



Committee for Family Forestlands Meeting January 13, 2021



Pursuant to public notice made by news release with statewide distribution, a meeting of the Committee for Family Forestlands [an advisory body to the Oregon Board of Forestry with authority established in Oregon Revised Statute 527.650] was convened on January 13, 2021 as a virtual online meeting hosted off-site.

CFF Committee members participating:

Eric Hartstein, Interim Private Forests Deputy Chief
Ryan Gordon, Family Forestland Coordinator
Josh Barnard, Deputy Chief Private Forests (Secretary)
Kaola Swanson, Conservation Rep./Sustainable NW (Voting/Vice Chair)
Glenn Ahrens, OSU College of Forestry Ext. Ex-Officio
S. Mark Vroman, Industry rep (Voting) Hampton Family Forests/Timberland
Manager US Timberlands
John Peel, EO Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Wendy Gerlach, Citizen-At-Large (Voting) Gerlach Law
Evan Barnes, Committee Chair & SW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Amanda Astor, new Forest Policy Manager AOL (replacing Rex Storm)
Julie Woodward, OFRI Ex-Officio
Jim James, OSWA Executive Director Ex-Officio

ODF Staff:

Susan Dominique, Admin. Specialist
Kristin Whitney, Office Specialist
Tom Fields, Fire Prevention Coordinator
Scott Swearingen, Field Support Unit Manager

Members not in attendance:

Barrett Brown, NW Landowner Rep. (Voting)
Janelle Geddes, USFS State & Private Forestry Ex-Officio

Guests/Public:

Kristin Babbs, President KOG
Jeremy Felty, OSWA

1. Welcome and Review of the Agenda

[Hartstein noted before the meeting opened that there had been power outages across western Oregon and some members and staff were unable to join the meeting.]

Barnes called the meeting to order and welcomed any comments to the agenda.

2. Roll Call

Roll was called of members present.

3. Approval of the December Minutes

Barnes noted that the December Minutes were sent out electronically to all members for review. There were no comments or corrections. He entertained a Motion to Approve as drafted. Swanson motioned to accept the minutes. Vroman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Minutes for the December meeting were approved as final.

4. Public Comment

(No public comment was offered.)

5. Private Forests Division Update

Hartstein reminded members of the documents emailed out to members as requested. The first was Private Forests Division update to the 2020-2022 Private Forests Division Work Plan approved by the Board of Forestry. The set of changes were related to Division capacity available with the additional work load of SB 1602 implementation and fire recovery efforts. He summarized that the SB 1602 rules went into place January 1st for the new helicopter spray buffers and expansion of the SSBT rules for the Siskiyou georegion. As well as contracted work on key developments to the FERNs electronic notification system as required by SB 1602. There also was support needed for the Governor's mediated sessions for creation of a Habitat Conservation Plan for private forestlands.

Astor (OFIC) commented that they are really supportive of the scientific re-focusing on the use of data to drive changes to the Forest Practices Act and along with that supportive of the Monitoring work that the Division is doing.

In response to a clarifying question Hartstein noted there had been the beginning of an implementation study on reforestation. That study is still planned but delayed due to staff limitations at this time and will probably ramp up as staff capacity expands. There also is a Request for Proposal (RFP) for statistical analysis, an Implementation Study to assess the study design.

Continuing Hartstein reported that the Emergency Board (E-Board) met and allocated \$5 million dollars to ODF for Fire Protection Aviation assets. And \$5 million for wildfire mitigation efforts across all lands with a focus on the wildland/urban interface (WUI). In addition it included \$3 million for Agency capacity including 25 new Limited Duration positions. The WUI funds are potentially for thinning, fuels reduction, prescribed burning and staff looking to do this across all lands. These funds go hand-in-hand with the Governor's Recommended Budget. (Emailed to the members.) The 2021 Legislative Session would be starting soon and bill concepts went out for Agency review and priority. As time progresses the Committee will have regular legislative updates. Some of the key dates for Legislative Committees have been scheduled. The House Committees need to have work sessions scheduled by March 19th. The Senate Committees as well. Those bills to be considered need to go to the next Chamber by April 13th or the bill is considered 'dead'. Those bills need to be scheduled for work sessions in the second Chamber by May 14th and moved out of the second Chamber by May 28th. (Those deadlines don't apply to bills within certain Committees like House Revenue and Finance Committees as well as most Joint Committees.) Due to COVID, at least at the beginning, the Committee Hearings are going to be done remotely as they have been through several Special Sessions in 2020 and Legislative Days. They are still going to be doing 4 Sessions in person for voting under the COVID protocols. The Oregon Legislative website has details on this and how the public can continue to participate in the process while most of this has gone remote.

