

**West Region Wildfire Council
Meeting Minutes
11/13/14**

Meeting Attendance

	Last Name	First	Affiliation
1	Angell	Don	Montrose County
2	Bangert	Dave	TMV
3	Barth	Chris	BLM
4	Beckhardt	Dave	Log Hill Fire
5	Bennett	John	Telluride Fire
6	Brack	Ben	WRWC
7	Chavez	Thad	USFS
8	Davis	Michael	BLM
9	Dinsmore	Jennifer	San Miguel County
10	Ellis	Steve	DFPC
11	Falk	Lilia	WRWC
12	Fiedler	Rob	Delta County
13	Garreffa	Nick	Arrowhead Fire
14	Gelsomini	Jim	Arrowhead Fire
15	Gomez	Jamie	WRWC
16	Hollomer	Bruce	DHSEM
17	Homstad	Kelly	BLM
18	Isle	Stephen	Arrowhead Fire
19	Jacobs	Karon	Western Group Insurance Inc.
20	Latta	Trevor	OFPD
21	Long	Kamie	CSFS
22	Mattivi	Junior	Ouray County
23	McCarthy	Jim	Log Hill Village HOA
24	McKee	Fred	Delta County
25	Morrill	Scott	Gunnison County
26	Odom	Luke	DFPC
27	Pankratz	Sam	CSFS
28	Petersen	Drew	Colorado OEM
29	Rist	Jodi	CSFS
30	Robinson	Corey	USFS
31	Shaw	Daniel	American Family Insurance
32	Shelby	Austin	CSFS
33	Staehle	Alan	OFPD
34	Stahlnecker	Ken	NPS

Objective/Purpose

The Council gathered to discuss the following:

Introductions

Jamie Gomez facilitated this meeting and initiated a round of introductions.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved without corrections.

Panel Discussion

Local Homeowner's Insurance Agent & Broker Panel Discussion

- Jamie introduced Daniel K. Shaw with American Family Insurance, and Karon Jacobs with Western Group Insurance Inc. Daniel and Karon both have offices in Montrose, CO and write insurance policies for homeowner's throughout the region.
- Shaw provided a brief explanation of his history of working in the homeowner's insurance industry and emphasized how there have been many changes in the state of Colorado and within his service area over recent years. He explained that his business is down approximately 45% this year due, at least in part, to internal changes regarding the types of risk that American Family Insurance is no longer willing to have as a part of their book of business. Many of these risks are associated with wildfire hazards. Dan handed out a few copies of some information from the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association (RMIIA). This same information can be viewed by going to: http://www.rmiia.org/catastrophes_and_statistics/Wildfire.asp
- Jamie went on to explain that a list of questions had been generated, prior to the meeting, that were shared with the guest speakers and were printed on the back of the meeting's agenda. These questions would serve as a guide for this discussion, though it was assumed that additional and different questions might arise.

Q: How do the insurance providers that you represent assess wildfire risk for their homeowners?

A: Karon explained that she is a broker and works with approximately 12 different insurance providers. Karon explained that these insurance providers utilize a variety of analytical tools to determine the risk of insuring (or continuing coverage) a particular property. She went to describe that a big part of this process involves the use of a wildfire hazard scoring system, provided by a third party company called Core Logic. Core Logic has contracted with a very large number of insurance providers to provide a variety of risk assessment data, including data related to wildfire hazards. For each home that Karon is looking to write a policy or to continue a policy, Karon looks at the Core Logic wildfire determination score which can range anywhere between 1-100. Scores that are between 1-51 receive little scrutiny while scores between 51-80 receive additional scrutiny and scores of 81-100 are considered high risk and may not be insured at all. Karon went on to explain that Core Logic includes an annual report, available on their website (<http://www.corelogic.com/>), which outlines the company's methods.

A: Dan explained that each insurance company is different in how they make underwriting decisions and determinations. American Family also uses Core Logic data, but he has a bit more ability to influence underwriting decisions based on his discretion. As an example, Dan explained how a home was given a high wildfire hazard score due to the fact that it was near some planted

trees. With the exception of these planted trees, the property was surrounded on all sides by agriculture lands. Dan was able to take photos and provide a detailed description in order to overcome the wildfire hazard rating. This did take a considerable amount of work, on his part.

