



Wildfire Programs Advisory Council – Meeting

Friday April 14, 2023

The complete Wildfire Programs Advisory Council can be viewed at the following website and serves as the official public meeting record: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/Pages/wildfire-programs-council.aspx>

Welcome

Chair Bennett

Chair Bennett welcomed the council to its April meeting. He finalized the agenda, reviewed meeting etiquette, and asked the council to approve the summary of the council's March meeting. Vice-chair Browning took the roll.

Public Comment

All

There was no public comment for the meeting, but the chair did reiterate that anyone that wishes to provide comment to the council may do so by emailing Halley.Parker@oregon.gov a copy of any written comments if any as well as the name of the commenter and any organizational affiliation.

Wildfire Programs Director – Update

Doug Grafe

Wildfire programs director Doug Grafe provided an update to the council on state wide wildfire programs that included an update on the two council vacancies, a review of the presentation that Director Grafe gave to various legislative committees, as well as the status on funding for wildfire programs (presentation slides: [link](#), and [link](#)).

The State Fire Marshal Marian Ruiz-Temple spoke about the financial needs of the Department of State Fire Marshal moving forward.

Director Grafe and several members of the council that participate on the Federal Wildfire Council spoke on that council's work and the how it can relate and impact the work of the state's Wildfire Programs Advisory Council.

Wildfire Programs Advisory Council – Discussion

All

The Chair started the discussion and asked the council whether it should further alert the Joint Committee on Ways and Means about the council's concern about any reduction in funding to mutual aid and community risk reduction. The council was in agreement and a letter to the committee will be drafted.

The Department of Forestry gave a presentation to the council that outlined the potential steps towards public engagement on the next draft of the wildfire hazard map. Steps could include additional meetings with impacted counties, an additional rulemaking advisory committee, and additional notification letters for impacted property owners.

The council discussed the legislative response to the council's recommendation that the five hazard zones be consolidated into three hazard zones. Vice chair Browning read a statement from the fire professionals on the council supporting leaving the number of hazard zones at four because it aligns model code. The council discussed the benefits and drawbacks of three hazard zones versus four hazard zones. The council ultimately declined to further request the legislature use three hazard zones.

Wrap Up

Chair Bennett

The Chair outlined the next steps for the council in developing the annual report. The chair thanked staff and adjourned the meeting.