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Wildfire Programs Advisory Council Agenda November 5, 2021

Allen Berreth

Vice-President with Pacific Power and has significant experience in wildfire mitigation working in both OR and CA. He brings an awareness of what utilities and other agencies are doing to mitigate wildfire risk and how all parties can work together towards common goals.

Susan Jane Brown

Wildland Program Director and staff attorney with western environmental law center and is engaged heavily in collaborative forest restoration efforts.

Nick Browne

Clackamas fire chief and is representing the Fire Chiefs' Association on this council. He is hoping that the result of this work will make Oregonians safer in this complex wildfire environment.

Chase Browning

Battalion chief of Medford Fire Department and represents the Fire Marshals on this council. He shared that half the losses from the Alameda fire were in his district and that is a call to action. He has fire code and fire protection experience and serves as the Vice-chair of the National WUI interpretation committee

Bradley Clark

Community Development Director for Grants Pass. He has years of experience in fire prone areas and understands the relation between fire and the built environment.

Tamarah Cline

Has been a Nurse for 20 years, is a resident of Umatilla and has firsthand experience with the health impacts of wildfire. She is hoping that we can reduce hospitalizations from co-morbidities post-fire.

Karna Gustafson

Lawyer for Central Oregon builders and is representing Oregon Homebuilders on this council. He has experience working on building codes R327, is a member on the Deschutes County Wildfire Committee and has worked with developers and HOAs.

Dave Hunnicutt

President of the Oregon Property Owners Assoc. He has worked on SB 762 and fire policy prior to SB 762. He will be representing rural residents on the council and has firsthand experience with evacuations from the 2020 wildfires.

Jim McCauley

Legislative Director for the League of Oregon Cities and representing local governments on the council. He is a forester by background and is looking for policy advancements to reduce fire risk across the landscape with a focus on the WUI

Mary Kyle McCurdy

Attorney and legislative director with 1000 Friends of Oregon with land use and environmental law background. She worked on SB 762 and hopes the council can address the many different impacts of fire and smoke in particular the impact on underrepresented communities.

Advance Copy
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John O’Keeffe

Rancher in Lake County. Past president of the Oregon Cattleman’s Association, president of Warner Valley Rangeland Fire Protection Association and is representing the needs of the sagebrush biome and forest health on this council.

Amelia Porterfield

Senior policy analyst with Nature Conservancy in Oregon. She has been participating in wildfire discussions and with the development of SB 762 specifically.

Steve Rondeau

Klamath Tribes Natural Resources and brings tribal perspective with a focus on partnerships. The Bootleg Fire burned a quarter of the reservation land but efforts to protect specific areas were successful. This council is an opportunity to come together to increase landscape resiliency.

Joshua Shaklee

Planning director for Douglas County who brings the perspective of the Association of Oregon Counties Planning Directors Group to the council.

Alessandra de la Torre

Organizer in Rogue Valley, working with Rogue Climate and hopes the council can keep agencies accountable and keep the policy equitable now and in the future.

Carol Whipple

Resident of Douglas County who owns a working forest and ranch. She has spent a lifetime of considering fire risk in the community. Hoping the council can set us up for success in this decade in the entire state of Oregon, not just certain communities.

Ian Yocum

Fire service professional since 1989 and is currently a battalion chief with Tualatin Valley Fire Rescue. He has worked as an incident commander and as a structural liaison with forestry Incident Management Teams. He worked on the Governor’s Wildfire Committee and wants to keep our communities safe.

1000	Senate Bill 762 - Orientation	<u>Grafe – Agencies</u> - Review SB 762 Summary
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Director Grafe introduced SB 762 and gave a brief overview before handing off to the implementing agencies for their own summary and update.

Public Utilities Commission – Michael Grant, Executive Director introduced sections 1-6:

- Promote collaboration and cooperation among utility providers.
- Oregon Wildfire Electrical Collaborative to develop and share information on best practices for wildfires including protection and mitigation. The Oregon Wildfire Electrical Collaborative has met four times discussing many aspects of wildfire mitigation and protection.
- Private utilities are required to submit wildfire protection plans to the commission for approval and the commission is hiring an independent evaluator to help evaluate those plans.

Advance Copy
Wildfire Programs Advisory Council Agenda November 5, 2021

Oregon Department of Forestry – Nancy Hirsch, Acting State Forester introduced sections 7, 31-34:

- Establish in rule: the definition of the wildland urban interface (WUI), define the different risk classifications.
- With Oregon State University (OSU), will develop wildfire risk mapping for the state.
- The WUI definition has been finalized within the 100-day deadline.
- Continuing to work with the Rules Advisory Committees (RAC) to further develop rules surrounding the WUI.

State Fire Marshall – Marina Ruiz-Temple, Oregon State Fire Marshal introduced sections 8-10:

- Community Risk reduction and defensible space.
- Have an annual report responsibility that starts in January.
- We'll establish a defensible space code and make sure that it is adapted to the needs of Oregon and Oregonians, deadline for that is 12-31-22.
- The bill prescribes development and enforcement, but it should also include an outreach component to make sure people know what is required of them.

