

West Region Wildfire Council

Meeting Minutes

7/13/17

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Austin	Tom	Log Hill Fire
Bennett	John	Telluride Fire
Conway	Bill	Arrowhead Fire
Gomez	Jamie	WRWC
Menz	Mary	Ouray Plaindealer
Morrill	Scott	Gunnison County
Hutt	Tanner	CSFS
Tarantino	Mike	WRWC

Introductions

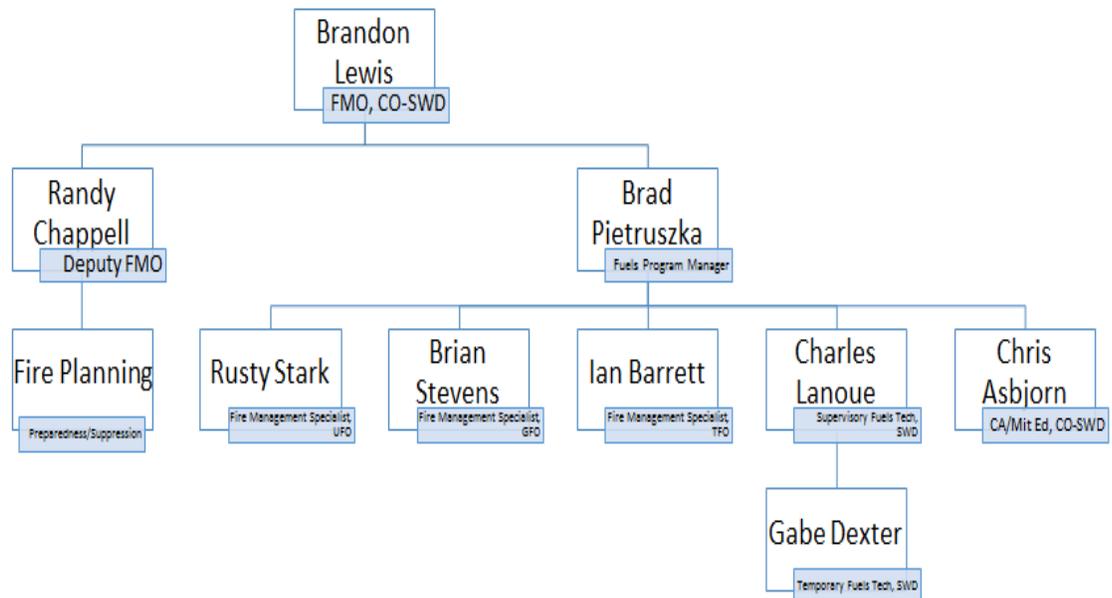
Jamie Gomez facilitated the meeting and initiated a round of introductions. Jamie noted that Lilia Falk is currently on maternity leave and is expected to return to work in October. Jamie then introduced Chris Asbjorn for the meeting's feature presentation.

Presentation: An Overview of the Fuels Management Program on the Colorado Southwest District of the Bureau of Land Management – presented by Chris Asbjorn

Powerpoint Presentation Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B73_1AQOkPxZG5RMXRUNUlvai0wQXVIWWplSUNqNWF0SXNB/view?usp=sharing

Chris introduced himself to the Council by providing the correct pronunciation of his last name ('oz-born'). He also provided a summary of his professional work history, including stints with the BLM in Moab, as well as the US Forest Service and BLM in Arizona. Chris explained his experience in wildland firefighting and his work with a Wildfire Prevention Team.

Chris went on to provide an explanation of the organizational structure of the BLM Colorado SW District Fuels Management Program.



Chris then provided information related to the overall vision and goals of the fuels program for the SW District – including the implementation of the Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes program.

Asbjorn provided a summary of acres treated accomplishments as well as a brief history of BLM treatment work dating back to the 1950's.

After that the presentation focused on the three field offices, including the Uncompahgre Field Office, the Tres Rios Field Office and the Gunnison Field Office. Chris provided accomplishment summaries, project highlights, areas of focus, and future plans for each field office. Additional details and information can be found within the presentation by going to the link provided above.

Round Robin Updates

Jamie Gomez, WRWC Mitigation and Education Coordinator, spoke about upcoming activities he has planned for Ouray County which includes a re-assessment of the wildfire risk in Log Hill Village. Jamie also mentioned the numerous mitigation projects that he is coordinating.

Mike Tarantino, WRWC Mitigation and Education Coordinator, explained his plans to complete a wildfire risk assessment for the Taylor Canyon in Gunnison County, an area that was not included in the counties CWPP. Tarantino also explained the recently completed Wildfire Mitigation Event, which was a collaboration with the Gunnison County Asso

Tom Austin initiated a group discussion regarding fire restrictions. Tom voiced an opinion, shared by several others in the room, that there was a lack of coordination between various entities regarding the onset of fire restrictions. Tom urged the Council and everyone at the table to consider how things operated in 2013 – where all of the jurisdictions worked in unison to coordinate the beginning of phase 1 fire restrictions and to have unified messaging for public outreach and awareness. The group thought that it would be helpful to have Council staff assist the DFPC West Region with coordination between all of the entities by participating in the weekly conference calls and holding a Fire Restrictions meeting in April to kick off the season.

Telluride Fire Chief John Bennet provided background on recent activities in his district and thanked the US Forest Service for assistance with monitoring fuel moisture levels to aid in the fourth of July decision firework decision making process.

Tanner Hutt provided updates and information related to recent wildfire incidents including the Lightner Fire, the Deer Gulch Fire, the Peekaboo 2 Fire and the Peak 2 Fire. He also provided updates regarding the availability of resources and the current location of resources.

Chris Asbjorn explained to the group that the BLM SW District recently went through a National Fuels Review process, which only occurs approximately every 10 years. The WRWC was a part of that review.