



FOOTHILLS STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

February 21, 2017

Attendance:	NACFR Commissioner/Chair NACFR Commissioner NACFR Commissioner District Administrator Boise Fire Chief of Operations Boise Fire Marshal Boise Chief Administrative Officer President Local 149 Firefighters Mayor of Garden City Eagle Fire Interim Chief Eagle Fire Marshal BLM Fire Management Officer Hidden Springs Town Assoc. Rep	Margaret Dimmick Mike Irvan Jeff Ramey (Absent) Shelley Young Perry Oldenburg Romeo Gervais Kim Brown Greg Womack John Evans Jamie Vincent Scott Buck Andy Delmas and Guest Chuck Miller
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Call to Order: 14:00 Hours

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Commissioner Dimmick opened the meeting by thanking attendees for their time and input. A review of the NACFR objectives included:

- Identify the best location for a fire station(s) to serve the current and projected development in the Dry Creek drainage.
- Develop a staffing pattern to serve this population. Include phased-in staffing options that expand and change as development builds out and revenues increase, and that reflect the hazard analysis and current and projected call volume.
- Identify the interagency players in the area (Eagle Fire, Boise Fire, Ada County EMS, BLM) and what roles should they play in developing a broad-based emergency response capability to serve this rapidly expanding population?

Commissioner Dimmick stated that after looking at the projected growth in the foothills it was obvious that Boise Fire, Eagle Fire and the BLM should be included in the process.

FOOTHILLS STUDY AREA

Implications of Projected Growth (review)

A PowerPoint presentation provided by the Ada County Assessor's office showing population density information was reviewed by the group.

Garden City Mayor John Evans asked if the population projections take commercial growth into consideration. Mayor Evans anticipates that Expo Idaho will eventually be a commercial area with housing and commercial development. The fairgrounds will likely be moved, and significant structures could be on the Expo Idaho properties.

Commissioner Dimmick stated that one thing to decide is "what statistics source should the group work with?". Mayor Evans stated that he feels COMPASS is likely to be the most reliable. One reason is because they have a history in Ada County and can determine how their model has performed over time.

Handouts were reviewed. Commissioner Dimmick stated that she is using this set of statistics because it was the only census data she could find that breaks out the Boise foothills. Dimmick noted that 2010-2040 numbers seem to be conservative, especially with the amount of building going on in the Dry Creek Drainage. Mayor Evans suggested that Compass be contacted because they monitor different build-out philosophies in all areas of Ada County.

Eagle Fire Interim Chief Vincent responded that he does feel the Floating Feather line is a good boundary to use for the purposes of this group.

Current Service Levels

BFD Chief of Operations Perry Oldenburg presented a historical data look at 2015-2016 medical responses. There was one medical response in Hidden Springs during that time period. There were 12 structure fires in the SE portion of Garden City during that time period. Those included Commercial buildings. There were also 1200 medical calls and a total of 200 fire calls within the NACFR jurisdiction. Moving forward, Chief Oldenburg feels there are a lot of different options to look at regarding staffing and demand patterns.

Hidden Springs Town Association Representative Chuck Miller asked Chief Oldenburg if those statistics include responses from the Eagle Fire Department. Chief Oldenburg stated that they do include responses from Eagle Fire. They are incidents that came through dispatch regardless of who responded.

Commissioner Dimmick asked Eagle Chief Vincent if they are seeing the same growth and call volume patterns in their District. Chief Vincent stated that they are seeing the same growth pattern and are not seeing much call volume at Avimor. Fire Marshal Buck stated that they are seeing some roadside fires but there is not a lot of demand for services in the area because of newer development and the age of the people who live there. Dry Creek Ranch is expecting a 1700 home buildout over the next 10-15 years. Fire Marshal Buck anticipates they will see the same demand for services pattern at Dry Creek Ranch.

Chief Oldenburg stated that response time standards for Station 16 (Glenwood) and Station 18 (Chinden) are being met. Boise City owns property on Gary Lane that is being considered for the new Station 13 site. Given the possible buildout of the current Expo Idaho property it might be best to staff a station on Gary Lane and move the crew at Station 16 to Station 18. Both stations can respond. Also, a 4-person crew at Station 16 may not be the most efficient, and it's possible a 4th firefighter could move around according to peak response times. All of the possibility discussions are made based on demand.