Astor asked about the Severity increase. She expressed concern from AOL's standpoint as to whether that is coming from the General Fund. AOL recognizes that there is going to be an Admin Prorate increase on family forestlands. But what she gathered some of that is from the Landowner Protection Fund. From a family forestland, small business perspective she is wondering if there's any way that we can get more answers on that and/or if there is any role for CFF to play in sending a letter to the legislature or BOF on the impact to small landowners and small businesses. Hartstein agreed to follow up.

James commented that in the Governor's Budget it has been a controversial issue on how Private Forests is funded. Currently, 40% comes from the forestland owner community and 60% from the General Fund. The Governor has proposed a 50/50 on that which means forestland owners would pay more. Traditionally when the change had been proposed before OSWA has always been opposed to it. Swanson recalled that was one of the recommendations that came out of the Wildfire Council Suppression Committee that is now being implemented. Astor added that the 40/60 to 50/50 split would be coming from the Forest Products Harvest Tax.

6. Drivers behind Human-Caused Forest Fires

Tom Fields, introduced himself as the Fire Prevention Coordinator for ODF since 2011, prior to that worked for Douglas Forest Protective Association for about 12 years out of Roseburg in fire prevention and public information. He currently works with the 12 Forest Protection Districts around public and industrial fire prevention interpreting what the law is and helping to regulate activities and helping to determine just what activities should be regulated. He then introduced Kris Babbs, President of Keep Oregon Green (KOG) located at the ODF headquarters in Salem. She took the floor and described KOG as a non-profit with a staff of one, but with the huge charge to promote a healthy landscapes, safety in unity of the shared responsibility to prevent human-caused wildfires. KOG does that through outreach, education, communication of prevention tools. And as a result of the Smokey Bear license plates available also have some funding now that we can provide to local districts to accomplish that goal. She wanted to mention that she is also a forestland owner and has a personal stake every fire season about what's going to happen to Oregon's forests. First prevent wildfires from starting in the first place and second mitigating dangers to our homes and property by creating defensible space, by pruning up the trees, by cleaning up the brush, etc. Prevention is obviously the cheapest and easiest first line of defense. Tom and Kris crafted this presentation today to address the questions the members had at the last meeting about a breakdown of the costs of wildfire, and the difference between 'intentional' and 'unintentional'. Why human-caused wildfires outnumber lightning and what is being done to reduce those ignitions. In Oregon on average, human-caused

ignitions start about 70% of the State's wildfires. Those most typically happen when people are out and about or are working around their homes or on the job. Obviously that percentage changes any given year depending on whether we are having a wet year or a dry year. The direct and indirect causes fall into multiple categories. So, why are so many more human-caused wildfires than lightning-caused? Human-caused fires burn fewer acres compared to lightning because human-caused fires burn in places where response time is faster and access is easier for suppression. But she noted that doesn't mean they don't have the potential to become big at any moment. They understand the peak time for lightning fires is typically July and August, and in that respect lightning is a known factor and firefighters identify where there are ignitions with a tool called 'Lightning Tracker' so the Department to pre-position their resources around the State to strike and respond to them. Human-caused ignitions can happen any time of year. We know that firefighters are going to be out there chasing multiple lightning strikes during fire season and it's imperative that we work with the public and allow firefighters to focus on those lightning fires and not add to their burden by being careless adding 'our' fires to their workload.

