



Regular Meeting, October 6th, 2022

Meeting comes to order 1400

- Attendance; Brett Loomis- AFMO, BTNF / Matt Redwine-JHFEMS Operations / Nate Wilson-WY State Forestry / Rich Ochs- JFHEMS-Emergency Management / Chuck Butterfield-AAWPC Chair and Greys River Collaborative Chairman / James Turner- FMO BTNF/ Eric Neiswanger- detailed AFMO- BTNF, / Clay Skinner-Lower Valley Energy / Arne Johanson -wildfire ambassador / Bob Wiess wildfire ambassador / Greg Nelson-wildfire Ambassador / Robb Sgroi- TAWPC Chair and Teton Conservation District / Ray Lane- JHFEMS-Fire Marshal / Lesley Williams Gomez-NZ Fire Prevention BTNF.
- Minutes approved group by group-1410
- Unfinished business from June meeting - None

Subcommittee Reports-

Battalion Chief Redwine- Fire Response Committee

- No meeting thru the summer due to wildfire season, very light fire season for County Fire EMS, responded to three wildfires that had potential to go larger. The first, an unattended campfire, near Seven-mile ranch in the Granite Creek area. The second, Sporting Club pile burning with construction materials, resources called to incident, 35HX and engine-as this fire was within a neighborhood, track hoe on scene was used to help suppress. The third, at Sheffield Creek within USFS jurisdiction. A generator within a van caught fire and fire extinguishers on scene put fire out. Overall low volume.
- Retirement of Chief Hanson. Steve Jellie, new Department Chief is starting November 7th.
- Continue development for Fire Response Plan for Targhee, finished Plan is expected for this coming year.
- Building relationship with Wildfire Defense Systems and visiting Insurance Dispatch Center out of Montana to explore IOS ratings for small water projects within areas.
- Will continue to support the interest with small water projects locally.
- Successes with WUI tours within the Game Creek and West Gros Ventre Butte

WY State Forestry Nate Wilson, Fuels Sub Committee

- Group met a few days ago with discussion on using fuels group as small forum for utilizing projects to support cross boundary projects and building capacity with Good Neighbor Authority.
- Brook Lee, new WY State Forestry employee is funded by USFS and working out of Pinedale.
- North Fish Creek Fuels Project has been awarded, contactor hired, and contract signed with work to begin for this fall.
- Bob Wiess "a happy customer" had a shout out to WSFD, thanks to Nate take the time to look at trees, neighbors grateful for quick response and support in tree identification

Education and Outreach Sub Committee

Lead: Lesley Williams Gomez

Members- Richlyn Betsinger, Bobbi Clauson, Arne Johanson, Greg Nelson, Trevor Bloom, Robb Sgroi

- **Task** – increased awareness and support of wildfire risk reduction activities and information.
- **Purpose** – Stakeholders are informed upon the wildfire risk within Teton County area and mitigation strategies available.

Ongoing tasks where this group can help- Ambassador program, supporting neighbors in water storage fire education, grants, continued support in neighborhood wildfire fuels reduction, Fire resilient landscapes, cheat grass fire cycle, Greater Yellowstone Fire Adapted Network

Proposed Tasks 2023– Program of Work

- Support current JHFEMS grant provided to communities for vegetation waste.
- Support quarterly wildfire fire Ambassador meeting
- Craft a tool with fire, fuel and restoration verbiage with definitions and acronyms
- TAWPC Newsletters (how often?)– resource for information on educational efforts supporting TAWPC mission and developed by partners – TNC, TC Sheriffs
- Develop calendar of key messages for target audience with support of distribution from PIO group.
- Develop HOA resource for covenants/Rules and Regs verbiage—provide framework
- Support TAWPC Community Wildfire Protection Plan development through logistics with meetings, outreach, public comment organization

End State Implementation Program of Work prior to wildfire season. Support TAWPC in education and outreach opportunities in wildfire safety using the Ready, Set, Go, campaign. Help to form a safer informed community before the next large wildfire.

