

Item 5



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: May 7, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number: Melinda Mallia, TNR, 854-4460

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Danny Hobby, County Executive, Emergency Services, 854-9367

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge

AGENDA LANGUAGE: PROVIDE BRIEFING ON MEETINGS TO ENGAGE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP).

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Meetings to solicit public input on community issues and concerns related to wildfire risk will be held from May 14 through June 13, 2013. A series of three meetings will be held in each of five locations throughout the County. Participants will be encouraged to attend all three meetings in the location of their choosing. The first meeting in the series will introduce Community Wildfire Protection Plans and outline the public input process. The second meeting in the series will focus on fuel modeling data/maps and the identification of assets and values at risk. The third meeting in the series will utilize a facilitated group dynamics process to prioritize issues and concerns.

There will be a press release and other media contacts made to invite the public to attend these meetings. See attached media information sheet.

Also, meetings were held recently at the Combine Transportation Emergency Communications Center (CTECC) with internal stakeholders on May 2, 2013 to hear the issues and concerns of specific interest groups. Oral and written comments from attendees will be addressed in the CWPP.

Finally, A Wildfire Symposium hosted by the Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division was held on May 4, 2013 for an informative discussion regarding wildfire risk in the City of Austin and Travis County.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials should be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, agenda@co.travis.tx.us by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.

Attachments: Invitation to Internal Stakeholders Meetings May 2, 2013
CWPP Internal Stakeholder Meetings (Invitee List)
The Wildfire Symposium held on May 4, 2013
Invitation to Community Participants & Meeting Schedule
CWPP Community Meetings Overview
Media Information Sheet
CWPP Slide Presentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: TNR and Emergency Services support and encourage public participation in the upcoming CWPP community meetings scheduled in May and June, 2013.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: By engaging the community to participate in this planning process for the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the anticipated goals will be; a fire-adapted and fire wise community; a better understanding and documentation of the County's wildfire risk situation; and better prepared to act to reduce the wildfire threat and avert catastrophic fires in the future.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: No additional funds are required. Travis County and the City of Austin have each committed \$100,000 to share costs for the CWPP equally.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS: N/A

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials should be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, agenda@co.travis.tx.us by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.

INVITATION TO INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

Travis County and the City of Austin are partnering to produce a county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This Plan will provide the framework for the County and City's efforts to become a Fire-Adapted Community. The Plan will aid all area cities and communities to understand their wildfire risk situation, and will provide guidance for reducing that wildfire threat to avert potential catastrophic fires.

This City-County effort is being led by the Austin/Travis County Joint Wildfire Task Force, and includes scheduled opportunities for community leaders, neighborhood groups, natural resource organizations and other interested persons to participate in the plan development activities.

The recommendations provided will be presented to the Joint Wildfire Task Force and will be considered in crafting the final Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Plan will be presented to the Joint Wildfire Task Force in early September.

Please RSVP and send any questions to Jodi Vaughn at jodi.vaughn@austintexas.gov.

**CWPP Internal Stakeholder Meetings
CTEC - May 2, 2013**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>CONTACT NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
0800-0845	Law Response		
	APD		
	DPS Emergency Planning Chair		
	TCSO		
	HSEM		
	Precinct 1		
	Precinct 2		
	Precinct 3		
	Precinct 4		
	Precinct 5		
	Manor PD		
	Pflugerville PD		
	Westlake Hills PD		
	Bee Caves PD		
	Sunset Valley PD		
	Lakeway PD		
	Rollingwood PD		
	Lago Vista PD		
	Jonestown PD		
	Manchaca PD		
0845-0930	Utilities		
	Austin Energy		
	Electric Utility Commission		
	Bluebonnet Electric		
	Texas Gas Service		
	TXU Gas		
	Austin Water Utility		
	Pedernales Co-Op		
	Pike Electric Corporation		
0930-1015	Local Governments/Boards/Commissions		
	County Precinct 1		
	County Precinct 2		
	County Precinct 3		
	County Precinct 4		
	County Judge		
	Urban Forestry Board		
	Public Safety Commission		
	Resource Management Commission		
	Downtown Commission		
	District 47 Representative		
	Travis County Parks		

