



Wildfire Programs Advisory Council – Meeting

Friday September 13, 2024

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 Hunnicutt

The chair welcomed the council members and reviewed the meeting agenda. Roll was taken of the council members present.

Director's Report

Doug Grafe

Director Grafe began his report by reflecting on the council's three year existence so far. The director recommended that the October meeting be the official handoff meeting from one term to the next for council member terms to provide a clean hand off and an opportunity to recognize departing council members. Director Grafe provided an update on the current fire situation in Oregon noting that it had been a dramatic season but that he was hopeful that increased moisture and lower temperatures would help close out the fire season. Finally, the director noted that now was the time for the council to consider any recommended updates to SB 762 programs to the legislature.

Annual Council Report

All

Doctor Emily Jane Davis provided an update to the council on the status of the annual report. She noted how the focus of the report was shifting from a specific focus on SB 762 programs and implementation to broader themes of community risk reduction and mitigation. Doctor Davis reviewed the process of drafting the report so far as well as the plan going forward as the reporting deadline approaches at the end of October. The chair emphasized that the report is the council's best opportunity to contribute ideas to potential legislation around wildfire programs.

Oregon Wildfire Hazard Map, Update

ODF, Derrick Wheeler

ODF staff introduced the packet of documents that will be going out to all property owners whose property sits in a high hazard area of the wildland urban interface. Staff is still working on the documents and the logistics of getting them all out to property owners. The goal is to have the notification packets out in early October.

The chair noted that review of the documents in the packet was a legislative mandate from SB 80 and then opened up the meeting for comments on the documents included in the packet. The council noted that the documents, particularly the notification letter should more clearly address common concerns surrounding insurance. There were concerns around the clarity of the documents both in what was being explained to property owners and what was being asked of property owners. The council expressed concerns that the language in the FAQs and the language in the appeals explanation were not in alignment, or may appear misaligned and create confusion. It was suggested that ODF add additional clarity to the appeal form to help people understand which “reason for appeal” they should select and that they can select more than one.

The chair asked the council to submit any additional comments and edits to Director Grafe and the entire council so that everyone could continue to workshop the language in the documents.

Public Comment

All

The chair opened the meeting up to public comment.

Bob Hart expressed concerns at the complexity of the language in the appeals documents. He made particular note of concern around the idea that all trusts will require an attorney in appeal proceedings as this may place additional burden on families that place property ownership in a trust. He suggested that the data upon which hazard determinations are made be made available to property owners who are impacted by those determinations.

Wrap Up

Chair Hunnicutt

The chair thanked the members of the council for their participation and asked for any additional feedback on the notification packet to be sent by email. He noted that the next meeting would be on Friday October 11, 2024.
