

Eagle Creek Fire Recovery Council

November 8, 2017

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Cascade Locks City Hall
140 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR 97014**

Dial-in option: 888-251-2909

Access code: 3494891

MINUTES

Council members/delegates present:

Representative Mark Johnson - Chair, Senator Chuck Thomsen – Vice Chair, Karen Joplin Andrea Klaas - Port of The Dalles (Representing Wasco County), Rebecca Stavenjord - Chief of Staff to Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann, Chris Voss – emergency services at Multnomah County, Matt English – Hood River County Sheriff, Jess Groves - Cascade Locks Community Representative, Caroline Parks - Thunder Island Brewing, Jill Buck - Multnomah Falls Lodge, Amanda Hoey - Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, Krystyna Wolniakowski - Columbia River Gorge Commission, Lynn Burditt - US Forest Service, MG Deveraux - Oregon State Parks, Carolyn Meece - Business Oregon, Bryan Guiney - Business Oregon, Teresa O’Neill - Travel Oregon and Rian Windsheimer - ODOT

Staff present: Raihana Ansary and Nate Stice, Regional Solutions

Economic impact and needs:

Many businesses report a disrupted tourist season for which they rely heavily on and a loss of revenue. Some businesses like Multnomah Falls Lodge were forced to let go seasonal and temporary staff. More economic data and numbers will become available in the first quarter of next year.

Recovery Council approved OIB letter to congressional delegation.

The letter will request for \$2 million in economic development grants for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in both Oregon and Washington combined. The money would provide businesses with low-cost loans to help address lost revenue and cover unexpected expenses that arose from the fire.

Public safety and transportation update:

Sheriff Matt English spoke to the needs of specialized training and safety equipment for emergency responders and aerial imaging to help inform future emergency response needs in the area. Aerial imaging would help inform the changed topography and trail conditions as a result of the fire.

Chris Voss addressed the need for funds to aid in the relocation of homes that are vulnerable to landslides in the area.

Rian Windsheimer offered an update on assets damaged in the fire and transportation impacts. The damage to 1-84 and the historic highway was significant. ODOT is working to mitigate future hazards but anticipates additional risk over the winter and into the spring.

Natural Resource impact and needs:

Lynn Burditt updated the group on the work of the United States Forest Service (USFS). There are three phases of recovery. The Forest Service is engaged in the first phase or Burned Area Emergency Response. During this initial phase, the goal is to mitigate further damage. Recovery will be long term. For the time being it is critical to keep people out of the impacted areas. Many of the trails including Angels Rest and Eagle Creek will remain closed for the foreseeable future. The USFS will reassess the impact of the fire and hazards to trails and bridges after the winter and spring when more will be known.

MG Deveraux offered an update on the status of Oregon State Park properties. There was minimal damage to their properties. The biggest impact was to the historic highway, and OPRD has kept several sites closed to keep people out of impacted areas.

The USFS, ODOT and OPRD continue to coordinate weekly to understand existing conditions and align actions to mitigate hazards.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:07PM.