CWPP Internal Stakeholder Meetings

CTEC - May 2, 2013

	Precinct 2, ESD 2		
	Precinct 2, ESD 4		
	Precinct 2, ESD 6		
	Precinct 2, ESD 9		
1015-1100	BCCP		
	Wild Basin		
	Bright Leaf		
	Travis Audubon Society		
	The Nature Conservancy		
	LCRA		
	USFWS		
	Travis County		
	City of Austin		
	Citizen's Advisory Committee		
1100-1200	Environmental		
	ITWIG		
	Imagine Austin		
	Grow Green		
	GIPPIT		
	Texas Invasive Plant/Pest Council		
	Keep Austin Beautiful		
	LBJ Wildflower Center		
	TC Master Gardeners		
	Aquifer Conservation District		
	Austin Heritage Tree Foundation		
	Sierra Club		
	Environmental Board		
	Land Development Code Advisory		
	Parks and Rec Board		
	Planning Commission		
	Watershed Protection		
1245-1330	Fire Response		
	ESD 1/N. Lake Travis		
	ESD 2/ Pflugerville		
	ESD 3/ Oak Hill		
	ESD 4/ TC Fire Control		
	ESD 5/Manchaca		
	ESD 6/LTFR		
	ESD 8/Pedernales		
	ESD 9/Westlake		
	ESD 10/ Ce-Bar		

CWPP Internal Stakeholder Meetings
CTEC - May 2, 2013

	ESD 11/TCFR		
	ESD 12/Manor		
	ESD 14/Volente		
	TAMFS		
	USFWS		
	Starflight		
	EMS		
	AFD		
	TC Fire Marshal		
1330-1500	CWPP Mgmt Group Meeting		
1500-1700	Joint Wildfire Task Force		



Wildfire Symposium

Saturday, May 4, 2013

City Council Chambers, 301 W. 2nd Street

Noon - 4 pm

Please join the Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division for an informative discussion regarding wildfire risk in the City of Austin and Travis County.

We will have expert guest speakers such as Rich Harvey, Nevada Deputy State Forester, who will report on the lessons learned from the Waldo Canyon Fire in Colorado. Also joining us will be Dr. Steve Quarles, Senior Scientist for IBHS Research Center, who will address the importance of home construction and Fire Adapted Communities.

Jim Linardos, Assistant Director of the Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division, will tie it all together by discussing our Community Wildfire Protection Plan and how it will serve the City of Austin and Travis County, as well as the importance of the National Cohesive Strategy for wildfire mitigation.



City Council Chambers
301 West 2nd Street
Austin, TX 78701

Parking will be validated.

Send questions to: Jodi Vaughn
Phone: 512-974-0125
E-mail: jodi.vaughn@austintexas.gov



INVITATION TO COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

Travis County and the City of Austin are partnering to produce a county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This Plan will provide the framework for County's efforts to become a Fire-Adapted Community. The Plan will aid all area cities and communities to understand their wildfire risk situation, and will provide guidance for reducing that wildfire threat to avert potential catastrophic fires.

This City-County effort is being led by the Austin/Travis County Joint Wildfire Task Force, and includes scheduled opportunities for community leaders, neighborhood groups, natural resource organizations and other interested persons to participate in the plan development activities.

A series of at least three meetings will be held in five areas of the County over the next several weeks. These meetings will be facilitated to encourage your help in identifying:

1. Local issues related to wildland fire risk
2. Local assets requiring protection
3. Recommendations for addressing local wildfire risks

All of the information acquired at the regional meetings will be presented to the Joint Wildfire Task Force and will be considered in crafting the final Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Plan will be presented to the Joint Wildfire Task Force in early September.

