



Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Cooperative

Prevention Education Safety

www.rvfpc.com

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2011

Jackson County Fire District #3 – White City Station

Call to Order: 10:02 a.m.

Attendees: Ashley Du Brey, Michelle Fuss, John O'Connor, Mike Shaw, Joe Hyatt, Kamron Ismaili, Neil Benson, Sandy Shaffer, Matt Lichtenstein, Carey Chaput, Teresa Burkhart

Meeting Minutes: September meeting minutes approved with two corrections as follows:

- “Public survey is on hold for the rest of the year unless Title III funding comes through.” Amended to: Public surveys for Josephine County will be put on hold, unless Title III funding comes through.
- “Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District received a grant in collaboration with Grants Pass- funded healthy forest information.” Amended to: Josephine Soil and Water Conservation District.

Financial Report: September financial report reviewed and approved. Carey requested that Co-op members review the budget and provide input at the planning meeting in November.

Committee Reports:

Outreach & Education

- The Josephine County Commissioners approved the release of O&E Title III funds totaling \$60,000 for use in Jo. Co.
- Brian is continuing to pursue partnership interests with Keep Oregon Green.
- The *Fire Resistant Privacy Screening* handout has been funded, and is moving forward. Rihanna Simes, Land Steward Coordinator with OSU Extension Service is working with a graphic artist to get the handout designed and printed. Handouts should be available for distribution by next fire season.
- There is one set each of Fire Resistant Plant displays located in a nursery in Grants Pass, as well as Medford. Each set consists of four displays categorized by ground cover, perennials, shrubs, and trees, with a brochure rack containing postcard size reference and link to the OSU publication of *Fire Resistant Plants for Home Landscapes*. In addition, yellow, fire resistant plant stakes are being used at most of the nurseries in Jackson County. These stakes have the Co-op logo on them as well as the link to the RVFPC website. Joe requested that nurseries be stocked with the stakes in Josephine County as well.
- Sandy and John will be presenting the *Defensible Space Maintenance* handouts at the next Fuels/Risk meeting. They will find out if the fuels committee will be funding the printing of the handouts as the idea for it originated from that group.
- Ali True will be presenting at the NFPA’s Backyards and Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference in Denver Colorado, Oct. 27-29, 2011. Ali will be teaching the Firewise Urban Landscaping segment of the conference.
- Ashland Forest Resiliency has released a ten minute video detailing the stewardship project taking place in the forest above Ashland. The video can be viewed at www.ashlandwatershed.org.

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- Mike Curry, Emergency Manager for Jackson County has additional money available for animal evacuation planning.
- The Josephine County North Valley Wildfire Survey draft has been released.
- The OSU extension office is interfacing with ODF to hold a “Working in the Urbanizing Landscape Workshop on Oct 25-26 at the OSU Extension Office on Hanley Rd. This workshop is designed to guide natural resource professionals to work with the public on managing interface lands.
- The *Arizona Republic* published an article on the Wallow Fire and how thinning fuel saved communities. The article was written by Steven J Pyne and can be viewed at <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/viewpoints/articles/2011/06/11/20110611pyne-wallow-fire-monster.html>.
- Last month John was involved in a Natural Resource Adventure Tour involving 40 North Medford High School students. The tour took place on BLM land off of Cobleigh Rd out of Butte Falls. The purpose was to talk about the different issues small forest, industrial, and federal landowners encounter regarding wildfires and resistance. Teachers followed up with a complimentary lesson plan at school.
- IV Fire held an Open House at Jubilee Park in Cave Junction with an extrication demonstration.
- JCFD #5 had well over 200 people attend their open house. Matt L. advised that Dist. #5 has a mobile BBQ available for agency events.
- Wimer is holding a fundraiser for their fire department this month.
- John will be presenting a session on Fire Prevention in the WUI, Oct 20, at the OSHA Prevention Conference held at the Medford Red Lion.
- Mary Ann Ceglia is organizing a fire safety assembly presentation for the K-5 Butte Falls Charter School. The assembly will take place Oct 25, from 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. and will follow the same concepts as the fire safety house.
- Animal evacuation is back up and running again in Josephine County. They are making plans to hold a training exercise on loading and maneuvering vehicles for volunteers this spring.
- Greensprings is planning a neighborhood Firewise meeting for residents of the Tyler Creek /Soda Mtn. area to see if they want to pursue efforts to become a recognized Firewise community.
- Brian will be coordinating with Chief Miller in Shady cove to train firefighters in conducting home assessments.
- ODF will have the \$400/acre defensible space grant funding available beginning in Nov. The focus is the space around the home and driveways.
- ODF has compiled a list of special needs residents for the brushing crew to work off of this spring.
- **Lowes has donated 100 smoke alarms to the Co-op; distribution will be determined at the next meeting. Contact [Teresa Burkhart](#) to request alarms for your agency.**

Fire Safety Trailer:

- The trailer has been weighed and it was determined that the gross weight is okay for the class of the trailer however, the tongue weight exceed limits. Joe believes that by moving the generator to the back of the trailer it will mitigate this problem; he will be getting a price quote for next meeting. There was also discussion that compartments need to be sorted through thoroughly to remove outdated material and relieve some of the weight.

