

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Timothy V. Corrigan
District I

Douglas B. Monger
District II

Cari Hermacinski
District III

Work Session

January 15, 2018

1. **10:30 A.M. COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE**
Tom Sullivan, County Manager
2. **11:30 A.M. LEGAL UPDATE**
Erick Knaus, County Attorney
3. **12:00 P.M. LUNCH BREAK**
4. **1:30 P.M. ROAD AND BRIDGE UPDATE**
Rick Harrah, Director
5. **2:15 P.M. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE**
David 'Mo' DeMorat, Emergency Operations Director

A. WILD LAND FIRE SUPPRESSION PROCEDURES DISCUSSION

Documents:

[ROUTT COUNTY WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION DISCUSSION MOD 2.PDF](#)
[EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIRECTOR UPDATE_01_15_2018 - NEW TEMPLATE.PDF](#)

6. **3:15 P.M. COMMUNICATIONS CENTER UPDATE**
Jason Nettles, Communications Manager
 7. **3:45 P.M. YAMPA VALLEY REGIONAL AIRPORT UPDATE**
Kevin Booth, Director
- A. AIP 44 GRANT APPLICATION**
Discussion regarding the AIP 44 Grant Application.
8. **4:30 P.M. MEETING ADJOURNED**

All meetings will be held in the Routt County Historic Courthouse
522 Lincoln Avenue, Hearing Room, Steamboat Springs - or otherwise noted.

All programs, services and activities of Routt County are operated in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need a special accommodation as a result of a disability, please call the Commissioners Office at (970) 879-0108 to assure that we can meet your needs. Please notify us of your request as soon as possible prior to the scheduled event. Routt County uses the Relay Colorado service. Dial 711 or TDD (970) 870-5444.

ROUTT COUNTY WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION DISCUSSION

CURRENT STATUS

- Routt County reimburses Fire Protection Districts (FPDs) for all wildland fire suppression efforts in the county, based upon existing Colorado Resource Rate Forms (CRRF)
- Wildfire definition is inconsistent and vague in various documents and agencies, thus is interpreted differently among FPDs
 - ❖ Predominant interpretation is fire originating in vegetation and not the result of a structural fire
- Suppression costs from 2010 – 2016 is as follows:

<u>Suppression Costs:</u>	<u>Budgeted Amount:</u>
2010: \$ 10,182.14	\$10,000
2011: \$ 747.00	\$10,000
2012: \$ 94,333.46	\$10,000
2013: \$ 81,164.42	\$10,000
2014: \$ 16,005.08	\$23,000
2015: \$ 34,398.97	\$29,160
2016: \$ 20,850.76	\$29,000
<u>2017: \$ 83,028.69⁽¹⁾</u>	\$31,000
Total: \$257,682.83	

Average: \$36,812

(1) Does not include Federal pass-through costs and State costs for Mill Creek and Deep Creek fires

- Routt County also pays for use of three state-provided wildland fire brush trucks (West Routt, North Routt, Oak Creek) at \$200/truck annually, and \$108/truck annually for liability insurance for these trucks --- approximately \$ **1,000/year**

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- Colorado Revised Statutes Sections 30-10-512 and 30-10-513 (2017): “Subject to the provisions of the community wildfire protection plan prepared by the county in accordance with section 30-15-401.7, the sheriff of every county, in addition to other duties, shall act as fire warden of his or her respective county and is responsible for the coordination of fire suppression efforts in case of any prairie, forest, or wildland fires or wildfires occurring in the ***unincorporated area of the county outside the boundaries of a fire protection district or that exceed the capabilities of the fire protection district to control or extinguish.***”
- Colorado Revised Statutes Section 29-22.5-103 (2017): “***The chief of the fire department in each fire protection district in the state is responsible for the management of wildland fires that occur within the boundaries of his or her district and that are within the capability of the fire district to control or extinguish*** in accordance with the provisions of section 32-1-1002(3)(a), C.R.S.”

