



DRAFT
Linn County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
NOTES



Tuesday, January 30, 2024

2:00 – 3:00pm

Online via Zoom

Zoom recording: <https://dlcd.box.com/s/b55412o99piv95w97hhe8x4kb4aemuif6>

Attendees

Alyssa Boles, Planning Director, Linn County
Kate Bentz, Associate Planner, Linn County
Cara Walter, Linn County GIS
Emerson Marsh, Linn County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management
Shane Wooton, Fire Chief, Albany Fire Department and Linn County Fire Defense Board
Christian Whitfield, CWRR Program Manager, Sweet Home Fire District
Craig Pettinger, Sweet Home Unit Forester, South Cascade District, ODF
Trent Tegen, Wildland Fire Supervisor, Santiam Unit, North Cascade District, ODF
Chris Mushrush, Fire Planner, Northwest Oregon Interagency Fire Management, BLM/USFS
Stephanie Stafford, Risk Reduction Specialist, OSFM
Kayla Bordelon, Oregon State University Extension Fire Programs, Willamette Valley Region
Kelcey Young, City Manager, City of Sweet Home
Shannon Richardson, Executive Director, South Santiam Watershed Council
Jeff Carlson, Safety & Compliance Manager, CPI
Horace Ward, Senior Emergency Management Specialist, PacifiCorp
Katherine Daniels, DLCD, Natural Hazards Planner
Susan Millhauser, DLCD, Natural Hazards Planner-Wildfire, Project Manager

Welcome/Introductions

- Attendees introduced themselves.
- December 12, 2023 meeting notes were discussed and approved.

Public Comment

The draft CWPP was posted on the Linn County website for a one-week public comment period, with opportunity to comment shared by County press release, social media, and direct email to all of the participants of the focus groups and Wildfire Ready Night community open house. Kate provided a [link to a form summarizing public comment](#). The Committee discussed the comments, summarized below:

- One comment regarding a defensible space assessment was shared with Christian at Sweet Home.
- Comment regarding authority to issue citations for burning violations and regulatory authority outside of ODF.
 - Fire chiefs don't necessarily want the statutory authority to issue citations. They work with local law enforcement to cite reckless burning. Would defer to law enforcement.

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Similar situation in Sweet Home, however their area is also overlapping with ODF who does authority. Sweet Home PD will jump in if needed.

- In Sweet Home 8.04.025 states that open burning is only allowed for dried brush, shrubs, leaves and tree trimmings. And only on burn days. All other burning is prohibited (especially trash), and the city will do citations through code enforcement.
- Let's keep the focus on continuing education around debris burning.
- Kate will follow up with Emergency Management which is within the sheriff's office. Can also see if there is a place to add a note under goal 1 regarding enforcement.
- Comments from Cara regarding the risk assessment data related to SVI. Will be updating maps and associated data, so it is all consistent.
- Comments from Christian with some small edits.

CWPP Approval

The Steering Committee discussed their feedback on the draft plan:

- Shane Wooton - correct spelling and Linn County Fire Defense Board is the correct name.
- Everyone finds the document helpful.
- There is a lot of repetitiveness in the formal descriptions.
- Read it with an eye to future funding opportunities and fuels reduction collaborative work. Anything missing that should be in the plan?
- More relevant content than the prior plan and it lays out potential projects well.
- Draft looks amazing, the action items are well written for federal funding.
- Send any additional typos or edits to Kate.

Steering Committee approval of the draft plan:

- All Committee members present were in favor of putting forward the draft plan, with incorporation of the comments received, for approval by ODF, Linn County Fire Defense Board, and the Linn County Board of Commissioners.
- Shane would like to give the Chief's a full week to review the plan in advance of their 2/22 meeting.

Next Steps

Plan approval by Linn County Fire Defense Board, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Linn County Board of Commissioners

- Fire Defense Board, February 22
- Oregon Department of Forestry, Craig Pettinger
- Linn County Commission, date tbd. Committee members welcome and encouraged to attend. Kate will let everyone know when that meeting is scheduled.

Plan maintenance - Kate provided an overview of the plan maintenance process, outlined in Section 6 of the CWPP.

- Active participants in the CWPP development process are included for the ongoing committee.
- Linn County Emergency Management, with support from Planning, is responsible for convening meetings, with one before and one after fire season.
- Kate will set up a contact sheet with members so Emergency Management and Planning have it handy to schedule the first check in meeting.
 - If there are others in your organization that should be included let Kate know.

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- Everyone would like to meet again before fire season starts.
- Kayla suggested that the first order of business should be to put together a Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) proposal this spring.
- Meet in April, May gets busy with Wildfire Awareness Month. Kate can work on pinpointing a time via Doodle poll.
- Let Kate know of others who should be involved, especially if there's a focus on the CWDG.

Thank you everyone for your participation!