

BHR Emergency Management Committee Meeting
Bloomfield Home, Lot #63
April 4, 2019

Committee Members Present: Susanne and Terry Bloomfield, Marian and Brad Brooks, Roger Buttignol, Don Wassom, Debi and Rick Brandenburg.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair, Terry Bloomfield. The minutes from the Outreach and Fire Mitigation Working Groups were reviewed and accepted.

Susanne informed the committee that she talked with Colorado State Forest Service David Poletti about updating our CWPP. Poletti complimented us on how customized to the ranch our plan is and said that the process will now be in the hands of CSFS. They will come to the ranch this summer to review and update the plan as well as help us prepare for the CSFS 2019 Fuels Treatment Grant application. Susanne reported that there are strict guidelines for what types of activities can be used as in-kind or matching qualifications for the grant. A new aspect of the grant application that we must also address concerns "Maintenance Sustaining Project Longevity," which are plans for supporting the long-term benefits of the mitigation.

We will need the county's blessing to apply for grant. Susanne will reach out to Max Vezzani, Huerfano county Commissioner, and seek a contact in Las Animas County to secure letters of support. The Outreach Committee is actively working on the guidelines for the grants because Poletti stated that grants submitted early have a greater likelihood of being funded. They are usually due in October, but complex groundwork must be completed well before the deadline.

Susanne also worked with PMI to organize and update the Emergency Management link on the Blackhawk Ranch Website. It now contains our CWPP in one link instead of several, a link on how to apply for individual land owner grants, a link to the Firewise site as well as the National Fire Protection Association, and a link for the minutes of the EMC.

Brad noted that Colorado State University in Pueblo recently instituted a new major in Wildlife and Natural Resources, and he suggested that CSU might be interested in using Blackhawk as a site for research projects for their students. This would help us fulfill the "Scientific Foundation" requirements of the CSFS grant as well as provide fieldwork experience for their students. In addition, it would be another layer of cooperation with CSFS. Brad will contact the University and meet with the department to assess the possibilities and initiate the collaboration.

Utilizing volunteers is another important grant requirement. Engaging the services of groups like Colorado Youth Conservation Corps or the Veterans Corps (Rubicon) was discussed. Judy Nance will research the applicability of such groups for Blackhawk, including the expenses for feeding, housing, and transporting the workers to our site as well as for their labor. Debi will make contact with Team Rubicon. Brad suggested that if the CSU students come on board with the project, this might also be a way to fulfill this requirement.

It was hoped that the sale of our excess wood and slash might generate revenue for the project, another grant criteria. Marian explored ways to recycle our woody materials. She contacted the businesses that attended the Spanish Peaks Alliance for Wildfire Protection meeting as well as the sources noted on the CSFS website to see who would be willing to work in our area and the capabilities and costs of each. Everyone she contacted was disinterested due the small scope of our operation. David Poletti suggested that we continue to broadcast our chips. It is suggested that firewood produced in mitigation be donated to low income folks in the area.

We received a \$500.00 State Farm grant for National Fire Protection Day on May 4, 2019, to hold a volunteer mitigation event on the escape route on Howard's Draw. As the grant check needed to be made out to an individual, the check was sent to Terry. It will cost approximately \$350.00 for rental of an additional chipper and fuel for the Firewise Kickoff Event on May 4th. The EMC will purchase a large Subway sandwich for approximately \$100, and committee members will bring side dishes for the lunch on the mitigation site at noon. Any remaining grant money will be used to purchase 2 gas cans and fuel for summer mitigation activities. Terry will cash the check to cover the costs of the event, saving the receipts. Along with the grant, the EMC received a large banner that will be posted at the front gate. Announcements will be placed on the BHR Facebook page as well as the BHR website, and a letter will be sent out to all property owners.

After the National Event, another letter will be sent to all residents as well as posted on the BHR Website and Facebook, announcing the Community Mitigation Days to be held every two weeks throughout the summer. Marian will also purchase a poster to be displayed in the glass box at the Ranch entrance with places to add the times and locations as the summer progresses. The Mitigation Saturdays will be held on the following dates:

May 18	August 10
June 1	August 24
June 15	September 14
June 29	September 28
July 13	
July 27	

Locating, assessing, and mitigating Staging and Safety Zones are a critical part of the CWPP. We will need to engage local emergency management staff to determine the best and final locations for these zones. The Mitigation Working Group will be responsible for maintenance of these zones. Another safety priority is the overgrowth of trees and brush around power poles as well as on intersections. The Working Group will meet at Bloomfields' shop on April 17 at 10:00 a.m. and divide into teams to begin power pole and blind corner mitigation along Wapiti.

The EMC members have also volunteered to help Glenn Key install the new road signs.

Brad's Communication subcommittee will continue to assess radio communication across the ranch.

Debi motioned then meeting be adjourned. Brad seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.