- Colorado Revised Statutes Section 29-22.5-102 (2017): “Wildland area” means an area in which development is essentially nonexistent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar infrastructure, and in which structures, if present, are widely scattered; and “Wildland fire” means an unplanned or unwanted fire in a wildland area, including unauthorized human-caused fires, out-of-control prescribed fires, and all other fires in wildland areas where the objective is to extinguish the fire.”
- FPD Service Plans: Do not specifically state wildland fire response responsibility.
 - ❖ Two (West Routt, 2015, and Yampa, 1981) state “*The District may work cooperatively with the Routt County Sheriff on all wildland fires and wilderness Search and Rescue Missions in the County.*”.
 - ❖ One (Steamboat Springs, 2015) states “... *services include or will include, but will not be limited to, the provision (directly or through a third party provider) of: (a) urban, rural, and wildland-urban interface fire protection, fire suppression, and related investigatory activities;*”
 - ❖ Two (North Routt, 1981, and Oak Creek, 1982) have no specific mention of wildland fires.
- Fifth Amended and Restated MOU (IGA), 2013: “*The various fire protection districts that are parties to this MoU are willing to partner with the Sheriff and Routt County in suppressing wildland fires **in return for funding by Routt County to the fire protection districts** that are parties to this MoU and Steamboat Springs.*”
- Report of Findings and Recommendations of the Routt County Wildland Fire Council, Nov 16, 2000, key findings/recommendations:
 - ❖ There are approximately 90 volunteers and 2 paid personnel responding to approximately 1,313 calls for Fire, Rescue, and EMS services *in 1999*
 - ❖ They collect and spend approximately \$673,000 in property taxes
 - ❖ RCWFC recommended the RCBCC start an aggressive five year capital budget starting in 2001 to address Type 2 engines and full time seasonal firefighters to staff them. The firefighters would work May through October depending on the weather.
 - ❖ The fire districts have agreed to continue to attempt fire suppression with initial attack efforts with a very limited manpower approach. This will require an extended attack crew to be developed. This may require the use of Routt County Road and Bridge water tenders as a primary water source. This will require a review and possible changes to the MOU to reflect these new ideas and people.
 - ❖ The county would continue to pay for the fire district firefighters’ labor and repair of broken equipment as currently written.

ANALYSIS

- Current state legislation indicates that the County is responsible for wildland fire suppression if
 - ❖ Fire occurs in unincorporated area (outside a FPD)
 - ❖ Fire exceeds FPD capabilities --- equipment, personnel

- Historically, FPDs have not had the manpower or equipment to adequately suppress wildland fires, which led to MOU (IGA) providing Routt County financing
- While FPD capability has improved, some FPDs are still strained by lack of trained/paid personnel and finances

PROPOSED STRATEGY

- Routt County focuses on proactive measures, to include **building capability** and conducting **mitigation** activities versus reimbursing suppression costs, including:
 - ❖ Training --- Colorado Wildland Fire and Incident Management Academy, Colorado Firecamp, National Wildland Fire Training, local courses
 - ❖ Supplies --- personal protective clothing, hand tools, fire shelters
 - ❖ Equipment --- pumps, hoses, chain saws
 - ❖ Mitigation --- fuels reduction, fire breaks, access roads; may be augmented through grants
- Suppression reimbursement limited to multi-jurisdictional events that exceed agreed upon mutual aid period
 - ❖ Mutual Aid costs --- **\$26,946.95** (FPDs responding to fires outside their district)
 - This is total cost --- no gratis mutual aid period
 - Only two fires (Mill Creek, Deep Creek) required outside FPDs to provide support in excess of one operational period (24 hours)
 - ❖ No reimbursement to FPDs suppressing wildland fires within their district
 - ❖ Neighboring FPDs responding to wildland fires in another district will be reimbursed after mutual aid period (one operational period or 24 hours), except for volunteers who will be reimbursed from the time they deployed

PROPOSED EXECUTION

- Routt County BCC, with Office of Emergency Management recommendation, establish Wildland Fire budget for the following year
 - ❖ Wildfire suppression budget was \$31,000 last year, average \$29,720 over last three years
- Through coordination with Wildland Fire MAC Policy and Advisory Groups, establish line item targets for Wildland Fire budget --- training, supplies, equipment, mitigation, suppression
- Example:

❖ Total Wildland Fire budget:	\$35,000
▪ Training:	\$6,000
▪ Supplies:	\$6,000
▪ Equipment:	\$10,000
▪ Mitigation:	\$6,000
▪ Suppression:	\$7,000
- Review of budget progress would be conducted quarterly at MAC Advisory Group and funds may be moved between line items if needed

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIRECTOR UPDATE, 01/15/2018

DELIVERABLES

Complete

- EOC Activation and Operations Guide
- All-Hazards MAC Advisory Group Charter

In Work

- Capability Assessment
- 2018 EMPG application
- EOP Review, utilizing 2018 Colorado EOP Review Tool (EMPG requirement)

