



**To:** Curry Wildfire Preparation Team  
**From:** Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations  
**Date:** July 3, 2007  
**Re:** Meeting Notes from the 6/28/07 CWPT Meeting

---

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

### **Meeting Participants:**

- Michael Brace, Curry County Emergency Services Coordinator
- John Flannigan, Coos Forest Protective Association
- Bruce Floyd, City of Brookings Fire Chief
- Michael Murphy, Port Orford City Administrator and Langlois RFPD Fire Chief
- Megan Harper, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District
- Kathy Lynn, Resource Innovations, University of Oregon
- Ryan Ojerio, Resource Innovations, University of Oregon
- Joanne Ruoff, Coos Forest Protective Association
- Bill Sharp, City of Brookings Fire Chief
- Jim Wolf, Wildfire Planning and Analysis

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
7/24/07	July CWPT Meeting	10:00 am – 11:30 am	Conference Call
8/14/07	August CWPT Meeting	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Gold Beach
8/14/07	Gold Beach Public Meeting	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Gold Beach Gold Beach Resort
8/15/07	Brookings Public Meeting	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Brookings Chetco Community Library
8/16/07	Port Orford Public Meeting	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Port Orford Port Orford City Hall
9/27/07	Biomass Forum	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	TBD
9/27/07	September CWPT Meeting	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Gold Beach
9/27/07	Potential: 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting with the Curry Fire Chief's Association	TBD	TBD



## Updates

### *Fire Plan Update*

Kathy presented an progress report on the scope of work and mentioned that draft sections of the plan have been completed and are available to review on the website. A draft of the plan will be completed sometime in November and December, and be available for public comment.

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1. Public Outreach	X	X							
2. Risk and Structural Vulnerability Assessment	X	X							
3. Community Capacity Index and Special Needs Assessment	X	X	X						
4. Prioritize fuels projects and identify action items			X						
5. Develop monitoring strategies				X	X				
6. Complete draft of the plan				X	X	X			
7. Coordinate public review							X	X	
8. Final Plan and Adoption									X

### *Biomass Forum*

The Biomass Forum will be rescheduled to September to ensure that we are not overextended during August in order to focus on the public meetings. Stakeholders interviews have turned up some interest in biomass. CWPT members commented that Curry Transfer and Recycling accepts debris to burn and has hauled debris to Port Orford and as far as the Medford area suggesting there are locations and capacity to deal with biomass. South Coast Lumber has looked into the feasibility of biomass, but have not found it to be cost effective at this time.

### *Special Needs Assessment/Community Capacity Index*

Kathy distributed a handout on the Community Capacity Index. This summer RI will be interviewing social service agencies and collecting data to develop the index as a tool to inform priorities and actions for the CWPP. Joanne Ruoff volunteered to act as a liaison/advisor for this process and Michael Brace had contact information for potential interviewees.

## Public Outreach Strategy

### *Stakeholder interview summary and update*

RI is in the process of collecting input from a variety of stakeholders. So far the CWPP’s goals and objectives are a good fit with the stakeholders’ interests. Stakeholders have also contributed good ideas for outreach and many are assisting with the publicity effort. The CWPT discussed stakeholder and public perceptions about the difference between allowing small wildfires to burn and prescribed burning. It may be possible to have a USFS person at the public meetings to do education about different ways of managing and using fire.

### *Open House Format and Agenda*

The CWPT reviewed the draft agenda for the open house and rearranged the schedule to begin the meeting with introduction and education presentations and follow with the open house portion. The consensus was to put the information out first to address potential questions before

the open house, but to keep the presentation section succinct to allow ample time for the open house portion. The emphasis should be on educating the public about what they can do to reduce wildfire risk, however, it is also important to educate them about the CWPP to put their actions into context and let them know what the County and various agencies are doing to help.

Revised Agenda:

6:00	Welcome and Introduction to the CWPP
6:20	Structural Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
7:00	Breakout Sessions
7:45	Summary of Breakout Sessions
8:00	Open House
8:30	Door Prizes
9:00	Meeting Adjourn

*Meeting Participants*

Kathy suggested that a member of the CWPT develop and present a Power Point presentation to educate the public about structural vulnerability and defensible space. Mike Murphy and John offered to assist in putting together the presentation with RI. Joann said she would gather some photos to use in the presentations by July 12<sup>th</sup>. The CWPT will review the presentation during the July 26<sup>th</sup> conference call. Since Internet speed is limited, this presentation will need to be sent out in advance on a CD to Joanne and Mike Murphy.