Opportunities for Community Participation

***ALL MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M. AND COMPLETE AT 8:00 P.M.
ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THERE IS NO CHARGE TO PARTICIPATE.***

Travis Co. East Service Center - 6011 Blue Bluff Rd. - May 14, 15 and 16

Travis Co. Westside Service Center - 4510 RR 620 - May 28, 29, 30

700 Lavaca Building - 1st floor Multi-Function Rooms - May 20, 22, and 23

Pflugerville Fire Department - 2003-B East Pecan St., Pflugerville - June 4, 5, and 6

North Travis County Fire & Rescue - 18300 Park Dr., Jonestown - June 11, 12, and 13

To obtain the most impact from their contributions, community participants are encouraged to attend all three of the meetings at the location of their choice.

Meetings will be facilitated by Austin and Travis county staff and members of the contract consulting team. For more information or questions, please contact one of the following:

Bowman Consulting Group: Michal Hubbard (512-517-1416) michal_firecap@yahoo.com.

Travis County: Mickey Roberts (512-854-6613) mickey.roberts@co.travis.tx.us

City of Austin: Jodi Vaughn (512-974-0125) jodi.vaughn@austintexas.gov

**Austin/Travis County
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN**

***Community Meetings
Overview***

A series of three meetings will be held in five different locations throughout the County.

FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING

- **Introductions:**
 - City of Austin Officials
 - Travis County Officials
 - Other Officials
 - Consulting Team
 - Participants
- **CWPP Overview**
- **Community Involvement Overview**
 - Timeframe for completion of CWPP
 - Expectations of Participants
- **Role of the Joint Wildfire Task Force**
- **Facilitated Group Dynamics Process**
 - Identify any missing stakeholders
 - List WUI concerns and issues

SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING

- **Facilitated Group Dynamics Process**
 - Review fuel modeling data/maps
 - Identify assets and values at risk

THIRD COMMUNITY MEETING

- **Facilitated Group Dynamics Process**
 - Prioritize issues and concerns

Public and Media Notification for Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Community Meetings

Press Release

Travis County Emergency Services will send a press release to the media on May 7 to publicize the full schedule of May and June CWPP community meetings. The release will include a list of day, time and location of meetings with parking information as needed.

Travis County Web Pages

We will also post the schedule of meetings on the Travis County home page and Emergency Services and Emergency Management web pages.

Social Media

We plan to publicize the community meetings via our Facebook and Twitter pages with weekly posts of detailed information regarding the events.

Travis County Public Television

Emergency Services will also advertise the community meeting information on Travis County's public television station.

***Community Wildfire
Protection Plan***

Travis County

Consulting Team

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Consulting Team

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Jim Linardos – City of Austin
jim.linardos@austintexas.gov

Melinda Mallia – Travis County
melinda.mallia@co.travis.tx.us

Texas Forest Service Liaison

Justice Jones
jjones@tfs.tamu.edu

Other Introductions

**Overview of a
Community Wildfire
Protection Plan**

Can Travis County answer "YES" to any of these questions:

- Are any of the County's communities in proximity to wildland fuels?
- Are any of the County's communities listed as an at-risk community in the Federal Register or State Risk Assessment?
- Are there any federal lands in the County?

Why Develop a CWPP?

2011 Fire Season Statistics
 (Nov. 15, 2010-Oct. 31, 2011)
 31,453 fires
 4,011,709 acres
 38,962 homes saved
 2,947 homes destroyed
 13,058 other structures saved
 2,804 other structures destroyed

(Texas A&M Forest Service)

Why Develop a CWPP?

