



**Action Minutes FOR A MEETING OF THE
ASHLAND FOREST LANDS COMMISSION**

Tuesday, May 8th, 2012

5:30PM to 7:30PM

**Siskiyou Room, Community Development Building
51 Winburn Way**

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:45 PM**
Chris Chambers, John Karns, John Williams, Albert Pepe, Jim Berge, Dan Maymar, Frank Betlejewski
- II. INTRODUCTIONS**
None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** April 10th minutes
Williams motioned to approve as submitted, seconded by Betlejewski. All ayes.
- IV. PUBLIC FORUM**
No public present.
- V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
None.
- VI. BUSINESS**
 - A. Trails/Recreation Update
Karns said that his proposal for funding this project will be decided soon by the budget committee. Maymar asked about the Bandersnatch Trail progress. Karns said it was put in and have been some modifications proposed by equestrians and Karns is working with Parks to adopt a policy for volunteers to work on City lands to cut branches.
 - B. City Lands Prescribed Burn Review
Chambers explained the burn conditions as extremely favorable last Tuesday for accomplishing the burn objectives on unit D/F/C. The burn was successful in maintaining soil cover and reducing fuels at the same time. Overall public acceptance seemed to be positive except for an incident where hose was vandalized in the evening. Chambers will be working with law enforcement to report the hose incident.

Main added that there are many pieces that had to come together and felt like we met the objectives well. We retained the duff layers over much of the unit and achieved some hazard reduction, but not as much as some burns, but that wasn't the primary objective anyway. The contractor did a great job and we were able to maintain a good portion of seedlings that had been planted in the past. Chambers outlined the plans for an upcoming burn on City unit J this

Thursday.

C. AFR Project Update

Williams asked about the numbers of fishers that have been detected in the watershed after talking with the Forest Service biologist at Earth Day. Main said that a neat discovery is the fishers have been using recently treated areas. Chambers described the upcoming ground based thinning project coordinated by Lomakatsi this summer. They are close to selecting a contractor. City is working on a contract for helicopter based thinning.

D. Ashland Water Advisory Committee Update

Williams said that the projects were unanimously approved although Council didn't approved the rate increase more recently. Williams was disappointed that the rate increase didn't get voted in, but it will come back to the Council soon for another vote. Pepe commented on the problem of raising rates which decreases demand and revenue for projects. Williams said that that factor was planned for. He felt good after seeing that under 15% of a rate hike could accomplish the planned upgrades to infrastructure in addition to addressing the water quality issues in Bear Creek and with TID coming into Ashland Creek polluted with e. coli. City has estimated that piping the ditch will recover 15% of the City's water rights in TID water.

E. Watershed Outreach Plan Review

Williams said that we need to review the plan that Iverson wrote and asked Chambers for his priority. Chambers brought up the education issue that AFR partners and Williams have been pushing with the School District and School Board. Commission will spend time at the next meeting reviewing and updating the outreach plan. Chambers will send out the file for review.

F. Ashland Forest Plan Revision

Frank created an outline of the objectives and Maymar will share some of those with the Parks Commission coming up soon. Frank has taken info from other documents from the City and the Forest Service for background. The inventory data from City forest lands needs to be entered into a GIS database. Frank could do some of this if he had access to a City computer, or Chambers suggested that the City's GIS shop might be able to do help out. Frank found the OWEB Ashland Watershed Assessment and found it to be very useful and full of information. There should be a soils discussion, fire management discussion, recreation and a social science component that do not exist in the current version. The commission needs to find people to work on these elements.

G. Update Commission 3-Year Goals

Williams reminded the group that we have a hike scheduled for June 10th to the Winburn Parcel at 9am. There may be trees marked by then. The three year goals haven't been updated. Main looked through them and found that many have been completed or are still in progress. Maymar suggested a prioritization starting with the Ashland Forest Plan update,

Implementing/Updating the Outreach Plan (which may be part of the Forest Plan social section), and then moving on to other items on the list.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VIII. REVIEW AND SET COMMISSION CALENDAR / NEXT MEETING

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: June 12th, 2012

IX. ADJOURN: 7:30 PM

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Public Works Office at 488-5587 (TTY phone number 1 800 735 2900). Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).