Kris turned the floor over to Tom Fields to report the categories and causes of human ignition. He began by reiterating that lightning fires are a big undertaking and the last thing they need is for people to be careless and pull crews to additional fires. Categorically, debris-burning, recreation (like campfires) and equipment use are the top three human-causes of wildfire. Equipment use like mowing dry grass, power lines, equipment use on logging operations and the "other causes" things you think about all the time, smoking, fires caused by juveniles, etc. "Miscellaneous" is a catch-all for causes not categorized like railroad ignitions. Causes are further broken down into Direct and Indirect. Direct being behavioral. This is where KOG has been developing campaigns and messaging to change dangerous behaviors. All these categories from debris-burning to fireworks could be mitigated if we could change the way people think before they strike the match or mow that dry grass, then we win. Indirect, are things that still can be prevented but are somewhat out of our control, like power line starts as an example. Many things are not necessarily behavioral but are correctable through education and messaging. A burning building would be indirect but there are still 20 plus fires a year that result from a building fire spreading to the wildlands. They work with the State Fire Marshall partners to prevent structure fires. Other examples are spontaneous combustion of bark piles or compost, magnification of heat through glass or trash. Oregon, Our Oregon, is one of Kris' campaigns. There are actually 120 plus specific human-caused fire ignitions that are analyzed in our statistical database, Fires Program to see where we need to focus our attention. The Fires program helps them investigate every fire to make sure that we not only can prevent it the next time but we can find out who is responsible. Surprisingly as far as intentional causes, arson is seldom the case. Arson is a criminal act and defined by intent. Anything that wasn't done with intent to damage, injure, profit from or cover-up isn't necessarily arson.

Kris picked up the discussion noting that the unintentional fire starts are where KOG comes in. Basically those are considered accidental fires and defined as negligence. If a landowner starts a fire and a forest officer hasn't been out to their address before, education is stressed as the first tool to use in the toolbox. But if that forest officer has to go out there again, then it moves up to a Citation level. They do try to use education as the first line of response. Fields noted that with COVID there are a greater number of people recreating outdoors and not intending harm but having a campfire out in the forests during fire season is ignoring the rules and restrictions in place, which is illegal. Babbs reported that typically year after year SW Oregon is a high priority for KOG educational efforts. Debris-burning is the highest behavioral cause of ignitions in the Southwest portions of the State. KOG fights fire with publicity using traditional and non-traditional media, there is a KOG website and scripted resources and graphics for local efforts. Sale of merchandise to increase awareness. She noted those "Keep Oregon Green/Prevent Wildfires" signs that are scattered all around the State particularly as you leave urban areas and head into the forest. She offered that the biggest and most effective way of reaching our public is through local engagement. The ability to send ODF staff or local fire staff to attend community events, when offered and directly engage with the public. They are looking for any way to reach out to new folks and establish new relationships to get the word out. They develop fire prevention campaigns for specific demographics. Oregon, My Oregon campaign seeks to invoke a sense of public pride to protect the State, not burn it down with reckless behavior. They also message out Oregon's Complete and Coordinated Wildfire Protection System and in addition that KOG has a complete and coordinated Wildfire *Prevention* system working hand-in-hand with our State and Federal partners. Local folks like the American Red Cross, and business partners like the Portland Timbers. Tom sent out an email blast on August 31st prior to those fires saying hey folks we got Labor Day coming up and we know we have two solid weeks of triple digit temps coming up with that popular recreation weekend there, do what you can to help us get the word out. They did. It was

fantastic. They regularly use social media platforms, Twitter and Facebook and Instagram. Fields shared that they have a Fire Restrictions webpage that is very popular during fire season where people can click on a map to find out what they can and cannot do during fire season which includes public use restrictions. If there is extreme fire danger declared on the west side, you can't for example mow your grass, or have a campfire, fireworks or use power equipment outside. The Program has a publication, The Hot Sheet that comes out a few times during fire season to our forestland operators about fire prevention. Best practices while working out in the woods. We also have FireWise Community Programs. Developing FireWise communities and educating the public on defensible space. Another tool for the public is the OregonExplorer where individuals can go in and click on where they live and see what their fire risk is and provides tools associated on how to reduce that risk. What we are seeing now with the conditions, the drought, and the climate change risks just get bigger. For any additional questions on fire statistics Fields suggested members contact Teresa Alcock, ODF Fire Analyst.

Babbs added that industry pays very close attention and their activities are tighter and strictly enforced because of the nature of their work. So, as a result of that enforcement and being more tightly controlled in their behaviors, their fire starts are lower. As industry has all the tools and the water readily available as a condition of their restrictions they are able to get to the fire and put it out quicker than the general population. Tom added that industrial forest workers know the risks that the public seems to take for granted. ODF has the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) System based on the current risk levels. The Department tries to work the best they can with the operating community to minimize shutdowns. Astor agreed and emphasized that industry is cognizant of the responsibility and liability. Operators are prepared to attack if a fire occurs and even volunteer their equipment and time generously in suppression activities on other lands. Fields clarified that there is liability for negligence regardless of intention. If the forest worker does everything in their power to follow the rules and they have a fire, they are still on the hook for up to \$300,000 dollars of extra suppression costs because of the inherent risk that comes along with working in the forest. Astor added that operators frequently go beyond the IFPL restrictions and she had seen instances where the landowner contract requires the operator to actually take humidity readings at the landings multiple times per day which is not an ODF requirement. They are definitely out there working together with the landowners to accept that responsibility. Regarding power line ignitions, Fields shared that the PUC issued a survey to receive input when developing wildfire mitigation plans for the utility companies. Responses included suggestions on shutdown plans from the perspective of forest protection agencies, environmental groups, or even fire districts across the state to help the PUC assist the utility companies to be better prepared and guidance for making those tough decisions on when shut-offs should occur and how that should happen. And one of the things we provided input on was the communication factor, dispatch centers. Creating an appendix of contact information so that when something happens they can have direct communication with the right people. That was one of the lessons learned from the Labor Day fires.

