

MEMORANDUM

TO: Genesee Foundation Board Members, March 12 Board Meeting
SUBJECT: February 28 Public Meeting of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)
DATE: March 6 2008
PREPARED BY: Scott Jacobs

On February 28, a kick off meeting was held at the Pines event center to explain the Community Wildfire Protection Plan process. Approximately 50 people were in attendance; 30 from the general public and the following participants in the CWPP process:

- Bill Easterling, Fire Chief
- George Greenwood, Walsh Environmental Engineering
- Rocco Snart, Jefferson County
- Allen Gallamore, Colorado State Forestry Dept
- Gary Anderson, Genesee Fdn
- Scott Jacobs, Genesee Fdn
- Anne Sherwood, Genesee Fdn.

George Greenwood's power point presentation represented the bulk of the information presented at the meeting. George covered the historical background of the CWPP, project goals and objectives, Methodology and implementation. The CWPP is a nation wide initiative that is funded by the federal government to address wildfire issues in locations where urban development interfaces with the natural environment. In Jefferson County, 9 CWPP's are being prepared primarily in the areas of the foothills using \$300,000 in grant money.

After the formal presentations, the community had the opportunity to comment. Some of the discussion and concerns included:

- How the initial fire risk zones were determined in a map of Genesee presented at the meeting
- Some in attendance felt that extreme fire mitigation measures could impact the character of Genesee with the loss of too many trees that provide a visual screen between houses.
- That relative to other areas in the Foothills, Genesee has already been taking measures to reduce the risk of wildfire especially in open space. This combined with paved roads and fire hydrants had some participants questioning if our present level of fire risk was acceptable with no additional mitigation required.
- Fire mitigation for individual property owners is already required by Jefferson County for building permits issued for new construction or remodels.
- Insurance issues were covered even though scheduled guest speaker from the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association was unable to attend
- There were also comments expressing support of the project.

There is a scheduled follow up meeting the morning of March 12 with George and members of the Genesee to update George on available maps and fire mitigation efforts already undertaken by Genesee in open space.

A draft CWPP report is scheduled to be presented to the community on April 22 at the Pines. If possible, we should attempt to receive a copy of the report prior to the meeting. In addition, after the draft report is presented, I am anticipating that there will be significant public comment requiring submittal of a second draft report. At this time, George is checking into any deadlines in the grant funding that may impact the completion date of the Genesee CWPP.