

**West Region Wildfire Council  
Meeting Minutes  
5/12/16**

	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	
	Austin	Tom	Log Hill Fire
	Bennett	John	Telluride Fire
	Dinsmore	Jennifer	San Miguel County
	Ellis	Steve	DFPC
	Falk	Lilia	WRWC
	Gomez	Jamie	WRWC
	Lewis	Brandon	BLM
	Morrill	Scott	Gunnison County
	Odom	Luke	DFPC
	Petersen	Drew	Colorado OEM
	Stevens	Brian	BLM
	Tarantino	Mike	WRWC
	Tisdell	Ben	Ouray County

**Introductions**

Lilia Falk facilitated the meeting/ webinar and initiated a round of introductions.

**Feature Presentation**

**“Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire” Molly Mowery, Wildfire Planning International**

Molly Mowery, who works for Wildfire Planning International, called in from British Columbia to discuss Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW).

Ms. Mowery started the presentation by explaining that CPAW exists to create fire adapted communities and to reduce a community’s wildfire risk at multiple scales. She then stated that WUI planning is not a new concept as she referenced the “Fire Protection and Prevention for Summer Homes in Forested Areas” document published in 1935. Mowery then explained that CPAW is the collaboration of hazard/ land use planners, forestry/ fire professionals, WUI planning, and the community itself.

Mowery then went on to explain what CPAW is. She stated that CPAW is an opportunity to protect community assets and leverage them in WUI planning. She explained that CPAW is a reconciliation of potential areas of conflict between fire and other objectives. She noted that CPAW is an in-depth recommendation that relies heavily on science and best practices to achieve WUI risk reduction. She explained that CPAW considers multiple hazards. And finally she made the statement that CPAW engages collaboration between multiple stakeholders to supplement existing policies.

After explaining what CPAW was Mowery listed the current CPAW communities and identified the four phases in the CPAW planning process. These phases include a site visit with risk mapping, a WUI planning audit, a draft of recommendations, and the delivery of these recommendations.

Mowery then started to explain lessons that have been learned along the way trying to implement the CPAW process. She identified a variety of code conflicts and addressed how WUI code differs between communities. She identified that there often is a lack of code enforcement. Mowery explained that wildfire policies are often overshadowed. And she stressed that interjurisdictional cooperation is critical for the CPAW process to succeed.

To end the presentation Ms. Mowery explained the future opportunities that Wildfire Planning International has to implement the CPAW.

You can view the feature presentation [here](#).

## Round Robin

Brian Stevens, BLM, described the mastication programs being conducted in Delores, he announced that he had been visiting with Fire Wise of Colorado, and he announced that the BLM will be conducting an aerial weed spraying program in Gunnison County.

John Bennet, Telluride Fire, described the TOMV grant program and he announced that Telluride Fire will be replacing two Type 1 Engines with Tenders.

Tom Austin, Log Hill Fire, announced that his staff is current with Red Cards and he announced the Colorado Association of Realtors event scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Jamie Gomez, WRWC, discussed wildfire mitigation projects underway in Log Hill Village and stated that contracts for the Community Chipping Program have been awarded.

Drew Peterson, Colorado OEM, announced that the state agency regional MAC meeting was recently completed.

Ben Tisdell, Ouray County, identified that there is a conflict between defensible space and screening, he announced the upcoming planning commission meeting for Ouray County, and he stated that FEMA is incentivizing communities with defensible space code.

Scott Morrill, Gunnison County EM, announced that the Wildfire Academy is in Gunnison on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and that there will be a live demonstration of the Multi Mission Aircraft at the Academy.

Jennifer Dinsmore, San Miguel County, announced the damage assessment database being constructed for a San Miguel Damage Assessment Team.

Mike Tarantino, WRWC, announced that the Blue Mesa Community Risk Assessment has been completed and is waiting on final comments, he announced the date and time of the Blue Mesa Wildfire Information Forum, and he announced that WRWC will have a presence at the SAF Conference in Gunnison on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Luke Odom, DFPC, announced that DFPC is fully staffed, he explained that with the potential of a quiet fire season the opportunity for mechanical treatments exists, he provided more details on the Wildfire Academy, and he stated that DFPC is currently conducting qualification tests.

Lilia Falk, WRWC, announced that the June WRWC meeting will be held in Gunnison, she announced that in 2016 there has already been funding awarded to treat 415 acres, and she announced that the research team has created an individualized wildfire risk website.