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- The trailer will be at the city shop for maintenance and repairs; it needs a new filter and spark plug, generator service, and to secure an overhead vent that blew back during transport.
- Charlie spoke with Les Schwab and had tires donated for the trailer. When the tires are mounted a sticker will be displayed on the trailer recognizing Les Schwab for their donation.

Old Business:

- Brian is still looking over the 501-(c)3 business plan. Partnership with Keep Oregon Green is looking promising; an update will be given at the next meeting.
- Sandy reviewed the results of the *2010-2011 Wildfire Public Survey Report*. Sandy collaborated with the Southern Oregon University to poll four communities in Jackson County: Applegate, Greensprings, Ashland Wildfire Hazard Zone, and Seven Basins. Jenny Hall was responsible for the Josephine County side of Applegate as well as Hugo. The complete report is available for viewing on the co-op website. Findings are as follows:
 - Question 5: When asked if private landowners have a responsibility to reduce fire hazards on their own property the response was very high that people feel that yes, they do.
 - Question 7: An overwhelming amount of residents from all five areas responded that they have completed a defensible space around their home. The group had questions as to how accurate the response was to this question.
 - Question 8d: Many residents from all polled areas did not feel that SB-360 was an important factor in creating a defensible space. The highest motivators included personal safety, home or property protection, and responsibility as a property owner.
 - Question 9: The majority of all areas responded that they have maintained their defensible space over time.
 - Question 10: When asked if they haven't completed their defensible space to please list the factors that contributed to their decision not to; the majority was physically unable to perform the work, or couldn't afford the cost of the work.
 - Question 13: The bulk of residents polled found home assessments helpful.
 - Question 15: When the people rated the seriousness of problems in their area the majority felt that smoke from prescribed fire treatments were not serious alternately, smoke from wildfires is of high concern. One can discern from this that knowledge of burning events eases the anxiety of the problem. The highest rated problem was insects and diseases that kill trees.
 - Question 17: About half of the residents polled have an evacuation plan in place, it was determined that there is need for improvement in this area.
 - Question 21: Most of the information about forest conditions and wildfires is gathered from television and newspapers; this shows the importance of using these tools during events.
- The next round of surveys will be mailed out October 17 to these areas: Fire District #5, Medford (west rural), Jacksonville (Fire District #3 area), Medford (east rural), White City/Eagle Point (Agate Lake area), Shady Cove (city limits and rural), Butte Falls, Prospect and Coleston. Josephine County Grants Pass rural has also been added but will be three weeks behind in the mailing. Complete analysis of both areas will be complete in April.

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New Business:

- The Firewise Coordinator position for Grants Pass closed at the end of September with 11 applicants. The selection for the position has not yet taken place.
- **Next month is the annual planning meeting, members need to review the co-op mission statement and think about what events and outreach we would like to continue promoting. Members are encouraged to bring ideas and suggestions to the table. This meeting we will also be nominating officers for the 2012 year, elections will take place in December.**

Good of the Order:

- Sandy - The 12 week, OSU Land Steward Program funded by O&E Title III money, has been very successful by holding most of the classes in the field this year.
- Neil – The Pilot Joe Timber sale in the Little Applegate Watershed sold to Boise for three times over the advertised price. From this project a new forest management prescription has been designed.
- Sandy – Scoping for the second phase of the Middle Applegate Pilot project has begun, it will be in the Thompson Creek area. Road issues in this area have been a concern; as a result a transportation committee has been assigned to resolve the problem.
- Neil - The Josephine County IV has received national attention for their Title III IV Assessment Stewardship Committee. The National Collaboration Cadre has offered to come out to hold listening sessions with small groups and return later with an assessment.
- Carey – This year for Fire Prevention Week, Carey distributed fire escape plans and instructions to schools in Applegate and Ruch. Students that develop a plan will be entered into a drawing for a fire engine pizza delivery to their home. In addition, a group of home-schooled children that will be developing a home escape plan and taking a tour of the Fire Station.
- Neil - Ali is working to incorporate Firewise Communities in with the Smokey Team Teaching program for Ashland schools this spring.
- Carey – The PSA for November is Smoke Alarms and Kitchen Safety.

Adjournment: 11:57 a.m.

Next Meeting: Annual Planning Meeting, November 9, 2011, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Grants Pass Fire – Hillcrest Station

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