



## Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Cooperative

Prevention Education Safety

[www.rvfpc.com](http://www.rvfpc.com)

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2011

Grants Pass Fire – Hillcrest Station

**Call to Order:** 10:03 a.m.

**Attendees:** Ron Garfas-Knowles, Neil Benson, Michelle Fuss, Charlie Chase, Carey Chaput, Brian Ballou, Joe Hyatt, Mike Hanna, John O'Connor, Ashley Du Brey, Mike Shaw, Teresa Burkhart

**Meeting Minutes:** June meeting minutes approved.

**Financial Report:** June financial report reviewed and approved.

### Committee Reports:

#### Outreach & Education

- Ashley and Teresa participated in a Natural Resources “Field Day” summer camp on June 22, held by Jackson County Soil and Water. Kids were given an overview of what ODF does, and participated in fire prevention discussion. Over 40 kids attended the camp.
- Smokey presentations have been given at both Stewart, and Valley of the Rogue State Parks with more scheduled in the next couple of months. Over 60 attended the presentation on July 1 at Stewart State Park. Around 50 turned out for Valley of the Rogue on July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The “Fire Resistant” plant displays have been set up at two Grange Co-ops, one at South Medford, and the other in Grants Pass. Brochure racks will be attached to the displays with postcards referencing the OSU “Fire Resistant Plants” publication. Yellow fire resistant plant darts are also being purchased to be used in conjunction with the display.
- Rihanna Simes has done a couple of segments on the Channel 12 “Scott’s Garden” series.
- Brian will have four PSA’s at 30 sec each airing this summer. Topics are: defensible space, removing flammable hazards including the roof and gutters, road and driveway access, and flammables under decks with lumber and wood piles.
- A Greensprings FIREWISE meeting will be held sometime late August to generate interest in starting the FIREWISE community recognition process. The meeting will be held at the Greensprings Inn.
- The next installment of the *FIREBRAND* is finished but placed on temporary hold for print. Brian is waiting to find out if Josephine Co has been approved for Title III funds so that he knows how many to order.
- Rural Metro, ODF and Jo Co partnered with Wildlife Images for a “Wildfire Awareness Weekend”, June 11-12. Kids got the chance to practice evacuating the Fire Safety House, and visit Smokey.
- Wolf Creek Fire Department held a fundraiser, and successfully met their goal.
- John ran a two week defensible space maintenance ad in both the Rogue River Press, and the Upper Rogue Independent.
- Rihanna Simes, and Ali True organized and held a firewise landscaping class for the public as well as landscaping and arborist professionals. They are working with RCC to establish a curriculum for obtaining professional credits for attending the class. Charlie

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inquired as to whether the class can be videotaped and offered by the Co-op to the public for a fee; Neil will discuss the possibility with Ali and Rihanna.

- Ali has developed a defensible space pamphlet for the urban home owner; it appears this is the first one of this kind.
- Brian is working with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension to get our co-op logo printed on the “*Embers Aware*” pamphlet, taken from the “Ready Set Go” program.
- The Jackson County Fuels/Risk Committee is holding a field trip on July 18<sup>th</sup> to look at some of the projects funded by the group.
- Illinois Valley received a \$200,000 community assistance grant in Cave Junction.
- Wolf Creek has received their final reports for their evacuation surveys. Surveys were completed by trained department personnel, providing personal contact and follow up to the Wolf Creek residents.
- The fire danger rating boards and evacuation route signs have been posted in Wolf Creek.
- The final reports are in for the surveys completed in Greensprings, Ashland, Applegate, and Seven Basins, as well as part of Jo County; Neil has the reports for those interested.
- Grants Pass City Commissioners have approved a FIREWISE grant but are unsure as to the amount they will fund at this time.

### Fire Safety House Trailer:

- An emergency repair was made on the tongue jack of the fire safety house the last time it was used. Estimates of \$360 for a new tongue jack, as well as \$60 for an eight inch drop hitch were given.
- The trailer is believed to be grossly overweight; may need to increase the number of or change the tires to accommodate for the weight. It was decided that the trailer be taken out of commission until the issue has been investigated and resolved.
- Carey made a motion to “authorize Joe Hyatt to determine the weight of the trailer and make appropriate tire selection up to \$1,000. The motion was seconded and carried.
- John made a motion to authorize Joe to purchase an eight inch drop hitch estimated at \$60, up to \$100. The motion was seconded and carried.

### Old Business:

- The “Education Done Right/ Education for Fire Station Tours” class has been postponed at this time.
- There was discussion on whether the Co-op could sponsor the FI 200 Fire Investigation Class and charge for people to take the class. The class will be held pending the approval of a burn to learn this fall.
- GP Fire has hired Casey Macintosh in a public education/fire prevention position.
- “KTVL Kids Day” has been cancelled.
- Mike Shaw gave an update on the Rural Metro Brochures; for printing and folding he was quoted \$250 for 1,000 brochures. Distribution will be in the fall for the elementary schools; they will also be available at the stations, and have smaller versions on the counters in some businesses. John O’Connor will be working with Mike to further develop the brochure.

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- Joe made a motion that John and Mike work on the brochure and bring a sample copy to the next meeting. The funding of the brochures will be pending the approval of the sample copy. The motion was seconded and carried.

### **New Business:**

- There was discussion that Sandy Shaffer receive an award in gratitude for her dedication and hard work in completing the *Wildfire Public Opinion Survey*. Joe made a motion that Sandy be presented with a certificate and letter thanking her. The motion was seconded and carried. Charlie will present the certificate at the next O&E meeting on July 15.
- Wolf Creek posted their fire warning signs. One of the signs next to the freeway was vandalized but can be repaired; they are in need of 4 4"x14' beams.

### **Good of the Order:**

- If you have any pictures or stories you would like posted to the Co-op website please send the pictures and a brief description to <mailto:tburkhart@odf.state.or.us>.
- Michelle attended the Browning & Reliable "Sprinkler Demonstration", she found it interesting.
- Mike Shaw has been directing landowners needing SB-360 inspections to John O'Connor.
- Brian announced that the Northwest Fire Prevention Workshop will be held February 13-17, 2012 at Salishan. There was discussion that we need to decide how many we want to sponsor next time and whether we wanted to consider co-op members that regularly attend the meetings but otherwise wouldn't be able to go.
- The ODF state wide Prevention Manager position closes on July 13.
- Carey thanked members for regular participation in these meetings each month.
- Charlie shared that the State Fire Marshal position has been filled.
- Mike Shaw announced that he will be the new Fire and Life Safety Manager, effective July 16.

**Adjournment:** 11:37 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** August 10, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., JCFD #3 –Admin Building