Q: Can you explain how Core Logic comes up with a wildfire hazard score for a particular property?

A: Karon explained that the exact manner and method that they use to develop their scores is proprietary and that even she does not have access to that information. She went on to explain that Core Logic utilizes a variety of information sources including satellite imagery, geographic information systems (GIS), building materials, defensible space, ISO rating and other data to develop their 1-100 score.

A: Dan went on to explain that in addition to using Core Logic, American Family utilizes data from field adjusters which visit properties. American Family utilizes Millenium Information Services, Inc. (<http://www.millinfo.com/>).

Q: How does a homeowner/policyholder get a report regarding their wildfire hazards?

A: Karon explained that her policyholders do not receive reports directly from Core Logic. Karon does, however, provide information to prospective and current policyholders regarding measures that they can take to reduce their wildfire risk.

A: Dan explained that he stays in constant contact with his policyholders and will provide each homeowner with a report outlining the things that they need to do to reduce their wildfire risk.

Q: In Colorado, is the homeowner's insurance industry subject to any meaningful government oversight or regulatory authority with regards to wildfire?

A: Dan explained that the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) has a Division of Insurance. The Commissioner oversees insurance regulation for the state and each insurance provider must adhere to these regulations. One of the biggest aspects of the Commission, with respect to homeowners insurance, is to oversee rate changes.

Q: Do you work with any private wildfire response companies and what kind of agreements do they have in place with local FPD's?

A: Karon explained that the only company that she works with that provides wildfire response services is Chubb. Karon wasn't aware of the exact agreements that Chubb has with local FPD's or other wildfire responders. Some additional discussion ensued regarding the role of private response companies in wildfire incidents.

Additional Discussion:

- Dan Shaw noted that he would like to see the WRWC put together a letter, formally inviting the American Family Insurance Colorado State Director to a future WRWC meeting.
- John Bennett noted to high number of homeowners, within the Telluride FPD, that have received letters from their insurance provider and/or agent discussing wildfire mitigation and the possibility of non-renewal.

Round Robin Updates

- Dave Bangert explained that there are a couple large fuels mitigation projects that are wrapping up in Mountain Village.
- Chris Barth noted that there will be a Colorado Wildfire Mitigation Conference in 2015 and that the organizers of this event are looking for proposals as well as venue and lodging proposals.
- Steve Ellis discussed future training opportunities including some free classes. He also discussed how two fixed wing airplanes outfitted with cameras are available and are staged at Centennial Airport. These cameras will be able to provide real-time video feeds. Finally, Steve mentioned that the DFPC will have one helicopter staged in Montrose and another helicopter staged in Alamosa or Jefferson County.
- Luke Odom explained that engine crews are either laid off during the winter months or they are doing work with counties and other partners related to training, broadcast burning, pile burning and similar activities. He continued to discuss an opportunity for interested residents or professionals to participate in a training related to pile burning.
- Jim McCarthy discussed recent developments involving the water supply system for the greater Log Hill Mesa area and the potential possibility of community members working to provide the greater community with an alternative source of water and increased storage capacity near Divide Ranch. This increased storage, if fully realized, would be available to fire fighting resources.
- Jennifer Dinsmore explained that the 3-5 meeting time of regular WRWC meetings is a challenge for her because of her long drive, mostly in the dark (this time of year) back. She wanted to know, from the group collectively, if there is any interest in changing meeting times. Lilia and Jamie offered to send out a Doodle Poll to gauge interest in alternative meeting times for meetings in 2015.
- Jim Gelmonsoni explained that he would like to learn more about CoreLogic's specific criteria for determining their proprietary Wildfire Score so that residents in his fire district.
- Luke Odom explained information about the 2.5 day Certified Burner Program and how any private landowner or designee can participate in this program. This program is particularly popular with anyone that might be acting as a burn boss, utility workers and contractors.
- Jamie explained that the next meeting would be on December 11th and that the subject of that meeting is to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:58pm.