

**Jackson & Josephine Counties Fire Plan
Outreach & Education Committee
August 19, 2011 Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Sandy Shaffer, Ali True, Lin Bernhardt, Brad Inman, Teresa Burkhardt

Meeting called to order @ 10:07 a.m.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from July reviewed and approved.

Jackson County Title III O&E Budget 2011-12

The budget for O&E was presented for 2011-2012. Due to obligated expenses, and lack of funding from Josephine County, the budget is exceeded by about \$5,500. There was discussion on what, if anything could be cut. It was agreed that the production of the Winter FIREBRAND edition be eliminated; removing this one item would balance the budget.

Public Surveys

Sandy is gearing up for the second phase of the wildfire public opinion surveys. She shared a spreadsheet of the areas to be included in the next round, they include: Central Point-FD#3, Jacksonville Rural, West Medford Rural, West Phoenix/Talent Rural, East Medford, Rural, Shady Cove City Limits, Shady Cove Rural Fire District, Butte Falls, Trail/Prospect/Hwy 62, Dodge Bridge, Eagle Point, Agate Lake, and possibly Coe. The survey will fit well within the budget. They are considering dropping the sort and report for "size of lot", which will save \$250.00.

Defensible Space Maintenance Handout

Sandy and John have been finalizing the maintenance brochure. They are planning for two separate publications, winter and summer. There was a bit of question as to whether funds have been obligated for this project or not, as it was not found on the O&E budget outline for 2011-2012.

Ashland Firewise

Three more communities have received official Firewise recognition. There will be a press release in September that will have the state and regional Firewise liaisons present at the recognition ceremony. Ali is aiming for a total of nine Firewise recognized communities by the end of the year; four have been done, three are now pending, and two more applications will be submitted in August.

The Ashland City Firewise Commission is planning a Firewise Day for this next spring.

Ali is looking to include a Firewise component to Team Teaching held in spring for the elementary schools in Ashland. She suggested having a Firewise poster contest for students, with several ideas for showcasing the winning artwork.

Animal Evacuation & Planning

Both the Josephine and Jackson County manuals were finalized the end of June, and will be attached to the county websites soon.

Lin is working on a volunteer basis as of right now; her contract was not renewed with Jackson County. Currently her contract is on hold for Josephine County but she anticipates approval.

The focus in Jackson County right now is on outreach and advertising on the web. Josephine County has been very engaged in developing more detailed SOP's for animal evacuations.

The last Saturday of September, a trailer safety and maneuvering for livestock workshop will be held in Jo. Co. The focused audience will be Disaster Animal Response Team, DART members, and the Search and Rescue Mount.

For the coming year, Lin's goals for Title III, if approved will include:

1. Developing detailed SOPs for operation; who, what, where, and when.
2. Outreach and Education public meetings.
3. Exercise the manual and plan. (May be put off until the following year due to lack of details.)

A series of public meetings about animal and wildfire preparedness were held in the Applegate and William areas, not much interest was expressed.

ODF O&E

"Fire Resistant" plant darts have been distributed to nurseries throughout Jackson County. The darts are yellow and black and have the Co-op logo and website information on them.

Brian is considering holding a couple of community meetings at the Medford Office this year to save on the budget. One of the topics will be defensible space. It was discussed that maybe instead of focusing on "defensible space" once again; we should tie into *Ember be Aware*, and talk about why homes do burn.

Events Review & Coming Attractions

ODF will be holding a Firewise Communities meeting on August 24, at 7:00pm, at the Greensprings Inn. Greensprings Fire and Rescue will be providing a barbecue before the meeting at 6:00pm. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about Firewise Communities/USA and to see if there is interest among residents in starting the program. Two guest speakers from Firewise communities in Ashland will be at the meeting to share their personal experiences.

GOOD of the Order

Sandy Shared that the OSU Land Steward Course will have classes held out in the field this year.

Next meeting: September 16, 10:00 am @ ODF, Medford HQ, Crewhouse. In general, future meetings will take place on 3rd Friday of the month; locations TBA.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:18 a.m.