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**Regular Meeting February 01, 2024**

**Call Meeting to Order**: Robb Sgroi called meeting to order at 14:00

**In attendance/Introductions:**

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| Robb Sgroi- Teton Conservation District | Bobbi Clauson- Jackson Hole Fire/EMS |
| Carlin Gierard- Teton Conservation District | Mike Moyer- Jackson Hole Fire/EMS |
| Spencer Johnston- Caribou-Targhee National Forest | Ray Lane- Jackson Hole Fire/EMS |
| Jacob Henrie- Caribou-Targhee National Forest | Brian Carr- Jackson Hole Fire/EMS |
| Dave Wilkins- Bridger Teton National Forest | Ben Thurston- Jackson Hole Fire/EMS |
| Lesley Williams-Gomez- Bridger-Teton National Forest | Ian Cranston- Jackson Hole Fire/EMS |
| Eric Hawes- Bridger-Teton National Forest | Rich Ochs- Teton County Emergency Management |
| Bill Mayer- Grand Teton National Park | Rachael Wheeler- Teton County Health Dept |
| Tyler Kulla- Grand Teton National Park | Tanya Anderson- Town of Jackson |
| Nate Wilson- Wyoming State Forestry | Cristi Landes- Teton County |
| Harry Statter- Frontline Wildfire Defense | Jon Bishop- Teton Village Fire District |
| Jackie Riley- Team Rubicon | Erika Edmiston- Teton County Weed & Pest |
| Evan Molyneaux- JH Insurance | Jim Mitchell- Sublette County Emergency Management |
| Arne Johanson- Ambassador | Steven Kipp- Sublette County Public Health |
| Bob Weiss- Ambassador | Greg Coleman- Park County, Montana Emergency Management |
| Julie Hugel- Ambassador | Jay Hokanson- Lincoln County Emergency Management |
| Alicia Brown- Lincoln County Emergency Management | Patty Pringle- Lincoln County Public Health |

**Smoke Ready Community Presentation:**

To continue December’s conversation on Smoke Ready Communities (see minutes distributed prior to the meeting), guests from Sublette County Emergency Management and Public Health as well as Park County, Montana Emergency Management shared their Smoke Ready Plans (attached) and their experiences working collaboratively to create these plans, with the assistance of the Greater Yellowstone Fire Action Network (GYFAN). The presenters discussed the increase in unhealthy smoke events, often with the smoke coming from outside the region. Both jurisdictions drafted their plans with a focus on the Access and Functional Needs Communities (AFN). Cooperation helped identify what capabilities they currently had and what type of messaging, outreach and tools could be added. Items in these plans include identification of Areas of Refuge from smoke, if available, and training tools like “how to build your own box fan HEPA filter.” Both Park County and Sublette County intend for these plans to be living documents, with Sublette County adding theirs as an appendix to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Park County still working to determine the best place to house their plan. Sublette County noted there was a template to build their plan from, making the document writing straightforward, while the workload was integrating interests from stakeholders. Park County structured their plan to consist of elements including communications, preparedness, and response. Supporting non-local residents is challenging to address. There was a robust Q & A following the presentation that included inquiries about messaging to tourist or part-time residents, where Teton County has areas of refuge from smoke (currently there are none), the Purple Air Monitor’s map, and best messaging practices. Grand Teton National Park is now engaging in the program in an effort to become the first Smoke Ready National Park. Robb noted this was the second of two TAWPC informational meetings and there is no pressure for anyone to lead develop a plan, and identification of a leader would be the next step. If there is interest in building a team and working on a plan, please reach out to Robb Sgroi. [robb@tetonconservation.org](mailto:robb@tetonconservation.org)

For more information on GYFAN and their projects and opportunities, please reach out to Lesley Williams-Gomez. [Lesley.williams@usda.gov](mailto:Lesley.williams@usda.gov)

**December meeting minutes approved at 14:54 with several spelling corrections and an edit to Trevor Bloom’s new job title within Bridger-Teton National Forest.**

**CWPP Update:** The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Core team is comprised of Bobbi Clauson, Ray Lane, Dave Wilkins, Lesley Williams-Gomez, Spencer Johnston, Bill Mayer, Nate Wilson, Robb Sgroi, and Bob Weiss. A 50% draft of the plan was delivered just before the new year. The Core Team has created a schedule to edit and review this plan over the next couple of months with the goal of having a second draft available to a larger audience in April. The first area of focus was the mapping products, including fire hazard severity, crown fire potential, potential flame lengths and priority project areas. Harry Statter mentioned that in 2019 the Bridger-Teton National Forest commissioned Pyroligix to prepare ember exposure maps and requested those products be shared with Jensen Hughes, the CWPP consultants. The Core Team mentioned they have been working with Jensen Hughes and their Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN) to ensure we receive an accurate and quality product. Subsequent to the meeting, the 2019 product was delivered to Jensen Hughes so they could determine if they would like to include that data.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Wildfire Response:** This subcommittee will be meeting soon to touch on communications now that the County has moved to WYOLINK. May 18th All Fire Days in Lincoln County will focus on radios that may be nonprogrammable in the field and interagency response. Other tasks for this group include coordinating with the three local ski resorts on wildfire response and sharing regional interagency training opportunities, like the upcoming S-203 course in Cody. Please reach out to Dave Wilkins for information on where to seek these opportunities. [David.wilkins@usda.gov](mailto:David.wilkins@usda.gov)

**Fuels:** This subcommittee met in January focusing on their plan of work. Currently they are monitoring snow and weather patterns so they can initiate some fuels treatments.

