim Wolf, GIS Analyst

### **Updates**

#### *FY 2009 National Fire Plan Grant*

Kathy spoke with Ann Walker who said the Interagency Coordinating Group gave a favorable review of the grant during an initial review. The one suggestion was to amend the budget to remove the \$5,000 line item for the BLM's NEPA work, but keep it in the narrative.

#### *Biomass Utilization Meeting Update*

The first meeting of the South Coast Biomass Coalition drew a lot of interested participants including several landowners. John said there was a good discussion about the issues and questions about future opportunities. Ted Fitzgerald, a local resident, volunteered to work with Amy Wilson to help coordinate future meetings. It is unclear if he'll take on a long term role as facilitator. Ryan offered a suggestion to the CWPT to work with Ted to develop a work plan for the group so they have a clear sense of direction and objectives. He also relayed email exchanges that he's had with John Sorenson of MidTech Energy who is interested in using Gorse as a fuel stock. John's company is working on a solar and wind energy project in Coos County and John thinks there might be potential to use Gorse to fuel a generator to supply a base load of electricity.

#### *Fire Plan Adoption and MOU*

At their last meeting the County Commissioners adopted the MOU but wanted to review the changes to the CWPP before adopting it. It's on their agenda for the next meeting, which is on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and will probably be from 11am-12pm. John can't make it to the meeting, but Joanne could attend. John will make sure that the adoption is signed by the CFPA and pass it on to Chief sharp and Michael Brace to bring to the meeting. Chief Sharp tentatively is planning on attending. Megan Harper was going to send out a press release once the plan is adopted.

The Forest Service hasn't signed off on the CWPP or the MOU, but they are working through their process.

## **Next Steps for CWPT Implementation**

Kathy drafted a transition strategy that includes roles and responsibilities for the facilitator and the CWPT co-chairs. Maggie is taking over as the facilitator, which will include the responsibility of coordinating production of an annual report to track implementation progress. She will contact Michael Brace to make sure the logistics for paying her are in order. John and Chief Sharp will serve as co-chairs.

### *Grants*

Maggie asked if the CWPT would like her to also research and coordinate grant applications. After some discussion the participants agreed that CWPT members would choose goals to be the lead on. Each lead would be responsible for investigating grant opportunities and bringing that information to the team. Maggie would help to coordinate grant applications.

### *Transfer of Electronic Files and Data*

Philip Barker is going to create a new web page to house the documents relating to the plan. Jim is coordinating the data transfer of GIS data with the new Curry County GIS Coordinator. At a future meeting the CWPT will need to discuss what data and how much detail to make available to the public.

John asked about producing a data CD for the districts. Jim said that there are some options that could be economical. Jim said he'd try to track down some cost estimates for GeoBOOK, a software application that enables easy access to GIS data for the layperson. The Curry County GIS coordinator would be a good person to be involved in how to make this information accessible. John and Chief Sharp offered to get input on what type of information the district staff would want and what format would work best for them. Kathy suggested that future discussions at CWPT meetings and with the districts could include strategizing about how the districts could disseminate information in the CWPP to their communities.

### *Conference Call Line*

Kathy found a conference line that is free to use, but it's a long distance number so everyone on the meeting would pay for the costs. Is everyone okay calling a long distance number? Or should one of the agencies and organizations with the CWPT set up a toll-free line? Participants were willing to use a long distance number, but calling costs should be added to Maggie's contract as she would be using a personal phone. Kathy would work with Maggie to set up the line.

### *Review of the March Agenda*

Participants reviewed a draft agenda that Kathy wrote. During the meeting, the CWPT could discuss priorities for each of the goals or focus on a few of the goals. Earl suggested looking at a revision for the CWPT operating plan, which probably needs to be revisited. Earl will look for a copy to discuss at the next meeting. The participants agreed to meet at the same place in the County Courthouse basement on Tuesday March 25<sup>th</sup>. The group would meet at the last Tuesday of each month 8:30 am – 12:00 pm.

## **Remaining NFP Funds**

Kathy posed the question: what are the priority actions that this group would like to address with these funds? Joanne would like to see education and fuels reduction; John would like to see a good product to give to the RFPD's (structural vulnerability data and info). Rick recommended funding cultural and biological assessments where it is required on private lands, in order to implement fuel reduction work funded with the pending NFP grant. The BLM doesn't have the resources for these assessments. Kathy recommended identifying some potential sites for a demonstration project using the leftover funds. This would give the group an opportunity to iron out the process so when new monies come in the kinks will be worked out.

Chris mentioned a pilot project that he's involved in which could be a good opportunity to do education and outreach.

Maggie said that she could work this discussion into the next meeting agenda.

## **Next Steps**

- Ryan – Include a list of CWPT emails CWPP distribution spreadsheet with these meeting minutes.
- Kathy – Transfer information about the conference line to Maggie.
- CWPT Members – select a goal to be the lead on and email Maggie prior to the March meeting.
- CWPT Members – Fill out attached spreadsheet with how many plans, guides and discs they would want and coordinate with Michael Brace about distribution.