

**Greater Eastern Jemez Wildland Urban Interface Corporation/
Jemez Mountains Firewise Association
Board Meeting 9/07/2021**

Present: Harry Jones, Tom Swetnam, Tom Bennion, Paul Lisko, Ann Cooke, Pat Jones, Allie Lindman, Luke McLarty, Jef Wheeler, Basil Swanson

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

Governing Documents: The meeting began with a discussion of the Restated Articles of Incorporation and revised ByLaws.

- One issue centered around whether to refer to the "Jemez Mountains Firewise Communities" as "the Corporation" vs. "the corporation" in the governing documents. Harry suggested getting around this problem by naming the organization the "Jemez Mountains Firewise Association" and then simply referring to it as "the Association". This has the added benefit of including anyone in the area rather than individuals in recognized unincorporated communities such as Thompson Ridge, Sierra Los Pinos or Area 3. This change was adopted without substantive discussion.
- The Restated Articles of Incorporation include the following changes:
 - The name of the organization is changed to Jemez Mountains Firewise Association;
 - Members are allowed (the original articles allowed for only directors);
 - The board membership reflects the current board which has five members (Harry, Ann Cooke, Tom Swetnam, Paul Lisko, and Pat);
 - Tom Swetnam was suggested by Harry as the Restated Incorporator since he has a mailing address in the Jemez Mountains.
- There was a question about the tax-exempt status of the organization (it is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation).
- There was a discussion of the importance of the address of the Principal Incorporator and what the state uses if it becomes necessary to contact the corporation. [Ultimately, the documents were filed using Tom Swetnam's address as the address for the Association and Harry's mailing address as the Principal Incorporator.]
- The Articles as revised were adopted without further discussion by a unanimous vote.
- The Revised ByLaws include the following changes:
 - The name of the organization is changed as in the Restated Articles of Incorporation;
 - Meetings will be held quarterly as needed;
 - Electronic meetings are allowed;
 - The Board now consists of four officers and three at-large directors to be elected by the Board.
- Ann asked about wording regarding insurance. It now states "may purchase" rather than "shall purchase."
- The Amended ByLaws were adopted by a unanimous vote.

Revised Website: The next item for discussion concerned the revised website. Pat provided a URL for individuals to look at and comment on. [Note: the URL has been changed to <https://sites.google.com/view/jmfa-nm>].

Logsplitters: One engine gave out while Jason Redmond and Wyatt Taylor were using it. The new engine cost \$279.99. Paul would like to see assurances that the splitter is not being used for commercial purposes. Ann says that we should have control over the splitter. Repayment to Howard Fegan was approved unanimously. Jason suggested that individuals using the log splitter should be encouraged to donate to the Association in return for use of the splitter to underwrite the costs of maintenance of the log splitter. After some discussion it was suggested that individuals borrowing the splitter should sign a sheet when they borrow the log splitter and be given an envelope and form letter giving information regarding where donations may be sent. Pat will write a letter requesting donations. Harry will follow up with Howard to obtain a copy of the invoice for the motor.

Fire Information: Jason suggested that it would be a good idea to print up a document to hand out to individuals buying firewood through his business or distributed through other venues to explain how to manage a campfire. Paul suggested that we look at some material that has already been developed so that these can be handed out to campers and firewood purchasers. He will look into getting materials from USFS, State Forestry, or Firewise.

Fire Work Reports: Ann agreed to continue to submit reports regarding Firewise work and stated that we may need to develop community-wide fire protection plan. The nature of the content is discussed later in these minutes.

Thompson Ridge Slash Pit: The slash pit is currently closed because of the possibility of arson. Brian Riley has indicated that they would like to re-open the pit under supervision. Currently we have a few potential volunteers, but there are concerns about safety and protection for volunteers. Another concern is the condition of FR 106 which may result in increased traffic through Thompson Ridge. Luke stated that he could underwrite some staff overtime to keep the slash pit open for two weekends each in September and October. Potential problems include lack of volunteer interest, enforcement issues, dumping on the apron, dumping inappropriate content, and increased traffic through Thompson Ridge. Allie suggested using NextDoor or Facebook to publicize dates. Harry mentioned that there is a slash pit that is contracted through the Lincoln National Forest in Otero County and that Brian Riley suggested that it might be possible to get resources for ours. Tom Swetnam expressed concern about the issue of closing the pit because it is a valuable service to the community and suggested that we become more involved in keeping it open. Harry will let the group know how the discussion with Brian Riley goes and Tom will attempt to use social media to publicize information about access to the pit.

Cuba Thinning Grant: No formal announcement has been made yet but the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District has been granted \$300,000 over 2 years to cover the cost of thinning 220 acres. This is to cover removal of non-hazardous materials with a minimum of 10% commitment on the part of the landowner, probably more because 10 years of maintenance

will be required. The grants are on a first-come/first-served basis and the contact person is Casey Spradley. Harry is trying to get a list of people on Thompson Ridge so that we can direct them there as soon as possible and hopes that distribution of funds will be more equitable across the district this time. It will likely involve individuals from NM State Forestry to look at properties as was done with the EQIP program. Paul has expressed interest in obtaining training to assist with this procedure and said that he could talk with Todd Haines about this when he talks with him about the fire training materials ; Basil Swanson also expressed interest. Tom Bennion said that he has worked with State Forestry in the past to do this sort of thing. Harry pointed out that this may help us to ensure that some money actually reaches our area. Lawrence Crane may also be involved with this project.

Nature Conservancy: We had a workshop with the Nature Conservancy regarding the Source Water Protection Program. Collin Haffey is leaving the Nature Conservancy, but Tom Swetnam thought that he would still be engaged with us. The current soil and water protection plan for Sandoval County needs updating, but in addition, Tom stated that we need to get our own specific plans in place. Harry and Tom will work on a letter to Todd Haines and Laurel McCarthy to state that we want our own protection plan that is specific to us. Issues include looking at roads and access in the various communities to determine priorities for treatment. This can help with future funding projects. Harry said that we need someone to write and possibly manage grant proposals and should address this in the letter. We might be able to write a proposal in the spring to address both SWPP and the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan). At present Martha Graham at the SWPP has a funded position, but there is nothing corresponding to this with CWPP.

Action Items:

- Paul to contact organizations regarding brochures;
- Paul to look into training for tree thinning assessment;
- Tom and Harry to write letter for CWPP;
- Harry to talk with Brian Riley;
- Send comments on the web page to Pat so we can go live;
- Harry to obtain bill from Howard;
- Pat to write letter for Howard to hand out.

Next meeting: January, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.