

**Jackson & Josephine Counties Fire Plan
Outreach & Education Committee
September 16, 2011 Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Sandy Shaffer, Neil Benson, John O'Connor, Ali True, Teresa Burkhart

Meeting called to order @ 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from August reviewed and approved.

O&E Title III 2011-12 Budget:

It was decided at the August O&E meeting that the winter FIREBRAND edition will be cut to help balance the budget. In addition, John O'Connor will now be funded from half O&E Title III and the other half under a stewardship program with Seven Basins Title III. Teresa will also be funded part-time.

Potential Keep Oregon Green (KOG)/RVFP Co-op partnership:

Brian will be meeting with Mary Ellen Holly with Keep Oregon Green to discuss a partnership between them and RVFPC. It will be the first step in establishing 501(c) (3) status for the Co-op. RVFPC is currently rated as 501(c) (4), meaning we can accept contributions but cannot offer a tax write-off to the donators therefore limiting charitable foundation donations. Ashley is also working on a separate business model for obtaining individual status for the Co-op.

Public Surveys:

The contract has been signed, and the money is obligated to run the next batch of surveys. Sandy is confident the costs will stay well within the budget. The survey introduction letter will be going out in the later part of September.

Sandy will be speaking at the Fire Chief's Meeting on September 21. The Fire Chiefs are expecting recommendations based on the results of the surveys. For example, one of the findings for the previous surveys was that SB-360 was not a major influence in completing defensible space work; this may change the tactics for promoting defensible space clearance.

Overall the surveys have been supported, and are considered a valuable tool.

Fire Resistant Privacy Screening Plants Handout:

This project will be funded under O&E Title III for printing costs. The list of privacy screening plants is done, however the handout still needs pictures added to it. Max is waiting to hear about funding then Rihanna will be adding pictures. Ali will contact Rihanna and Max for an update.

Defensible Space Maintenance Handout:

Sandy will be talking to Jim Wolf to see if there is stimulus money available to print the Defensible Space publications, as it was a project that originated from the Fuels Committee.

Video Production:

Brian would like to resume production of two video segments for open burning, and SB-360. Some script and video have already been produced for the open burning video. It will be a low cost, in house project that will be available for social media.

RVFP Co-op webpage, Facebook, blog & twitter:

Presently the ODF Blogspot has accrued over 500 followers, Twitter, 200 followers, and RVFPC Facebook, 43 friends.

With the support of the Ashland Fire and Rescue Chief, Ail will be publicizing the Ashland Firewise Facebook page.

Ashland Firewise, AFR

Ashland Firewise is holding a recognition ceremony for Blossom View Estates on Sept, 15. They've invited the County Commissioners, and expect a good turnout for the event. Ali is still picking up new neighborhood requests.

Ali will be teaching a Firewise Urban Landscaping Session in Denver as part of the 2011 Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference, October 27-29.

AFR just released a video link sent by Chris Chambers, <http://www.ashlandwatershed.org/> . Currently, they are marking trees and gearing up for the heli-logging this spring.

Seven Basins:

John O'Connor and Lee Winslow are developing stewardship plans for three watersheds in the Seven Basins: Pleasant Creek, Foothills Creek, and Sardine Creek. Their target is to complete ten plans this year.

Gail will be advertising the free stewardship plans in the next Seven Basins newsletter, to help make large property owners eligible to receive funds for forest health/fuel reduction.

Shady Cove Firewise:

Brian and Bob Miller will be getting together sometime after fire season to train Shady Cove Fire Dept. personnel how to do home assessments.

Animal Evacuation:

Lin is working with Randy White to find out what it would take to implement further funding for Josephine County.

IV Fire Plan Update:

Grants Pass has posted a job announcement for a Firewise Coordinator.

Rural Metro, with help from the RVFP Co-op has distributed wildfire/structural fire prevention pamphlets to Josephine County Schools.

The form is available locally for any fire department that would like to personalize it for their use.

Events, Reviews & Coming Attractions:

Ashley and Teresa held a Firewise meeting at the Greenspings Inn on August 26. The intent of the meeting was to generate interest among the community to start the Firewise program. Over 60 people attended the meeting, and an area has been selected as a potential Firewise neighborhood.

Good of the Order:

The Land Steward Program has begun. Almost all of the classes will be held in the field on private property. Classes will be held Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Next meeting: October 21, 10:00 am @ ODF, Medford HQ, Crewhouse. In general, future meetings will take place on 3rd Friday of the month; locations TBA.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:07 a.m.