



July 2, 2014 Conference Call Minutes

Page 1 of 2

Welcome & roll call:

Present: John Fish (Chair), Jon Skinner (Vice Chair), Jolene Ackerman, Pam Leschak, Sarah McCaffrey, Elaine Waterbury, **Absent:** Joe Stutler, Don Griego, Phyllis Krietz, Sid Beckman, Len Diaz, Cindy Palmer.

Assign member to record minutes: Pam Leschak

Review minutes of conference calls – May & June, 2014 – No changes to minutes as presented and minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Firewise Subcommittee Report: The Subcommittee will work on Firewise literature review.

PMU/Executive Board Update – Elaine said the PMU is still working on the glossary; definitions will be dropped, some changed; should have by July 21st for WUIMC to review.

FAC Coalition Update – Pam reported that TNC/Watershed's FAC Learning Network and Fire Learning Network met in Colorado Springs to plan their work for fiscal 15 and welcomed new FAC LN communities on board. NVFC to present the Wild Fire Assessment Program at their annual meeting in September. IAFC is working on a FAC Calendar for 2015 for Coalition use in promoting FAC.

The Weather Company – Wildfire Alert Project – Pam sat in on a call with The Weather Company about a mobile AP for wildfire alerts. Looks like a good project and WUI-MC should stay involved. Pam and John will discuss further with Heath Hockenberry, NWS for next steps. Sarah: there is some research on the value of this information, other research on Wireless Emergency Alert System through DHS – **ACTION ITEM: Sarah will get the poc**

Project Updates:

- **WUI Mitigation Desk Reference Guide:** Guide was submitted today (July 2, 2014)
- **Training Course/PTB Review:** **ACTION ITEM: John will meet with Fred Turk regarding P101 revision and decide next steps.**
- **White/Position Paper – FAC Concept:** Pam provided the draft White Paper on FAC. **ACTION ITEM: Pam will incorporate comments for final review/ approval on the next conference call.**

Chair

John K. Fish
National Association of State Foresters

Vice Chair

Jon Skinner
USDI Bureau of Land Management

Members:

Pam Leschak, USDA Forest Service
Sid Beckman, USDI National Park Service
Len Diaz, USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
Joe Stutler – International Association of Fire Chiefs
Phyllis Krietz, FEMA, U.S. Fire Administration

Jolene Ackerman, National Association of State Foresters
Donald J. Griego, National Association of State Foresters
Cynthia Palmer, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Sarah McCaffrey, USDA Forest Service – Research & Development

Project Updates (cont.):

- **Position Papers:** **ACTION ITEM:** Jon, John, Joe will work on position paper “how mitigation impacts fire suppression during incidents”. Sarah supported a position paper on the need for consistent data. Sarah sent a summary report regarding acreage, recommended a paper by Karen Short on data; Pam mentioned the Post Fire Strike Teams with the states and the Cohesive Strategy post fire effort with Joe Stutler. She suggested a strategic approach to information collection and housing it in an easily accessible database. **ACTION ITEM:** John will reach out to Joe and Ronda about the proposed efforts.
- **Grant Spreadsheet:** Phyllis provided intro language for the grants info on the WUI-MC page on NWCG site.
- **Website Updates:** John reported that all the bios, the roster, and the purpose of the committee were provided to the website. **ACTION ITEM:** John will provide minutes from all the calls to Elaine for posting.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: Next call is August 6, same time/same place. Face-to-face WUI-MC meeting and Joint meeting with CEPC will be Oct 28-29 in Boise. **ACTION ITEM:** State folks should put in their travel requests now.

Additional topics:

Prescribed fire issues with Travelers Insurance in South Carolina: Travelers wanted to raise rates because of prescribed fire in close proximity to their property. Several folks involved. Pam talked to IBHS who was going to reach out to Travelers about the value of prescribed fire to reduce risk. Dan Smith has it on the agenda for the next EB meeting and wants a briefing on status. Pam suggested a briefing paper from the Fuels Committee about value of prescribed fire and how few escape. **ACTION ITEM:** John will talk to his contact in South Carolina.

Mitigation Award: NASF is working with FS leadership and IAFC to develop a mitigation award because of the increased nominations for mitigation projects through the Smokey Bear Award program. WUI-MC would like to play a part in development and implementation. **ACTION ITEM:** John will reach out to NASF about participation.

Round table:

Sarah: JFSP may increase social science research and budget. Sarah will track.

Pam: need to get some direction from NWCG Executive Board about expectations and discuss ways to get leadership to focus more attention on mitigation.

Jolene: Wisconsin working on fire risk reduction guidelines.

Jon: Putting together FY 15 budget, more pressure to fund Sage Grouse and it would come from WUI fund. Pam and Jon emphasized that it's a challenge to maintain funding for mitigation.