BLM Fire Management Officer Andy Delmas stated that BLM is pretty centralized at the airport. It takes at least 30 minutes to get across town, and response time is even longer to the Hwy 16 corridor. Most fire starts are off of roadways. One station out of Star is being utilized for response. As far as the foothills, they have 2 engines and a dozer to move around the Eagle/Star area. They are currently trying to focus on mitigation of roadways. The BLM would like to consider joint staff at fire stations and are looking for partnerships on that. However, they need a facility that could house 2 engines and a bulldozer. There is an interesting mix of ownership in the foothills and this will require more talks with the Forest Service. The BLM has mid slope ownership. They are very interested in working on Prevention with fire entities. There is a definite need for co-housing with other entities to decrease response times. Also, BLM is not staffed 24/7.

NFPA STANDARDS 1720, 1710 (WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY DO WE CARE?)

Commissioner Dimmick stated that besides local pressure to staff stations the fire service also has NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) Standards to attend to. Dimmick asked Chief Oldenburg to talk about NFPA standards and why we should care about them.

Chief Oldenburg stated that NFPA standards are industry best practices. The NFPA sets standards for staffing and for response times as well as apparatus, equipment, clothing, etc... 1710 Standards apply to full-time departments, and 1720 standards apply to volunteer departments. The NFPA standards are kind of a litmus test to refer to, and we are close to meeting those standards. NACFR has two response time standards, Urban and Rural. As you move out to Hidden Springs and other outlying areas, the NFPA Standard that applies will change.

Chief Vincent stated that Eagle Fire has talked to Avimor developers about trigger points to staff out there. He also noted that you cannot use the same computer model for outlying rural areas. The model cannot be used right now because there are not enough calls out there for the software to do an analysis.

Commissioner Dimmick stated that this is a good discussion for Prevention. Dimmick does not feel like the average resident who moves into the urban interface understands the issues with response times out there. Educating the public on that issue will be part of this process and effort.

PROCESS

Commissioner Dimmick asked a question of the group. "Is now the time, and is this the group to at least get started down this road?"

Mayor Evans asked what the trends are in the budget. Is there a parallel track on how the District finance would eventually allow for additional stations? Commissioner Dimmick stated that we did get that data from Ada County, and a review of that data is in the minutes from the first meeting.

Mayor Evans addressed the BLM Fire Manager Delmas "How is the BLM working on additional facilities and funding over time? Fire Manager Delmas stated that it takes 5-10 years for the process to come to a place where a station or facility can be built. The BLM can do a co-location with a lease but for true funding probably more of a 10-year process. The BLM can enter into 20 year leases.

Commissioner Dimmick pointed out that looking at the draft Introduction & Overview she had guessed at Hwy 16 to Bogus Basin road for a study area. Fire Marshal Gervais and Chief Vincent stated that the front goes at least to Hwy 21 and even past Hwy 16 has potential.

Commissioner Dimmick asked what each entity would like to gain from the time and effort put into a study of this scope. Fire Marshal Gervais stated that there is a lot of speculation in play at this point. The group should consider how much time and effort should be put into a study with so much speculation at this time. Fire Marshal Buck stated that there is probably a 15-20 year buildout timeline. Again, it's all speculation.

Commissioner Dimmick asked if we expand the scope to include the Hwy 16 corridor to Hwy 21 on the other side, should the group reach out to other entities that are not at the table; i.e. Star Fire. Fire Marshal Gervais stated that this approach might be too aggressive, and it may be better to focus on the core. Commissioner Dimmick stated that, speaking for herself, she is interested in a Systems Approach and does not mind spending a certain amount of money, time and effort to include Gem County. Chief Oldenburg felt that all of the players were present to include a Systems Approach. However, right now there is no foreseeable demand North. Eagle is starting to feel it in Avimor, Hidden Springs is starting to feel it. But, it's likely 10-years until projected to have significant funds available to staff a station. Chief Oldenburg stated his support for a systems approach, but noted that the trends are not clear enough at this point to move forward.

Fire Marshal Gervais stated that there are 3 entities interested in a cooperative effort to Hwy 16. But, it might be 10 year or more out. Also, we have to keep an eye on Garden City because there is a lot of potential for development of the Expo Idaho grounds, and the whitewater park is the new hot spot. Three trailer parks have sold in that past 6 months.