2013 Fire Statistics
 (Jan. 1, 2013, to April 9, 2013)
 2254 wildland fires
 11,560 acres burned

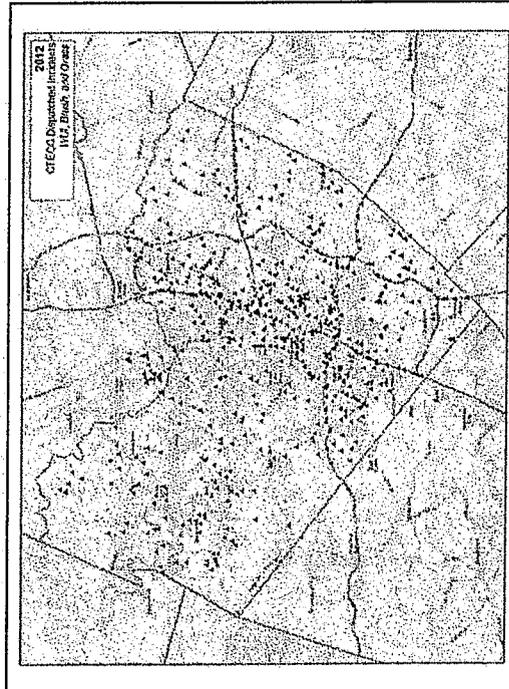
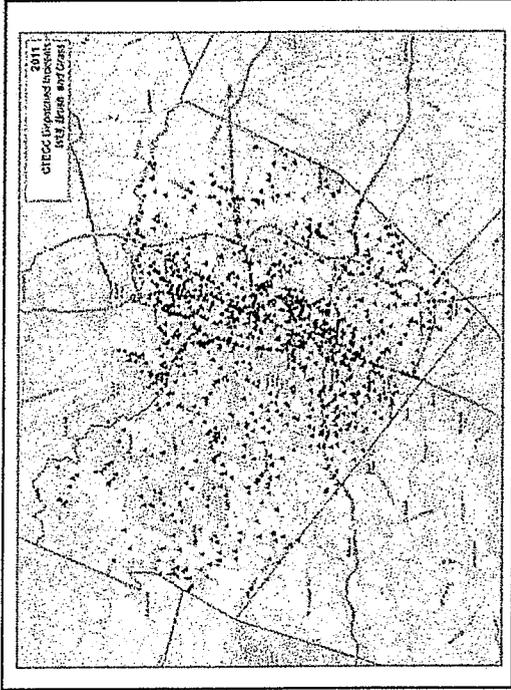
Texas A&M Forest Service

Why Develop a CWPP?

Per TFS, 14,000 Texas communities are at risk of wildland fire
 26 % pop. growth in Travis County, 2000-2010
 7 % increase since 2010
 18 % of population in non-incorporated areas

Why Develop a CWPPP?

People cause more than
 90% of Texas wildfires
 85% of wildfires occur
 within two miles
 of population centers



U.S. Drought Monitor

April 16, 2013
 V06Z7 06Z EST

Texas



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	Light	Mod	Severe	Extreme	Total
Current	1.29	68.71	31.01	7.50	54.32	18.16
Last Week	0.41	69.55	29.94	19.35	23.91	11.06
3 Months Ago	3.48	55.53	24.61	56.49	39.64	6.72
6 Months Ago	3.04	46.54	47.00	58.39	35.03	11.96
12 Months Ago	9.13	36.87	49.73	37.41	24.91	3.18
Since 2002 (Start)	17.41	32.59	54.09	31.55	11.19	13.27

Intensity:
 ■ No Drought - Green
 ■ Light Drought - Yellow
 ■ Moderate Drought - Orange
 ■ Severe Drought - Red
 ■ Extreme Drought - Purple

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text commentary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, April 18, 2013
 David Arkin, MPAA/ARWS/EC/Climate Prediction Center

CWPP Authority

Federally authorized & defined in Title I of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act signed into law on December 3, 2003

Locally authorized by the Austin City Council, March 3, 2013 and Travis County Commissioners Court, March 12, 2013

Travis County Goals

Become a Fire-Adapted Community
Understand and document the County's wildfire risk situation
Act to reduce the wildfire threat and avert catastrophic fires