Babbs concluded that the KOG non-profit operates not just with her but also with a Board of Trustees and Executive Committee. She invited committee members/organizations that are interested in getting involved and being on the Board to contact her. She suggested that Wendy Gerlach or Kaola Swanson in particular are voices she could see as representatives. Jim James, a KOG Board member, agreed that it is well worth their time.

7. Operator of the Year

Wagenblast thanked the members for allowing time on the agenda to present the Operator of the Year Program Operators for 2020. He went through an explanation of the Operator of the Year Recognition program. Sharing that the Recognition Program goals are to recognize operators who consistently and voluntarily perform above the Oregon Forest Practices Act requirements and to improve public understanding of the Forest Practices Act (FPA) as derived from the Oregon Revised Statute ORS 527.630 and the Forestry Program for Oregon under Goal B. The Recognition program is part of the Department's efforts to honor industry's efforts at exceeding the natural resource protection requirements. They recognize excellent performance in three different levels of recognition with three Operators of the Year, (one for each Area) Eastern, Northwest and Southwest. The Board typically relies on the Regional Forest Practices Committees with the assistance from the Private Forests Division staff and Stewardship Foresters at the local level to review the Operator of the Year nominations that are submitted. Then the RFPCs are actually the ones that select the winner for their Area. The second level of recognition are Merit Awards recognizing additional nominated operators that were not selected OOOY. The third level of recognition is a Letter of Commendation that is provided at the local level during other public

recognition opportunities as they can. Operators may be nominated by anybody. And typically Stewardship Foresters are the ones that do the nominations. But nominations can also come in from logging association members, industry members, landowners, community members, basically anybody who is out there. This year we had 10 nominations and a number of those were by the landowners themselves. The OOO nominees are selected based on 5 criteria: Consistency; Difficulty; Innovation & Extra Effort; Results; and Financial Risk. RFPC members select the winning nomination by either touring the site or reviewing videos that capture the operation or both. They also review the nomination applications that are submitted and then deliberate among themselves to select the OOO and also determine Merit Award winners in each Area. This year, due to COVID we did not do any tours but were able to produce videos to show them virtually. The Department formally recognizes the Operator of the Year winners at the January BOF meeting; the Association of Oregon Loggers January Meeting; the Oregon Logging Conference; public press releases and on social media platforms.

Wagenblast began announcing the winners beginning with the 2020 Merit Awards. From SW Oregon, Weber Logging and Construction of Roseburg and Rocky Wardell, of Rogue River. NW Area Merit Awards went to Greg Johnson of Blogett; JM Browning of Astoria; Greenup Enterprises of Estacada and Wayne Stone Logging, Mapleton. Next he reported who were awarded as Operators of the Year.

