

# WASHINGTON PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL STEERING COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

**February 8, 2021**

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Mike Norris, Secretary; Reese Lolley, Treasurer; Kara Karboski, Coordinator (proxy for Chris Martin); Jon Culp; Brenda Hallmark (alt. for Dana Skelly); Matt Eberlein; Shannon Murray; Joe Murray; Sanjay Barik; Ernesto Alvarado; Sarah Hamman

**Also Present:**

**Absent:** Michael Barajas, Vice Chair; Karen Zirkle; Lonnie Newton; Sami Schinnell; Steve Peitroburgo; John Richardson; Jay McLaughlin; Tonya Neider; Dale Swedberg; Ken Meinhart; Lee Hemmer; Jonathan Tallman

### 1. Introduction and Admin

Discussion/ Decisions **Steering Committee Members:** Two new Steering Committee members, Sanjay Barik with Department of Ecology (replacing Sean Hopkins) and Shannon Murray with Northwest Fire Science Consortium (replacing Carrie Berger who left position last year). Complete introductions will be made at our quarterly Steering Committee meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### 2. HB 1168 Wildfire and Forest Health Funding Bill

**Actions** **Council supports HB 1168. Kara will work with Officers and other Government Relations partners on next steps and how Council can best support.**

Discussion/ Decisions House Bill 1168 would create the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account to fund certain wildfire preparedness, prevention, and protection activities. Recent changes to the bill language would allow NGOs to be supported by funding through this Account, which would include funding for the Council and our priorities. It also established a funding floor of 25% of the Account to go to Forest Health, including prescribed fire.

Alignment with Washington 20 Year Forest Health Plan, 10 Year Wildland Fire Strategic Plan, Forest Action Plan, as well as National Cohesive Strategy and other state and federal priorities and plans. Building off of 2928 Forest Resiliency Project from 2016/2017.

Concerns that it's still not enough funding to adequately address forest health and wildfire problems, but it is a start.

**Motion:** Reese Lolley makes a motion for the Council to support HB 1168. Joe Murray seconds the motion. Approved by a vote of the Council - 8 Yea, 0 Nay, 2 Abstain

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Mike Norris			X	Avoid a conflict of interest
Reese Lolley	X			
Shannon Murray			X	
Ernesto Alvarado	X			
Jon Culp	X			
Brenda Hallmark (proxy for Dana Skelly)	X			
Matt Eberlein	X			
Joseph Murray	X			
Kara Karboski (proxy for Chris Martin)	X			
Sarah Hamman	X			