

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
COMMITTEE**

*January 7, 2020
5:30 p.m.
Community Corrections
510 NW 4th Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526*

MINUTES

Present:	Scott Blower, Charlie Chase, Bryan Hawkins, Mike Jones (via phone) Janet Lancaster (via phone), Harry Mackin, Dave Matthews, John Maupin, Rick McClintock, Richard Wharton, Jeffery Wolf, Dorothy Yetter, Rich Holloway – Rural Metro, Mike McLaughlin – Fire Defense Board Chief, Mariana Ruiz-Temple, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Dave Larson – Oregon Department of Forestry, Lily Morgan – Commissioner, Annette Sorensen – Staff, Sara Rubrecht - Staff
Absent:	Vivian Kirkpatrick-Pilger, Dan Trader – County Fire
Public Attendees:	Sue Densmore,
Recorder	Annette Sorensen

1. Opening

Chairman Wharton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Review / Approval of Minutes

Chair Wharton stated that Commissioner Morgan had a correction to the minutes. Dorothy Yetter also had a change. The RFP subcommittee member's name will be changed from Mike Price to Mike Jones. Commissioner Morgan clarified that Senator Baertschiger did not give the money but asked for it to be included in an appropriations bill. In addition, Commissioners Morgan clarified that the Commissioners are aware they may have to come up with the money or do something else going forward. Charlie Chase made a motion to approve the minutes with these changes. Harry Mackin seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Board of Commissioner Liaison Report

Commissioner Morgan stated that she has spent time talking with the DPSST coordinator about standards and applications and other topics. She will go through her information to see if there is anything beneficial.

Commissioner Morgan clarified that the money from HB 5050 was requested from Senator Baertschiger but was approved through the State Legislature, the amount was 1.5 million to be used after the formation of a district. We originally received information from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services that this money could be used up front and the County should come up with a plan. We received clarification from the Legislature's Counsel that the money cannot be use until after a district is formed. The County is in possession of the money. We have asked Senator Baertschiger to request during the Legislative Session starting in February, that we are able to use these funds to cover the cost of a district formation, putting a stipulation and limit to a portion that could be used. The Commissioners will revisit the topic of funding of a district formation if the HB5050 will not allow it. At this time, no decision has been made if and where the funding will come from if the change is not made, but the Commissioners have given direction to move forward with creating an RFP for a consultant. The Legislature gave us 12 months to come up with a plan. After the short session, we will have more information.

4. Attendance & Future Meetings

Chair Wharton notified the group that Dan Trader with County Fire advised that he would not be available until 1/13/20. Upon his return, he will meet with business partner and Chief to discuss his participation with the group.

Chair Wharton clarified that removing someone from the committee for missing 3 or more meetings is at the Board's decision.

The group decided to continue meeting at Community Corrections except when the room is not available. On the third Tuesdays we will meet at the Emergency Operations Management facility.

5. Subcommittee Reports

a. Recap on SWOT

Bryan is continuing to work on the SWOT project. Mariana clarified for Bryan that in terms of response, a fire district would help in the areas of requesting State resources, recovering costs for mitigation, recovery and the ability to apply for grants. But, a fire district requesting conflagration will not receive conflagration funds but will receive FMAG (Fire Management Assistance Grants) funds at the local level.

Mariana will respond to Bryan's question in bullet points. Mariana clarified that a Zone 2 qualifies depending on what the county uses for protection such as contracting with agencies.

Mike McLaughlin explained FMAG. Any resource brought in to assist his district, will fall potentially under that conflagration will be covered. If those resources are held over there may be some mechanisms to pay them. But his resources that were committed from the beginning for the district do not get any of that funding. He has to file the FMAG to try and reimburse 75% of the costs.

Bryan hopes to bring an 85% – 90% completed draft to the next meeting.

Chair Wharton clarified that Bryan will produce a draft report for the group's review. If there are minimal or no changes it will be agendaized for adoption for forwarding on for inclusion in the RFP for the feasibility study.

b. Recap Work on RFP

Dorothy shared that the current outline for the feasibility study was sent out to the group. New items added were services that are currently not provided, but may be provided by other county agencies. Rich Holloway with Rural Metro volunteered to help the RFP subcommittee by drafting up the verbiage for the prevention side.

Commissioner Morgan said that once the RFP is completed it is to be sent to Annette. Legal will convert the electronic copy to the correct format. The responses from the RFP will be sent to a designated person in the County. Once they are received it will be brought back to the group to evaluate and grade. The group will then give a recommendation to the Board.

The group discussed the possibility of submitting an RFI (Request for Information). Commissioner Morgan explained that requesting an RFI it will add more time to the process. Scott Blower asked about the possibility of the County put out a pre-solicitation right now to advertise that we will be advertising for an RFP. Commissioner Morgan would have to check with Legal about contract law and bidding.

6. Ex Officio Members Update

a. General Members

Rich Holloway with Rural Metro is filling in for Austin and said he is happy to be here.

b. Presentation from the Office of the State Fire Marshal – Mariana Ruiz-Temple

Mariana distributed two handouts. The first document one was the Executive Summary document. She explained that there are four bills are going to be speaking to wildfire are going to be heard next week. One will be around mitigation, the second will be around the concept of

corp. The third is Senator Baertschiger bill that talks about modernization and the fourth will be the Governors bill. The Second handout was the Wildfire Council Suppression Discussions Sheet.

Mariana answered Janet's question confirming there could be a State mandate required to have a state recognized fire protection system for unprotected areas. But, this could lead to many different options. Mariana explained that a fire district is much more planned and important locally. This might mandate that the State will get involved but if we do not have something in place to take care of ourselves that can breakdown the system. This is looking at wildfire response. The work that we are doing on this committee is only going to bolster all of the systems.

Dave Larson with ODF added that this recognizes that it is a statewide issue for all citizens of Oregon. There are some areas that are not paying for a Forest Patrol Assessment, but may receive the services, when others are paying for it.

7. Comments from Committee Members

Chair Wharton asked Commissioner Morgan if Legal was going to provide a timeline. Commissioner Morgan confirmed that Legal said they would get that for the group.

Business meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Options Workshop began at 6:30 p.m.

These are options of services are for consideration for the feasibility study. The Rural Fire Board would determine the level of service they would want to provide.

Options

1. Status quo (no change)
2. Suppression
3. Full service/All hazard
4. County contract / Franchise (sole service like EMS)
5. Zone 2
6. Annexation into existing district
7. Consolidation

Principles of Agreement

1. Rate cannot be more than current rate
2. No less than same level of service or benefit can be less than they have now
3. Rural fire board has to have own autonomy
4. Decisions will not be made for fire chief
5. Not less ISO rating in future
6. Looking for long term solution
7. District to have ability to improve
8. Sustainable financially

Options Workshop adjourned.