



Linn County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
2022 Update Meeting
NOTES



Friday, June 23, 2023
10:00am – 12:00pm
Online via Zoom

Zoom recording: <https://dlcd.box.com/s/5a6bb5toipg5kr5b6v4rs1hna1b8hyt>
Presentation slides (combined): <https://dlcd.box.com/s/l3l3wvswqvthw6b8n3ytrtlq2nhn4jp>

Attendees

Kate Bentz, Assistant Planner, Linn County
Kayla Bordelon, OSU Extension Fire Program, Willamette Valley
Kelcey Young, City Manager, City of Sweet Home
Chris Mushrush, Fire Planner, Northwest Oregon Interagency Fire Management, US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
Fred Patterson, Fire Chief, Idanha/Detroit
Keith Olsen, Linn County GIS
Shawn Fowler, Linn County Planning
Steve Barnett, GIS Manger, Linn County
Steve Wills, Linn County Planning and Building Director
Shane Wooton, Fire Chief, Albany Fire Department, and Linn County Fire Defense Board Chief
Patrick Wingard, DLCD, Southern Willamette Valley Regional Representative
Susan Millhauser, DLCD, Natural Hazards Planner-Wildfire, Project Manager

Welcome/Introductions

- Attendees introduced themselves.
- May 17, 2023 meeting notes were discussed and approved.

Public Engagement Update

Kayla provided an overview of the approach for engagement.

- City Leaders Focus Group (8/2/23, Albany) – chance to engage with city managers or other jurisdiction representatives, focused on cities in the WUI, to get feedback on what fire resilience means in their community and what their priorities are.
 - An overview of the session goals and the framework for the meeting, including identifying top priorities for stakeholders.
 - Steering Committee/subject matter experts availability was discussed.
- Community Organizations/Service Providers (8/24, Scio)
 - Kate shared potential contacts to be invited, including land managers, watershed council, Santiam Community Integration Team, education, family services, etc. The list was shared with the steering committee for their suggestions about who else to add.
 - Additions: private industry - CTC, Giustina, Freres Lumber, Frank Lumber are the major logging / timber companies. Craig at ODF would have additional information.

- Chief Patterson noted the Marion County CWPP, which he helped to develop in early 2000s, currently being reviewed for adoption.
- Electricity providers: Pacific Power and CPI serve the county. Could also be a Subject Matter Expert, or set up one on one conversations to engage with them
- Community Open House (early September tbd) – the goal will be to get broad community feedback on the draft plan

We may want to also do direct outreach to the fire districts.

- Chief Wooten has been updating the Fire Defense Board, Craig with ODF also attends the Fire Defense Board – could arrange for our team to come to a Linn County FDB and South Marion County FDB meetings. Chief Patterson can help to facilitate presenting to South Marion FDB.

Risk Assessment and Mapping

Kate provided an update on progress - map data sources, timeline, next steps:

- Located base GIS files from the last CWPP update.
- Received the WUI data layer from OSU and hope to receive wildfire risk assessment from the update of the Quantified Wildfire Risk Assessment (QWRA) for the NW region from OSU in early July.
- Shared possible mapping approaches the County has been working on for the committee to provide feedback on.
 - Historic fire occurrences could help to set the context
 - Fire response data can vary by fire districts, per Chief Wooten. Albany relies heavily on data, including drive time distances from stations. 5 miles is a good starting point. The County would also like to be able to provide information to the districts. Good topic for meetings with the Fire Defense Boards.
 - WUI maps, including a county overview and zoomed in maps for each community, include the addition of essential facilities, would like feedback from the communities on what is considered critical in their communities. Doesn't include risk assessment data, which can be overlaid when received. If 2023 QWRA data isn't available, can use the 2018 data; other counties have used this information.
 - Add maps for fuels reduction projects, have data from USFS, need from ODF.

CWPP Action Item Development

- Finalize draft updated goals – the steering committee discussed and made additional updates, and was in support of the revised, updated goals.
- Review/discuss new education-related and other actions – the steering committee reviewed and discussed and made recommendations on the action items, including identifying potential leads for new actions. Further refinement to the action items is ongoing.
- See additional notes in these documents on Box: [CWPP Goals Proposed 06-23-23 SC feedback](#) and [2007 Linn County CWPP Action Items Table updated-ALL 06-23-23 SC feedback](#).

Action Plan and Assessment Strategy

- Susan provided a brief overview of action item prioritization, plan monitoring and evaluation.
 - An example of the Douglas County CWPP action plan was shared, We're aiming to have something similar as an outcome of prioritizing the action items.

- The committee will need to determine a process for prioritizing the action items. We can look at the last CWPP as well as other county CWPPs for potential methodologies. Or use a simple impact and feasibility analysis like we'll be using with the focus groups.
- Suggestions for plan monitoring and evaluation were shared (from the *Community Wildfire Protection Plan Evaluation Guide*, August 2008 ([here on Box](#))).
- Need to keep in mind what type of information or data is available to support measurement and monitoring.
- The Steering Committee will focus on this topic in greater detail at the next meeting.

Next Steps

- Reviewed updated project schedule.
 - The committee decided to use the most up to date data from OSU for the risk assessment portion of the mapping, which will be available soon. Also wanted to ensure opportunity for community input into the CWPP, so this is pushing the CWPP schedule out a little bit.
 - The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) update steering committee will reconvene in the late fall. With feedback from the DLCD program coordinator, we're proposing extending the timeline for the NHMP through 2024 to allow time for engagement and feedback. Oregon Emergency Management supports requesting an extension of the FEMA grant to support this work. Susan will touch base with County Emergency Management to make sure they're not planning to submit grants that require an active NHMP.
- Continue to refine action items, update action item worksheets – due in advance of the next steering committee meeting.
- Discuss mitigation strategy and plan maintenance process
- Conduct public engagement
- Plan review
- Support this project by linking the following webpage to your jurisdiction's webpage: <https://www.co.linn.or.us/planningbuilding/page/community-wildfire-protection-plan>

Next meeting: TBD, late August/early September 2023. Susan will send out a poll to schedule it.