- Eastern Oregon Region OOO, Darrell Jacobs Trucking of Klamath Falls was awarded for working with multiple landowners on a landscape forest health fuels reduction project down in the Copperfield Draw area of Klamath Falls. While improving forest health, protecting sensitive and riparian areas; reducing smoke emissions through biomass utilization; enhancement of mule deer habitat through forage manipulation all within the complexity of providing a service to multiple small landowners, challenging to conduct on that scale. The Award also recognized Darrell Jacobs Trucking for decades of consistently applying the best management practices to safeguard forest resources. The nomination focused on the Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project approximately 185,000 acres, including private and Forest Service land around the Chiloquin area. The main goal was landscape treatments on 100,000 acres for fuels reduction, forest health, wildlife, and focusing on water, and social revenue.
- SW Oregon's winner was D & H Logging of Coos Bay. D & H earned their award for their diligent planning and harvesting. D & H Logging protected a number of resources including stream buffers, fish habitat, soils, Marbled Murrelet, Northern Spotted Owl, Osprey sites, wetlands and fresh water emergent wetlands while providing for public safety utilizing flaggers to regulate daily traffic through the operation area. They were also recognized for a history of consistently applying BMPs to safeguard forest resources even under the most challenging of circumstances. Quoting from the video, "With the absolute control that D & H has you can have confidence that they are doing what they say they are going to do. All the time we were here we didn't have one complaint from anybody."
- The NW Region winner was C & C Logging of Kelso, Washington. C & C Logging earned their award for Oregon operations and their continuing innovations developing and bringing new technology to the logging industry. Those innovations also result in safer practices that are more efficient and productive all while working to protect forest resources. The Award recognized C & C Logging for their decades of consistently applying the best management practices to safeguard forest resources all while achieving an exemplary degree of worker safety and forest protection.

Wagenblast concluded by announcing that the 2021 nominations are actually open now and won't close until June 2021. He hoped the members consider making a nomination. The Public Affairs Program will be filming and preparing the materials during the summer for the RFPCs to make their selections in October. The formal presentation will be at the Board of Forestry January meeting in 2022. He especially thanked and recognized Jim Gersbach's contributions from the Public Affairs shop preparing the videos and interviews.

8. Post-Fire Recovery Updates

a. Landowner Assistance/Incentives

Nate Agalzoff, the Incentives Field Support Coordinator out of the Salem office, Private Forests Program partners with Ryan Gordon on Landowner Assistance Programs. First, he provided an update on the utilization of Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) which provides for technical assistance in the implementation of restoration projects, plan development and site assessments. It's a Farm Service Agency (FSA) Program they have considered their 'go-to' for a number of years now. A suite of different practices are eligible, everything from debris clearing to all the work along the way to establishing a free-to-grow condition. That sign-up is active now. Typically it would be a 60-day sign-up set to expire the end of this year but the signups were given an additional 30 day extension. Although from the field support standpoint, it's not a new program to work with, it is new to a lot of the people using it. Partner support, namely OSWA and OSU Extension have been super-involved helping ODF with outreach and coordination. The local NRCS offices have been pretty helpful as well to trying to bridge some of our capacity needs in getting folks in the door. We utilize that as a 75% cost-share and recognize that it is our best avenue for securing a large amount of funding for landowner assistance.

Another item he wanted to bring to the group was that the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) started soliciting comments for re-defining non-industrial private forestlands. He encouraged members to provide input prior to January 19th on behalf of their respective organizations. He then clarified that the request for comment on that definition is an effort at the national scale trying to tease out differences in corporate TIMOs (Timber Investment Management Organizations) versus family forestlands. First of all an acreage cap (up to 45,000 acres) with a second criteria around wood processing functions all looking to provide some consistency nationally while providing some flexibility for the States. Flexibility for some of the unique conditions and regulatory framework that is going to further refine either eligibility within that State or (the direction he would like to take it) how we might prioritize our efforts. For reference, ODF reports out on the OFRI statistics for key protection measures reporting them as small or large ownerships with an acreage threshold of 5000 acres. And for the most part that aligns with the acreage limitation for the Forest Stewardship Program and is the one that we use for cost-sharing the development of forest management plans. Within that and then also recognizing that there are some terms used in our ORS and rules, mostly in the FPA and also the Woodland Management Act that might provide some additional recognition for those smaller ownerships, family forestlands where access to resources has been a priority for planning. But also a definition that will provide some additional alignment with the definitions that FSA has traditionally used. James offered that OSWA has already provided comment and their recommendation is that we follow Oregon law which is that the non-industrial landowner is a landowner that has 5000 acres or less. Nate agreed and added that their go-to for small forestlands is between 10 and 5000 acres.

