

Forest Health Wildfire Mitigation Committee
December 16, 2021 5:30 to 6:30 at The Latham's home

Present

Joe Richards, Carmen Richard, Nancy Scott, Bill Latham, Ken Dixon, Nanci Dixon, Jerry Peters, Maureen Latham, John Cantin, Kelly Braddock, Tracy Braddock, Kristen Alford, Scott Alford, Marc Wilson, Bob Kreiman, Michelle Blake

Welcome:

Thanks to Maureen and Bill Latham for hosting (and feeding!) this meeting.

Nominate the Chair

Jerry Peters agreed to lead the discussion for this meeting. Although members are passionate about the committee, the majority expressed time commitment concerns as a reason for not being able to serve as the chair. Marc Wilson was nominated and accepted. Michelle Blake agreed to serve as the recording clerk/secretary.

Budget

In January the FHWM budget request needs to be provided to the POA board. If approved, that budget will be released in February as part of the POA budget.

We have \$15k left over from the 2021 budget.

1. Mitigation Projects \$20,000

✓ Project 1. Oak Park \$5000

- Maureen is taking the lead on this project. The Oak Park project is identified as the number three priority in the most recent CWPP. Ken Dixon offered to donate two hours of time on his machine, and after that, \$75/hr. Since safety is a priority, Ken said he would prefer to use his machine on a day prior to the mitigation event since his equipment can throw debris a great distance. Carmen offered to bring a DR mower, and other folks have brush cutters, chainsaws and hand tools. We will need to budget in a few hundred dollars for fuel. Right now the project is estimated to take 32 hours over four weekends.

✓ Project 2 \$5000 TBD

✓ Project 3 \$5000 TBD

✓ Project 4 \$5000 TBD

- Other discussions: Nanci suggested approaching projects by the calendar months, with 12 projects per year. The general consensus is that due to weather, fire danger, risk of spreading beetles, visibility (amount of vegetation), rattlesnakes and the limited number of volunteers, we need to focus on doing just one to four mitigation projects during the winter, when most of the concerns listed above would not be an issue.

2. Outreach and education. \$5,000

- ✓ These efforts can be conducted when weather precludes mitigation projects.

3. CWPP \$10,000

- ✓ The tentative decision is to move forward with the Colorado State Forestry Service (CSFS) as they had the more competitive rate. Michelle has been working closely with Jared Fleming on

this project. The CWPP is required for many grants, and the Risk Assessment which is a component of the CWPP, is required by the FireWise Program. CWPP will also provide this committee with current data and standards to work with to develop long term plans.

- ✓ CSFS charges \$74/hr for Risk Assessments (trips to each home to determine survivability).

4. Insurance/Liability.

Cost not available now, but might come out of the balance from FY21. The remainder of that balance might be applied to FY22 projects. (*See below.*)

- ✓ Since the POA no longer wants the liability risk of renting out the chipper, it has turned the chipper over to the FHWMC. This means we may now assume that risk. Will the POA's new insurance policy cover volunteers injured while working on a POA recognized mitigation project within a POA owned easement? Do we need separate insurance or liability coverage? If so, this would be a budget item.
- ✓ For the chipper and other equipment, people in the FHWMC need to be trained by a licensed instructor in order for the training to be recognized. In some cases, simply watching a video on-line is sufficient. In other cases training hours may need to be documented, and some training/certification may incur costs. This training/certification should probably take place regardless of the insurance situation.

Total Budget Request \$35k

Discussions/Non-decision Items

Grants:

Some grants require a promise of an in-kind match from individuals, and others require that there is money already in the coffer. Down the road as we research grants, we may want to have money set aside for those with match requirements.

501c3:

Do we really need a 501c3? It could cost over \$2000 to renew it due to back taxes owed, and the loss of all the previous records. Perhaps we can piggyback off the SPWPP or other entities that already have a 501c3. Also, a 501c3 requires public outreach component. (The previous committee members David Skoberg and Diane Novacheck offered training to outside organizations to fulfill that grant requirement.) Are there other ways to accept grant money without getting a 501c3? Should the FHWMC apply for it as a separate entity, or does it make more sense for the POA to apply?

Residual Budget:

If we have money left over in the budget at the end of the year, instead of losing it, perhaps we should we purchase brush cutters, fuel, PPE etc. It may also make sense to identify any surplus as "carry forward" so we can build up a reserve for grant applications down the road. (See "Grants" above.)

Brush Pile:

Create a designated area (e.g. MOC) where residents can drop brush off which will be chipped at a later date, on scheduled "Chipping Days".