Department of Land Conservation and Development – Kirstin Greene, Deputy Director introduced section 11:

- Will be incorporating the mapping from Forestry and OSU into the State's Land Use Planning.
- Has been participating in the Forestry RACs.
- We are putting together a stakeholder group on wildfires and adding a wildfire planner to staff.
- Provide staffing capacity to the wildfire programs council.

Department of Consumer and Business Services – Andrew Stolfi, Director introduced section 12:

Alana Cox – Building Codes Division Administrator discussed.

- Creating an interactive tool based on the ODF/OSU risk mapping. Working with OSU to have them develop the tool.
- Adopting in code, fire hardening standards for homes in the high and extreme risk categories: We have code R327 in place for local adoption, will need to modify some to account for retrofits and accessory structures.
- We also staff the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council.
- Not in SB 762, but we are also standing up a grant program to incentivize fire hardening improvements for people rebuilding.

Department of Environmental Quality – Richard Whitman, Director introduced section 13:

- Community response smoke mitigation plans.
- DEQ is a pass-through for several funding sources for various programs.
- Working with local communities and tribal nations on planning and wildfire and smoke mitigation.
- Has issued request of proposals (RFPs) on community response plan development and on smoke reduction from prescribed burns.
- Putting in place additional monitors for smoke impact and air quality and hiring a new forecaster.

Advance Copy
Wildfire Programs Advisory Council Agenda November 5, 2021

Department of Human Services – Ed Flick, Emergency Response introduced section 14:

- Is establishing and implementing a local government clean air shelter grant program.
- Cooperating with local governments, tribes, DEQ and others to gather information on smoke impact.
- Working to ensure that the program is equitable and accessible.

Oregon Health Authority – Andre Ourso, Center for Health Protection introduced section 15:

- Implementing a grant program for residential air filtration.
- Target areas with elevated smoke risk, individuals that are high risk and/or low income.
- Planning to distribute prior to the 2022 fire season.
- Have hired a wildfire programs coordinator.

Office of Emergency Management – Andrew Phelps, Director introduced sections 16-17:

- Update the State Emergency Operations Plan for Wildfire Emergencies and make sure that the things that we are learning are being adapted into our planning and collaborating with stakeholders and other agencies.
- Working across jurisdictions and stakeholders to ensure that plans for wildfire preparedness are aligned.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) - Julia Steinberger, Systems Alignment Manager
Office of Workforce Investments introduced sections 21-23:

- Will create the Oregon Conservation Corps.
- Overseen by the governor’s committee, work will take place in the wildland urban interface on projects selected by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal
- Doug Denning provided rulemaking updates: rules are being drafted and public hears will be held, it is on the agenda for the next HECC meeting.

Nancy Hirsch, Acting State Forester introduced sections 18-20, 24-30:

- A work group is providing input on an RFP for the Forest and Rangeland Resilience Program.
- Implementing a Small Woodland Grant Program.
- Shared a report by the Board of Forestry on the work with the prescribed fire council.
- Mike Shaw, Interim Chief of Fire Protection introduced: Investing in additional (15-20) new monitoring cameras, have started purchasing the cameras and building out the infrastructure to implement them.

Marian Ruiz Temple, Oregon State Fire Marshal discussed section 30:

- Working on the modernization and improvement of Oregon’s Fire Mutual Aid System.

Wildfire Programs Director Doug Grafe introduced section 35-36:

- Director reports out every two months, those reports will require the advice and counsel of this group.
- The Wildfire Programs Advisory Council itself reports out annually in October.

Advance Copy
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1100	Logistics – Standing up the Council	<u>Grafe – Council Members</u> - Website and Documentation - Term Appointments - Annual Meeting Schedule - Election of Chair / Vice-Chair
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Director Grafe noted several topics to standing up the council:

- There will be a website for the council, it is currently under construction. It will be public facing as well as available to the council.
- The council appointments are for either three or four years.
- We will poll the council to determine the quarterly meeting schedule targeting the first or second Friday in each quarter from 9 am to 4 pm.
- The chair and vice-chair will work with the staffing agencies to develop the meeting agendas.
- Election of chair and vice chair is annual. Looking for someone that can work with many different perspectives and foster a collaborative environment that welcomes differing views.

Director Grafe noted that during introductions, Mark Bennett and Chase Browning were the only members who expressed interest in serving as chair and vice-chair respectively. He asked if there were any other members interested – no other members announced an interest at this time. Council member John O’Keefe nominated Mark Bennett as chairperson and Chase Browning as vice-chairperson. Director Grafe facilitated a roll call and all council members voted in favor of this nomination.

1150	Wrap Up	<u>Chai & Vice-chair</u>
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Chair Bennet remarks: We have a lot of work ahead of us. It is important that we hear all the voices at the table and collaborate and potentially compromise during the council’s work. Encourages everyone to be comfortable reaching out directly if need be.

Vice-chair Browning remarks: We have a great group assembled with a tough job ahead of us. We are able to help the whole state of Oregon. We must be willing to engage in tough conversations to achieve that goal.