The CWPT discussed which agencies would have information tables at the meetings and generated the following list. (It was noted that the CFPA and BLM would have the same information.)

*Contacts for the Open House/Tables*

- CFPA/BLM – John Flannigan and the CFPA evaluator from that zone.
- ODF – (present information on Senate Bill 360)
- US Forest Service
- Weed Boards
- Watershed Councils – Contact John Luthy (sp?) at Port Orford
- Fire Chief's Association
- Oregon State Fire Marshal (Charlie Chase)

*Logistics*

- Gold Beach - Gold Beach Resort is a good venue, but there parking is limited. It may be possible to utilize nearby parking lots, but we would need to have a parking attendant.
- Brookings – Bill Sharp will look into having the fee waived.

*Marketing*

Press Releases – RI developed two types, a general one for all three meetings and then one specific to each event. Megan Harper will distribute the press releases. RI will make a list of all of the venues and send it out for the CWPT. Below is a draft list that the CWPT generated:

- Radio stations: KOVI, KEZI, KDRV

- Gold Beach Public Access Station
- Coos Bay Public access
- Curry County Reporter
- Curry Coastal Pilot
- North Curry News (web based)

The CWPT brainstormed other outreach efforts and discussed these options:

- Newspaper Insert – Curry County Reporter, Curry Coastal Pilot, RI will look into the cost of an insert and develop if appropriate.
- Fliers – RI will produce, John Flannigan will distribute.
- Email List serves
- Other Websites – Check with Mike Murphy for a list.
- North Curry News (website) – Contact Jay Stoller (sp?)
- Banner/Poster w/handouts at City Hall and the Library – RI will make a banner and fliers, Megan has flier holders.
- Mailing to Addresses in the WUI – The CWPT decided this would be too expensive and that we would likely get the same response with the other outreach efforts.

#### *Website*

The CWPT discussed how to make information available on a web page. While there are a variety of different agency sites that could house the information, Kathy suggested keeping it at one location and using other sites to direct people to the one site. Currently the information is on the RI site, but we will need to revisit this to come up with a longer-term plan. Megan Harper talked with the county about hosting the information and they are interested. Phil Barker is a possible contact.

*Door Prizes* – The CWPT discussed ideas for prizes and potential donors. John Flannigan said that funds from the general budget could be used, but the consensus was to seek donations first and dip into the fund as necessary. John suggested that a grand prize could be a home makeover using CFPA staff to do fuels reduction work. Kathy will investigate how a similar makeover program was implemented in Clackamas County.

#### *Door prize brainstorm:*

- Home makeover - CFPA –Grand prize for all three meetings
- Chipper, chainsaw, power pruner – Other possible grand prizes
- Rental equipment use
- Fire extinguishers
- Smoke alarms

#### *Local Businesses – Potential Donors*

- McNair's Hardware
- Coos Curry Supply
- C and M Equipment in Brookings
- Ace Hardware
- Gold Beach Lumberyard

- Bandon Supply – (possibly a chipper)

## **Structural Vulnerability Report**

Ryan asked the CWPT for feedback and comments on the draft of the report, specifically focusing on the report organization, the key findings and the recommendations. Since the CWPT has not had much time to review the document, Ryan encouraged the members to take some time to review the document and submit comments via email to RI. Later in the Fall, when the CWPT is identifying specific strategies and actions, the recommendations section will be expanded.

### *Key Findings*

The CWPT recommended that the issue of address signage be elevated as an important finding and a priority for residents. The group discussed the issues summary table on page 20 of the draft and suggested that it could be expanded to include some additional characteristics, change the format to differentiate issues that are common throughout the county as jurisdictions where those issues are particularly problematic and have a clear explanation of how the priorities were assigned.

### *OSFM Rating Access Limitations vs. Length*

Ryan asked the CWPT for guidance on describing access limitations with regard to length; the way the data is currently displayed does not take into account driveway length, resulting in an inflation of the percentage of driveways that are automatic write-offs according to the OSFM triage form. Ryan asked if he should we recode this variable so that driveways with a certain length are not included in the “write-off” rating? In Senate Bill 360 150 ft. is the threshold. CWPT members noted that most fire departments have hose the length for a 150 ft. and 150 ft. is the standard in some development codes. After some discussion the group agreed that for the purposes of this analysis the cut-off should be 100 ft (so they can still reach house around the structure and have a decent escape route.) Ryan will update the OSFM rating analysis and revise the draft report to reflect this change.