CWPP Development Objectives

- Plan development for Travis County is
- A collaborative effort
 - Includes participation from
 - all governmental jurisdictions
 - key community authorities
 - pertinent community organizations and interests

CWPP Expected Benefits

CWPP Expected Benefits

Define and map wildfire risk for

- area communities
- critical watersheds
- natural resources
- cultural assets
- local industry & business
- utility assets

CWPP Expected Benefits

Determination
of local strategies
for reducing wildfire risk

CWPP Expected Benefits

Communities that develop a
CWPP are given priority when
fuels mitigation
funding opportunities
are available

**Minimum Requirements
for a CWPP**

Collaboration

The most important aspect of
developing a CWPP is that the
process used is a
collaborative effort

**Minimum Requirements
for a CWPP**

Prioritize Fuels Reduction Projects

Identify and prioritize wildland areas for hazardous fuels reduction treatments

Recommend methods for achieving hazardous fuels reductions on both private and public lands

**Minimum Requirements
for a CWPP**

Treatment of Structural Ignitability

Recommend measures for reducing structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

Who Should be Involved?

CWPP federal legislation calls for mutual agreement among

- local government
- local fire authority
- state forestry representative

on the contents and actions recommended in the CWPP

Who Should be Involved?

- Community participants include representatives from:
 - Incorporated cities
 - Unincorporated communities
 - Neighborhood groups
 - Fire response
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Environmental groups
 - Large landowners
 - Representatives of parks, preserves, other open spaces

Community Participant Role

Participants will be providing information, data, and expertise relevant to their specific wildfire concerns and interests regarding the development of the Travis County CWPP

Who Should be Involved?

- Geographic-based Work Groups
 - Central, NE, NW, SE, SW
- Issue-related Work Groups, i.e.:
 - Environmental Resources
 - Energy Providers
 - Law Enforcement

Community Participant Role

All recommendations from Community Participation meetings will be presented to the Joint Wildfire Task Force

***Community Participation
Philosophy***

Community meetings will be publicized and open to the public.
The meetings will be managed in an open and objective manner, with all members provided an equal opportunity to participate.

***Community Participation
Philosophy***

Meetings which require priority-setting activities will be facilitated through a group dynamics process to allow all participants a voice in that work group's final recommendations.

***Expectations of Community
Meeting Participants***

Representatives of incorporated communities and other structured entities should have their organization's authority to make recommendations to the Joint Wildfire Task Force

Community Meeting Schedule

Participants are invited to attend three Community Meetings between May 14 & June 15, 2013
All meetings are 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Community Meeting
Schedule**

- Northwest Opportunities
 - Pfluger Hall
 - 203-B Pecan St., Pflugerville
 - June 4, 5, and 6
- Northeast Opportunities
 - North Lake Travis Fire & Rescue
 - 18300 Park Dr., Jonestown
 - June 11, 12, and 13

**Community Meeting
Schedule**

- Southeast Opportunities
 - Travis Co. East Service Center
 - 6011 Blue Bluff Road
 - May 14, 15, 16
- Southwest Opportunities
 - Travis Co., Westside Service Center
 - 4510 RR 620
 - May 28, 29, 30

**Community Meeting
Schedule**

- Central Opportunities
 - 700 Lavaca Bldg.
 - 1st Floor Multi-Function Rooms
 - May 20, 22, 23

**All meetings are
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Role of the
Joint Wildfire Task Force**

**Make a recommendation to
Austin City Council and
Travis County Commissioners
Court regarding
the Final CWPP Draft**

*Responsibilities of the
Joint Wildfire Task Force*

**Prioritize issue and asset
mitigation recommendations
from Community groups**

*Responsibilities of the
Joint Wildfire Task Force*

**Support the CWPP development
process in order to meet
the September
completion deadline**

CWPP Target Date

**JWTF Meeting
September 5, 2013
Action on Final CWPP
document**