Commissioner Dimmick posed the question, "What is the recommended path from here?". Commissioner Irvan asked if we need to make a plan for communicating this information to the Hidden Springs community. Hidden Springs Town Association Representative Chuck Miller stated that he has talked to the Community and explained that the tax base is half of what it needs to be to staff a station. Commissioner Dimmick stated that the District is interested in knowing what can be done in the interim. Is there something more that we can do to increase services as funds become available? Chief Oldenburg stated that he would like to know what the Community's main concern is. Is it medical or is it fire? Statistically there is no real threat to the community. There is a new Pulse Point project that notifies residents in an area if there is an emergency and lets them know where to respond for basic life support assistance. This may be a good fit for the outlying areas like Hidden Springs along with other ways of getting resources there quicker. Mr. Miller stated that the District did try to establish a volunteer EMT response at Hidden Springs, but that failed due to lack of community participation. The

Town Council did purchase two AEDs that are permanently stationed around the community, and Mr. Miller has taught several CPR classes in the community. Chief Oldenburg stated that he would like to have the Community's input regarding the specific concerns so that the District can address them.

Commissioner Dimmick asked Chief Vincent to share the plan that Eagle Fire has with developers of planned communities. Chief Vincent stated that Fire Marshal Buck had worked hard to come up with a

plan for developers. Avimor has an agreement to build a station at 2500 homes built or 200 calls per year or a combination of both. Dry Creek will be the same development agreement except for their buildout will be 1700 homes. Avimor will not have a station in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Miller stated that once Cartwright Ranch is built out then Hidden Springs is close to having the tax base needed to staff a station. Fire Marshal Buck stated that would be at least 10 years. Chief Vincent agreed that 10 years is a safe timeline but is speculative. Chief Oldenburg stated that the growth inside Garden City is probably within a 5 year timeline.

Chief Oldenburg stated that he can say today what his recommendation is. He would recommend that the District and Boise Fire review these numbers on a reoccurring basis and watch the development in Garden City. Even if Hidden Springs has enough tax base to staff a station NACFR has a limited amount of resources, and the best use of resources is driven by demand pattern.

Hidden Springs Town Association Representative Chuck Miller stated that they have been able to obtain grants over the past couple of years to mitigate fire hazard in the community. Fire Marshal Gervais stated that the NACFR and BFD have been working through the Fire Prevention Department to initiate the Firewise program in Hidden Springs.

Chief Oldenburg stated that Boise Fire is 4 years out on their Capital plan. He feels that BFD can have discussions with NACFR as time goes on and should discuss in a year or two what the build out is like in Garden City.

Commissioner Dimmick asked if there is another forum handling mitigation issues around Hidden Springs and Avimor. Fire Marshal Gervais replied that he thinks the Prevention Department does have this pretty well dialed in. His department is working currently with Hidden Springs and BLM. He will also work with requirements built into the subdivision along with dip sites and positioning. Those are all ongoing discussions.

Commissioner Dimmick asked if the consensus is to hold off on the Strategic Planning for a couple of years and then re-evaluate. Chief Oldenburg stated that he would recommend that. Also, he and Fire Marshal Gervais can meet with the NACFR Board and give updates on what is happening in the District as far as development, call volume, etc...and watch the numbers. The Station 13 discussion (Gary Lane) is one we should probably start having in the next year to 18 months. If we were to come up with something collaborative the city may move sooner than later on something like that.

President of the Local 149 Firefighter's Union, Greg Womack, stated that if Boise Fire Department becomes the state fire training model, they may want to do a "sleeper program" at Hidden Springs where 20 college-age individuals could be housed at Station 20, and they would respond to calls in the area. Again, the problem there is a low call volume hurts that type of opportunity, but with the new training facility coming on line that might help with the Hidden Springs/Avimor issues. It's definitely more than 5 years away.

Commissioner Dimmick asked if it would meet everyone's needs if we hold off on the Strategic Planning effort for 2 more years until we have a better feel for development. BLM Fire Manager Delmas stated that meeting every 2 years is a good opportunity to gather this group to evaluate demographics. Mayor Evans stated that in 18 months if Garden City has a new development it will require a lot of development meetings. An issue currently is the need to supply water. A significant

development trend or significant green field is going to change what would trigger another meeting. Chief Oldenburg stated that BFD will be staffing Station 18 (Chinden) through the end of 2019 and probably longer as Station 5 will be built immediately after that.

Commissioner Dimmick asked Commissioner Irvan if the above seems like a workable idea—to expect periodic updates from BFD and pull the meeting back together in two years. Commissioner Irvan stated that he agrees with that plan. Commissioner Dimmick stated that if that is the general consensus then the NACFR Board will agree to that.

Mayor Evans thanked the NACFR Board for bringing everyone together for the SP meeting.

ADJOURN: 16:28

Margaret Dimmick, Chair

Date