Ahrens asked for clarification on EFRP eligibility for these fires. Agalzoff replied that it's a dozen or so of the largest incidents but it is based more upon the period of time. He suggested perhaps contacting FSA or the stewardship forester for the process to get qualified. For billing, reimbursement and tracking they pre-identified the incidents in question. Gordon offered that the threshold is if the fire can be linked to that extraordinary weather event that occurred. He added that NRCS is likely to also have an additional regular EQIP offering later this spring that would focus on fire restoration as well. So they had an emergency EQIP sign-up that ended on December 31st. And they are also actively exploring additional potential funding opportunities for assistance. Including an RCPP or something similar that could essentially add more NRCS funding. He shared that they had a small group meeting the day before to explore a potential RCPP opportunity or others for post-fire restoration activities for non-industrial private landowners and they will be meeting with the Partnership for Forestry Education soon. Those meetings are good opportunities to catch up with all the partners working in that space right now and get a sense for who's doing what, where the weak points are and help us focus our thinking around where we can bring more resources to bear. During discussions he considered that with all the funding efforts for suppression and mitigation, the one thing missing from that regular dialog and vernacular about that is the post-fire restoration component. It isn't often talked about in a formalized way as being a part of that full cycle. The Labor Day fires really underscored the importance of thinking about restoration in a more formal, organized way recognizing that the prevention, mitigation and suppression are all super-important obviously but nevertheless fire is going to burn and we are going to be in a post-fire restoration scenario inevitably every year.

b. Seed/Seedling Availability

Gordon continued reporting on the Seed/Seedling topic and the sub-group work with Glenn and Jim James and others. They have been able to get access to about 450,000 seedlings or so over the next couple of years by leveraging a small amount of funding that ODF had available. Obviously, a small drop in the bucket in comparison to the need but a really

great start. He has been working in the background trying to get all the paperwork in order to push those orders through and get the proper agreements in place. So with that initial order set, they are starting to pivot the conversation towards logistics as to how we are going to receive and distribute those seedlings. He reported that Glenn has been working on sending out a survey that they are using to create a database of landowners looking for seedlings so that we can make those connections. But that will lead to another challenge figuring out how we are going to prioritize those folks needs understanding the limited supply right now. They've had a short term strategy of trying to get what they can with an eye to a longer term strategy trying to build up a more robust organizational structure to a more formally handle that entire process. Continuing to be forward-looking in terms of finding the capacity to grow seedlings. He reported that there are potentially some initiatives moving forward in the Legislature that try to address nursery capacity in the State and even nationally. USFS Region 6 has been engaging in some of that as well.

Barnes brought up his personal efforts to engage local SW nurseries and suggested that it would be helpful to have resources that could inform nurseries on the basics of forest tree seedlings production and economics. Gordon suggested contacting the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) to help answer some of the questions about the business model.

c. ETART

Gordon reported that the Federal team wrapped their work and departed towards the end of December providing final reports for the four primary fires and then the supplemental reports for a few of the other fires and also a statewide water quality report that was completed at DEQ. All of that information should be officially released tomorrow during a virtual media event that OEM (Office of Emergency Management) has planned in coordination with the State Recovery Function 7, the Cultural and Natural Resources Recovery Taskforce. And all of those reports will be posted in their final form on the Wildfire Recovery Website, at www.wildlife.oregon.gov so for the most part the actual work of producing those reports has wrapped. There is now an assessment sub-group that is working under the SRF 7 collectively looking through those reports on some of the identified issues and actions to address some of those key concerns that will inform prioritizing projects across the landscape. They are hoping to produce that soon so that the Recovery Task Force can take that list and figure out how we might match potential funding opportunities with those needs.

9. Partner Updates/Adjourn

Ahrens wanted to add to the fire prevention discussion pointing out that this is a very teachable moment for heightening people's awareness especially on the west side and the Willamette Valley regarding fire prevention. OSU Fire Program, ODF and KOG we are all wanting to use this opportunity to get more people paying attention to both fire prevention and fire preparedness, fuels reduction and mitigation and with that E-Board infusion of funding on the prevention side, stressing the point that the first thing to do is stop the ignitions. He reiterated that one of the things Kris Babbs mentioned is the most effective way to engage people is at the community level, through word of mouth. Getting people paying more attention during fire season and actions that invite fires. Behaving dangerously. He expressed some concern about how short term the funding is as this is something where the State needs a more sustained community engagement to build on. Sustaining that beyond the emergency response. Perhaps, peer pressure, having everyone be more vigilant watching out who's starting fires and maybe apply more pressure on their neighbors who are behaving in risky ways like operating power equipment, burning debris piles when they shouldn't, that kind of thing. Figuring out an effective way to do more of these things at the community level.

Barnes shared that he took on getting FireWise designation for his neighborhood. DFPA was helpful and did cutting and thinning around dwellings in that effort. Ahrens was hopeful for the difference they can make rather than thinking those efforts are just a drop in the bucket of an apathetic public.

Barnes adjourned the meeting at 11:51.