- Conversation between Rich Ochs and Bob Wiess on mandatory evacuations, if evacuations are implemented as recommended by the incident commander and emergency management, a homeowner can decline and stay, but must recognize the risk of not leaving the home. There is no state statute for mandatory evacuation. Homeowners must realize first responder will not be available later and after evacs if you need help and change your mind. Sometimes an evacuation order is less about your safety but more about full access to your neighborhood, without the added chaos of homeowners blocking roads and allowing resources access in and out of the area to do their job safely and timely.
- Ambassador training scheduled November 2nd, with Trevor Bloom and Nate Wilson
- Need to identify more education opportunities on evacuations with the County Sheriff and Rich's staff. Identify evacuation talking points included for the calendar.
- Zone haven is a tool for evacuation planning maybe a helpful resource to support the planning and engaging with the public, introduce this tool to contractors developing mitigation plans for public. Other resource for the education calendar <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/go-evacuation-guide/>

Grants Sub Committee

Lead: Bobbi Clauson

Members: Rich Ochs, Barry Tye, Lesley Williams, Robb Sgroi

Tasks 2022–Draft RFP for WSWUI grant. Read submissions for WSWUI and select consulting team. Tasks to be added once agreement is made with consultant and CWPP plan of work is drafted

Ongoing Tasks- Work with TAWPC steering committee to see what grants may align with the Coalition’s Program of Work. Vet upcoming grants to determine value/need for each opportunity. Write or identify partners to write letters of recommendation for grant submissions. Read draft versions of grant papers to provide edits and guidance prior to submittal. Work with the Pub Ed group for advertising and messaging when we need public participation for a received grant.

Purpose – Seek funding opportunities for programs and projects planned by the Subcommittees or Steering Committee.

End State – Implementation of fuels reduction projects, funding support for public outreach and maintenance of the CWPP and mapping.

CWPP Update- The first version of the plan was written in 2005, the second was written in 2014. We are working towards the third. An outside party will write the plan. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was released in Public Purchase on October 2nd and will remain open until mid-November 15th. A group will review proposals by December 23rd and JHFEMS will bring three best proposals before the county commissioners. Review team is comprised of Emergency management, JHFEMS, GTNP and TCD. Would like to know if there is interest from others and would appreciate one rep from USFS.

CoCo AIM Grant - \$30,000, in kind cost sharing grant for cost share labor and cost for fuels removal on properties, difficult to get individuals involved. Revisiting the overall strategy opportunity for homeowners and see how to help motivate folks to get work done.

Chairperson Report – Robb Sgroi

- Robb appreciates the ongoing work for the subcommittees and like to remind everyone, these committees are always seeking new members, reach out if you have something to give, capacity or interest in joining please reach out. Rob has asked each sub-committee with provide info on a template and this info will be shared soon.
- Seeking steering committees’ interest in developing/updating TAWPC Mission Statement for the new organization later in fall.
- Sharing responsibilities for each subcommittee group and how do we function with other groups and compliment efforts and mission.
- A question for this group, what is TAWPC best set up to do? Is it services and information or seeking grants and money for projects.

TAWPC was approached Joe Petrick with the Alumbra Foundation for ideas and projects to support Teton County in a task list for fire safety. <https://www.ialumbra.com/>

- Lower Valley is very interested in removing overhead wire within the area and wondering if this group can help fund such a project. LVE is identifying and developing its area high fire risk and has begun to place wires underground. Also getting satellite support for identifying hazardous areas near lines that need mitigation and this info will also be available for other land managers. This data will be beneficial in the development of the CWPP and will highlight the need for grant support and implementation.
- Greg mentioned Team Rubicon helps families and persons with disabilities in vegetation treatment and perhaps the Alumbra Foundation could support Team Rubicon and homeowners with work on private lands seeing what support from the foundation might support them.

Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG), CoCo AIM and the Wyoming State Wildland Urban Interface are grants we can keep seeking funding from. Thoughts from professional grant writers mention some grant opportunities within TC are more appropriate than others, for instance the CWDG is not a good fit our community and would be a grant to better serve underserved communities who have a financial need and might not have the same opportunities we have here in Teton County.

Rich, during the rewrite of the CWPP, we need to ensure the identification and development of well thought out projects are classified within the CWPP to support implementation of projects and priorities for this Foundation and others to consider for funding support. The analysis for the CWPP will help us to identify purpose and need for future projects to have ready for grant application and interested parties offering funding. Work with other neighboring communities as well to help address landscape scale projects. CWPP is the best tool for leveraging funding a project support.