**Public Education and Outreach:** This subcommittee will meet in February. Since the last meeting there have been outreach events at the National Museum of Wildlife Art one of their free Sunday events for locals as well as an event at the Teton County Library. This year is Smokey Bear’s 80th birthday and that, as well as CWPP outreach will be added to the plan of work. Lesley also wanted to thank Evan Molyneaux from Jackson Hole Insurance for his bi-weekly advertising support of wildfire safety.

**Grants:** This subcommittee welcomed TAWPC members to consider joining the team. Although they will not be seeking any grants until the CWPP has been adopted, an increased effort to locate and pursue grants that support CWPP recommendations is anticipated. Duties for this group include locating grants, determining our applicability, completing applications, gathering letters of support, and weighing in on Requests for Proposals (RFP) or Requests for Qualifications (RFQ). At this time the Western States WUI Grant (WSWUI) that is funding the CWPP still requires approximately $43,000 in match funding. To meet what was proposed in the application, at least $15,000 should come from in-kind hours. TAWPC members who participate in activities related to the CWPP are encouraged to track their time using this link: [CWPP Tracking](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qOUiBUzG7UulyaTUYX1469Ym5NpXtu9LrsrJJdVya_xURTFBVFVCRFVEWVA5MTFHWkZBNjIxWTdZVC4u) For those who attended this TAWPC meeting, please consider tracking 30 minutes of time.

**Chairman Report**: Robb Sgroi reached out to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to ask about the status of the Air Curtain Burner proposal from Arborworks. The draft permit and response to comments currently sits with the Division Administrator. If approval is recommended it will go to the DEQ Director, but there is no timeframe.

**Nominations and Leadership in By-Laws**: TAWPC By-Laws indicate leadership roles follow a 2-year cycle with nominations and elections in April followed by the new leadership beginning June 01. Currently only the Chair is up for nomination as Co-Chair and Secretary fall under the responsibility of the person holding the “Wildfire Prevention Specialist” title. (A misnomer working to be corrected to WUI Coordinator or Mitigation Specialist). Jackson Hole Fire/EMS leadership thinks there should be more elected positions available for TAWPC members to participate and recommend creating a task force to look at the by-laws and consider a restructuring. It was recommended that a draft of the by-laws be brought to the April meeting with elections held after review and potential adoption of the by-laws. Ray Lane, Jon Bishop, Robb Sgroi and Spencer Johnston offered to add some insights to the proposed revision. To be included please reach out to Ray Lane. [rlane@tetoncountywy.gov](mailto:rlane@tetoncountywy.gov)

**Round the Room:**

Jon Bishop: Teton Village Fire District needs 800 low level antennae for radios, which is currently being pursued.

Julie Hugel: Highland Hills are still working on road improvements and potentially the addition of cisterns to their subdivision. Insurance is a big community concern.

Dave Wilkins: Continues to work on backfilling positions and hopes to announce new hires in fuels and prevention soon.

Nate Wilson: Barry Tye has left Wyoming State Forestry, and that position is vacant, but a new Fuels Coordinator has been hired to replace Nick Zaczek. Fish Creek has a contractor proceeding with chipping.

Carlin Gierard: Thanked TAWPC for the work they do and looks forward to continued collaboration.

Bill Mayer: Leadership in GTNP is stable but they are doing a lot of hiring. Projects are on hold because of reduced winter staffing. GTNP is looking forward to hosting “Women in Fire” again and welcome opportunities from partners to help these women grow and develop skills.

Jacob Henrie: Jay Pence is on temporary assignment; they will have a District Ranger in detail. They are still hiring but expect their apparatus and crews to be fully staffed.

Evan Molyneaux: The insurance markets continue to tighten and are putting a heavy focus on “High Wind Convection Events.” Requested a discussion on these types of events, how burn bans are implemented, burn permits, and other topics that impact insurability in Teton County.

Bob Weiss: Also advocated for the talking points that Evan mentioned, including an event that occurred on Burcher Road last summer.

Eric Hawes: Is working on long term planning for fuels projects especially in the Shadow Mountain area.

Bobbi Clauson: Joined two national groups to help advocate for Wildfire Adaptivity. One with the National Fire Protection Agency and one with the National Volunteer Fire Council

Robb Sgroi: Also selected to participate with the NFPA Certification Advisory committee for the Certified Wildfire Mitigation Specialist position. Robb, Steve Markason, and Bobbi all hold this title, and as of March 2023 there were only 99 in the entire country. Robb reported on the Wildfire Risk Reduction Program and the annual report is attached. There was a significant reduction in requests last year, despite building up capacity and Robb looks for insights on how to grow and incentivize the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:03. Next Meeting April 11, 2024 (one week later than usual due to “Spring Break”)