Next Steps

- Disseminate, train, and exercise; brief at All-Hazards MAC Advisory Group Jan 31
- Present at All-Hazards MAC Advisory Group meeting, obtain signatures
- Discuss at MAC Advisory Group meeting Jan 31
- Complete Parts I, II, and III, and present to BCC on Jan 30

PLANNING

In Work

- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) --- due by 2019
- Resource Management Plan
- Resource Mobilization Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)

Next Steps

- Discuss at All-Hazards MAC Advisory Group Jan 31
- Prepare draft for review by MAC Advisory Group
- Prepare draft for review by MAC Advisory Group
- Awaiting grant approval; expected early Feb

POLICY

- Office of Emergency Management Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Policy and Procedures --- RAS and draft policy submitted to County Manager on Jan 5 for approval

TRAINING

- G402: Emergency and Disaster Considerations for Elected and Appointed Officials --- requested by Steamboat Springs; date TBD
- Everbridge --- Brown Bag presentation in Jan, followed by independent sessions and additional training as required
- IPAWS --- OEM and RCC personnel; individual, on-line training complete by OEM and RCC; group training date(s) TBD
- Incident Command System / Emergency Operations Center Interface course (G-191); attempting to bring to Routt County --- increased benefit to having in Routt County with EOC member participation
- Working with CO DHSEM to provide a Local Resource Management class (S-703) to Routt County

EXERCISES

- Stagecoach Dam EAP Functional Exercise --- After-Action Report completed; Improvement Plan prepared and in-work
- Tentative Hazardous Material Release exercises in 2018
 - ❖ Spring --- Tabletop exercise
 - ❖ Fall --- Functional exercise (similar to Stagecoach Dam exercise in scope)
 - ❖ Fall --- participation in Moffat County full-scale exercise
- Beginning discussions with Northwest Colorado Health and assisted care facilities for an exercise to meet new CMS requirements for training and exercises

EQUIPMENT

- Moffat County Hazardous Material Response Trailer (Regional asset) --- met with Sheriff Hume Nov 15; trailer was re-stocked and is getting new tires. Will be delivered to Routt County in Jan. Plan on storing at YVRA storage building until more robust HazMat capability is developed in Steamboat Springs
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COMMUNICATIONS

- IPAWS --- MOA signed by IPAWS System Owner and forwarded to FEMA CIO for action; reviewed on 12/18; awaiting FEMA CIO signature

ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

- Following meeting with Casey's Pond (Dec 14), Northwest Colorado Health is setting up meeting with assisted care facilities in area to discuss new CMS requirements for assisted care facilities for emergency planning and exercises, utilization of EMResource web site, and use of Routt County public alert and warning system; tentatively scheduled for Wed, Jan 17.
- Initial meeting with Routt County United Way (Kate Nowak) in Dec; working on teleconference with regional United Way Office to discuss 4-1-1 system and better partnership with Routt County EM
- Tour and discussion at Steamboat 24/7 Emergency Care with Northwest Colorado Health on Thu, 1/4 --- focus on use of EMResource
- Beginning initial contact with school districts for Emergency Management presentation or display, to include public alert and warning and potentially law enforcement

GRANTS

- Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update grant --- awaiting grant approval
- 2018 Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) --- currently in development; will require BCC approval Jan 23

WILDFIRE

- **Local** suppression cost reimbursement for 2017 --- **\$83,028.69**
 - ❖ \$38,475.50 for apparatus
 - ❖ \$44,553.19 for personnel
 - ❖ ~\$38,900 Human-caused
 - ❖ ~\$36,700 Lightning-caused
 - ❖ ~\$3,200 Unknown cause
 - ❖ ~\$500 downed power line
- Major determinants of categorized costs were Mill Creek and Deep Creek fires, both in West Routt's district
- All of Oak Creek responses were out of district, and Oak Creek Provided significant support to Mill Creek and Deep Creek fires

MISCELLANEOUS

- Mo DeMorat completed the Incident Leadership course at the Wildland Fire and Incident Management Academy in Colorado Springs (Jan 8-12).

UPCOMING CALENDAR

- Wildfire MAC Policy and Advisory Groups --- **Jan 18, 1:00 – 3:00**, BCC Hearing Room; review/finalize 2018 AOP
- All-Hazards MAC Advisory Group --- **Jan 31, 10:30 – 1:30**; Discuss MAC Advisory Group Charter, EOC Activation and Operations Guide, EOP re-write, and HMP update
- Meeting with CMC to discuss emergency shelter --- **Jan 31, 2:00 – 3:00**