Round Robin

Chuck Butterfield- AAWPC and Greys River Forest Collaborative Chairman

- Busy with AAWPC and Greys River Forest Collaborative, executive meeting last week and AAWPC meeting October 12,
 - Spring All Fire Days was a big success, this is a joint fire training with regional fire responders for fire response exercise to identify operational issues in areas of high risk, hope to repeat again next year
 - Applying for grants to support the Lincoln County 2015 CWPP revision
 - Looking forward to the Greater Yellowstone Fire Adaptive Network mid-month
 - also seeking grant opportunities to help homeowners with mitigation work on private lands would like to continue with joint ambassador trainings.
 - Continuing to identify and develop treatments down Greys River Road corridor for fuels reduction on either side of road for fire prevention and travel during an incident,
 - Struggling with product and where to take vegetation? Look at Biomass production Pellet and post and poll opportunities.
- Continuing to support with Aspen work on the Forest

James Turner- Bridger Teton National Forest-FMO

- Forest here to help to support counties with CWPPs revisions
- Opportunities to work with WSFD and opening roads for shared fuels breaks near at-risk communities and neighborhoods
- Deep into hiring to include fuels specialist and assistants on north zone and two other assistants on both east and west zones.
- Preparing to implement 2200-acre Strawberry RX, if conditions allow and after national pause on prescribed burning for improving processes in the field.
- Josh Erickson AFMO on detail with regional office, Eric Neiswager is the acting AFMO
- Forest training officer position to be filled this year, County Emergency Management very interested meeting and working with this individual in the future

Clay Skinner-Lower Valley Energy- Field Operations

- Success in removing timber out of GTNP for mills and firewood along power corridors for wildfire risk mitigation

Arne Johanson-Ambassador Sub Committee Lead

- Success in establishing second egress with partnership from the Puzzle Face Ranch out to the north of subdivision and looking to establish third route
- funding problems with funding the water projects, some individuals have opposed the project
- With Robb has identified road shaded fuels breaks and now looking to seek funding solutions as community, some individuals within the neighborhood are seeking to do some work themselves.

Bob Weise- TAWPC Ambassador

- Support vegetation work within the community and continuing to provide education to neighborhoods and would like to invite the county to use the area as a training.
- Flipping properties is constant and there is always a new neighbor to reach out to out to real estate for education ready set go on doors insurance

Greg Nelson- TAWPC Ambassador

- Installing 10,000-gallon cistern in the area through TCD small water project, striving to 1000 feet within each home for water delivery.
- Neighbors continue to support the work within their areas through chipping and on the public side of the fence.

Robb Sgroi – Teton Conservation District

- Steady flow of interest on Wildfire Risk Overviews, help from Bobbi and Steve is invaluable.
- Actively work with 7 neighborhoods to identify road corridor standards for road clearance and vegetation projects. Three sub-division have completed work, highlighting Indian Paint Brush who has just completed work through the road corridor program. Others include Owl Creek subdivision, Gro Ventre North, Poker Flats, Tucker Ranch, Lost Creek Ranch and John Dodge

Brett Loomis – Bridger Teton National Forest -North Zone FMO

- North Zone Fire Manager very slow locally 9 fire total and nationally a ten-year low.
- Slowly laying off staff season
- hoping to pull off a few RX projects up the Gros Ventre and piles
- busy hiring for next season.

Nate Wilson- Wyoming State Forestry

- Fish Creek fuels mitigation contract has been awarded and to start work this fall.
- Teton private landowner outreach for through Forest Stewardship plan
- Good Neighbor Authority salvage sales being developed on the Big Piney and Pinedale Ranger Districts, working with Brook Lee on salvage sales off the Roosevelt fire area.
- slow fire season year,
- Losing Ryan Morgan to BLM looking for new helicopter manager for state helitack.
- November 2nd support the TAWPC ambassador forest health presentation. Rich Ochs county final plan is complete, no go on web site

Rich Ochs- Emergency Management Operations

- This past August the complete County/Town Emergency Operations Plan was completed and ready to view <http://www.tetonwyo.org/326/Emergency-Plans>
- CERT coming up in the end of October, two weekends for commitment, class is full
- October is Earthquake Awareness month
- October 18th Sirens will sound, outdoor warning testing will take place, Station two in Wilson will be getting a new siren after new roof is replaced, looking to replace two sirens within town, central and east Jackson for wildfire awareness, through community mitigation grants

December 1st, 1400 -next TAWPC meeting

Meeting adjourned 1552