

Minutes of Meeting
Quarterly Fire Protection District
May 29, 2013
8:30 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Todd Tondee and Commissioner Dan Green met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Community Development Director Scott Clark, Northern Lakes Fire Protection District Commissioner Larry Clark, Spirit Lake Fire Marshall Wayne Nowacki, Spirit Lake Fire Chief John DeBernardi, Coeur d'Alene Fire Department Deputy Chief Jim Washko, Hauser Lake Fire Department Chief Larry Simms, Mica Kidd Island Fire Prevention District Chief Jason Blubaum, and Deputy Clerk Michael Beaver. Commissioner Jai Nelson was excused.

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
- B. **Introductions:** There were no introductions made.
- C. **Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes made to the agenda.
- D. **Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.

E. **New Business:**

1. **Proposed Unified Land Use Code (ULUC) in regards to the nationally accepted guidelines for home survivability and mitigation – Hauser Fire District**

The group of Fire Protection District representatives gathered to share their opinions and ideas about the County's adoption of the new Unified Land Use Code (ULUC), specifically Article 5-6, Wildfire Risk Mitigation (Sec. 5-6-1 Wildfire Risk Mitigation Plan), and the practical impacts on the Fire Protection Districts. Chairman Tondee noted that the Technical Committee has finished its draft document of the ULUC, which will be ready for review hearings by mid-June. The Planning Commission will then take comments and testimony on proposed changes and afterwards present any revisions in a final draft to the Board of County Commissioners in September.

The group voiced their concerns regarding how much input the Fire Protection Districts have in shaping the applicable fire mitigation standards contained within the ULUC, and noted the 'double standard' created by variances between the existing Fire Code (FireSmart) vs. the County's pending ULUC proposals (Wildland-Urban Interface Areas). The group expressed that the most important issue for the Fire Protection District is public safety. They also stressed that the citizens must receive a consistent message in the details presented to the public concerning fire mitigation plans.

The group also discussed how any codified plan should allow for variances in the unique topography of any piece of land. Certain property features (hills vs. canyons, brush vs. mature trees) present differing challenges to meeting the Code's fire mitigation goals – saving lives and protecting property and structures – while balancing property owners' costs of compliance. Kootenai County Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal Jeryl Archer joined the meeting at 8:53 a.m.

Chairman Tondee informed the group that any proposed changes the Fire Protection District is seeking to implement should be presented to the Planning Commission for consideration either before or at the June 17th through June 20th, 2013 Public Hearings. Chairman Tondee encouraged all to attend and testify during the public comment section. Community Development Director Scott Clark also informed the group that the Proposed Draft of the Unified Land Use Code had been released, and is available online for review at Community Development's website.

2. Intergovernmental Agreement between districts – Update on progress

Several members of the Fire Protection District expressed surprise that there is still disagreement among some of the group, which is preventing them from reaching a finalized and signed Intergovernmental Agreement. The disagreements stem from the property inspection requirements stipulated in the Agreement and its impact on the limited manpower and resources of the smaller Districts. A possible solution proposed was for the larger districts to contract with the smaller districts, to perform inspections for the understaffed districts. The group agreed to place a priority on finalizing the unresolved issues and having the Intergovernmental Agreement in place by the time of the next quarterly meeting with the Board.

F. Staff Reports: There were no staff reports.

G. Public Comment: This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a county related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
CLIFFORD T. HAYES, CLERK

BY: _____
Michael Beaver, Deputy Clerk