### *SVA Recommendations*

Next the CWPT reviewed the recommendations in the report. The draft report has recommendations for countywide strategies and community specific strategies. The CWPT agreed that there would be overlap between county and community strategies and recommended merging them. They also provided the following suggestions:

- Wood Shake Roofs - Add an action item on shake roofs/structural characteristics that could focus on building awareness, funding for upgrading roofs or both.
  - Get funding to help people who can't afford to replace their roof and building material.
  - Encourage people who are replacing their roofs to use fire resistant materials.
  - Change county codes, CCRs, etc. so that people aren't allowed to do shake roofs.
  - Southern Oregon housing program – provides funding for low-income home renovation—outreach to get people to apply, and we could get people to apply for it to get rid of shake roof.
  - Prioritize it as a problem.

- Address Signage - Add an action item about signage in the access recommendation.
- Community Education – (*current recommendation 2a*)
  - Make the wording less specific to meetings, replace with outreach
  - At the public meetings we will learn what kind of information and how they want to get it.
- Linking Local Contractors and Residents – (*current recommendation 2b*)
  - Not a whole lot of contractors in the area may make this a moot point
  - Can we include the list of contractors in the plan and at the community meetings?
  - Make sure to include language so that it's not an endorsement.
- Future Assessment Efforts
  - Feasible to report on accomplishments annually
  - Use a list of all homes assessed; monitor while permitting burn barrels
  - Like the idea of an annual report and updated action plan
  - For the five year evaluation, do a random sample instead of the same number of homes.
  - Should CFPA collect data when they visit homes and write permits... what are the three questions they could ask?

Ryan will revise the recommendations to reflect the above suggestions and retain a record of the comments for future discussions about specific actions to be included in the CWPP.

### **SVA PowerPoint for Public Meetings**

Next, Ryan ran through the draft PowerPoint presentation that will be used at the public meetings to share the structural vulnerability assessment findings with the public. The CWPT provided these recommendations to improve the presentation for a public audience:

- Focus on why these findings matter for the public
  - Emphasize what the NFPA rating means for a resident.
  - Highlight the fact that Senate Bill 360 is on the way.
- Highlight what the CWPP will do to reduce risk and how it will be complimentary to what residents can do to reduce their risk.
- Tie the study back to residents' experience talking with the CFPA when the data was collected.
- Include lack of water supply in the issues summary slide.
- During the SVA presentation focus on what the CWPP will do to reduce structural vulnerability. The education presentation will focus on what residents can do to reduce their risk – emphasize that there are a lot of things that are not too expensive.
- Investigate how insurance companies view structural vulnerability and how it may affect rates and insurability.

- During the introduction, note that it doesn't take another Biscuit scale fire to be a risk; small fires destroy structures too. (This is a point that can be covered in the separate introduction or education presentation.)
- Provide a definition of WUI as well as some education about structural vulnerability and defensible space – (this will be included in a separate education presentation prior to the structural vulnerability presentations.)

### **Risk Assessment**

Jim gave a presentation to update the CWPT on the mapping efforts for each layer.

#### *Hazard Layer:*

- Jim asked for assistance in reviewing the hazard layer as he develops it. Joanne, Earl, Mike Murphy, Bruce, and John all agreed to work with Jim in providing input.
- The group also agreed that it would be important to have a draft of this layer prior to the public meeting.

#### *Protection Capability Layer:*

- The CWPT agreed that the Walker Range model for protection capability was the most appropriate for the Curry County protection capability layer. The group agreed that the list of Fire District resources would be useful to list in the plan, but not to use in an analysis.

#### *Values:*

- The CWPT asked that we explore the annual average number of recreators/visitors in the county and either include this in the values layer or the county profile. We will use the State tourism board and chamber of commerce for this information.

#### *Overall*

- Jim will rework this layer so that it illustrates the highest risk areas.

#### *Structural vulnerability layer*

- Jim will talk to Toni about what level of data that we can illustrate at the public meetings
- Jim will work on using the data to create a structural vulnerability layer for the risk maps.
- The example in the Port Orford slide makes sense and will be good for the homeowners to see.

#### *WUI*

- Jim proposed using the Southwest Oregon Fire Management Plan layer and adding in some areas the Statewide CRISK assessment.

### **Good of the Order**

- Stress that SB 360 is coming
- BLM got the grant; County is administering the grant, CFPA implemented
- Who: Add a list of rural fire protection districts to the PPT presentation

- Impressed with what's going on, quite happy
- Curry County Fire Chief's Association
- With public education – they should see their fire district listed...

**Review Objectives for the next meeting:**

- Progress on public outreach
- Review PPTs for public meetings
- Review any updated risk layers