

Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Steering Meeting Notes for October 24, 2017  
Bartholomew Building  
Heppner, Oregon

Attendees: John Bowles, Kym Erevia, Janet Greenup, Carla McLane, Steve Rhea, Shelley Wight. By phone: Karen Pettigrew.

The meeting started at 9:08 a.m. Meeting minutes for March 30, 2017 were reviewed and approved as written.

Steering committee confirmation: Group is now officially listed on the county website.

Recent wildfire impacts to communities: Outlying areas were affected, including tourism due to road closures, which represented huge financial impacts. Consideration should be made to the potential for slides and flooding along major corridors due to loss of foliage. Local resource needs were the major impact, with both a significant influx of fire personnel and lack of supplies coming in contributing to the stress. The fact that our firefighters were dispatched elsewhere contributed to that stress. Deployments also tax the medical corps as well, having to draw from limited medical providers that were required to deploy in multiple locations. Local fire departments had to refuse some conflagration requests due to limited availability.

Action Items:

Plan Implementation - Need to look at fire siting standards in the Forest Use, particularly to prepare for incoming dwellings, and figure out how to protect existing dwellings that are not protected through interface protection planning. We need to impact the cooperative mitigation process. Fire Departments would like to use the mapping example from another region for triaging structures based on “defendable”, “preparation to defend” and “non-defendable” structures with a numbering system.

Wildfire Suppression Update - Blake Ranch and Penland Lake have been triaged in a similar manner to proposed concept, but data still needs to be converted to maps. It was recommend including vulnerable populations. ESRI mapping to mobile device process that Stephen has established would be a good fit for this concept. Can figure out how to tie in the vulnerable populations so Emergency Management Systems (EMS) can use this tool on a routine basis. Avenza app capability with a scan of a pixel that provides specific mapping with those who are assigned to respond to those areas. There has been some mitigation going on by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) around Arbuckle and the 21 Road West areas. Need to map and plan for evacuation at Blake Ranch.

Discussed a spring time exercise at either Penland Lake or Blake Ranch; would include a defensible level sticker for the structures there to vet the new planning concept and proposed mapping application. Exercise follow-up would include a community after-action meeting with recommendations for meeting the defensible structure and space needs. Sub-committee build for Exercise: Would include Matt Scrivner, Kym Erevia, Stephen Wrecsics, Janet Greenup, Steve Rhea, Braden Britt, John Bowles, Shelley Wight, and a representative from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). First meeting will be utilized to develop exercise scope, select area for Exercise, and building the invite list for event. This group will meet on November 28, 2017. Exercise planning will address mitigation and plan implementation. Future meetings need to address sections by target agenda.

Post Adoption Plan: Group was asked by Carla to gather up information applicable to the post adoption book for plan update when next revision is due. Book can also be used for lessons learned that can be incorporated for mitigation or development code, exercise planning etc.

Carla provided a handout from Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD); think about an all-hazards plan for the area rather than each agency having to do separate plans with potential for missing crosswalk comparison that matches. Will work with Public Health and Emergency Management (EM) to begin planning a move towards this concept. Fire and EM agrees to this.

Tracking Projects Spreadsheet: The plan is to have a group coordinated by March that will address these items; have the exercise first then after action including the CWPP meeting to follow. Suggestion made to incorporate visuals while the conversation is ongoing. Could also use exercise-type injects to keep conversation prompted.

Mutual Aid Agreements: Question was raised as to how we know they exist and how are they all managed. John is researching to find proof. Steve said all agencies in Umatilla/Morrow/Gilliam have an area 9 meeting monthly. Jim Whelan is the district chief for this group and Scott Stanton is the deputy area chief. There are agreements and Steve said that they have been updated with ODF and Heppner for the local area so far. Steve explained that resource requests have to go to the next closest base for assistance, and then they work outward to other areas as needed. There is a signed agreement for the ODF on Pendleton side, but there is no federally managed property with United States Forest Service (USFS). There is a cooperative agreement with ODF to fight fire on either side. Braden Britt is currently updating the region 9 agreement because of mutual consent and fiscal rate implementation. In summary, all local departments are in the mutual aid agreement.

Red Cross contact: Kym and Steve have still not been able to identify a person. Groupe decided not to keep looking for a person to appoint to the committee. Morrow County will use the American Red Cross toll-free number for assistance requests, and it was discussed that this number could be added to the county website.

NHMP training update: Kym provided a brief overview of the training including discussion on how to best use resources and make use of repurposed resources. Kym would also look for speakers to provide lessons learned and best practices for the group if requested.

Roundtable: John is working with a computer program called Alert Sense that can be used to send out alerts for various events. Has multi-contact capability. He is also using Facebook as a media outlet.

Next meeting date: Exercise Planning Sub-Committee will meet in November. Tentatively looking at March 15<sup>th</sup> for general steering committee meeting; Kym will send out invites for both.

Agenda Build: Exercise Plan

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.