



Glacier View Fire Protection District

1414 Green Mountain Dr. • Livermore • Colorado • 80536

SPECIAL MEETING

February 15th, 2021 at 7:00pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM via ZOOM

Board of Directors present: President Steve Switzer, Vice President Randy Golden, Secretary Paul Lameiro, Treasurer David Thompson, Director Bill Salmon

Fire Department members present: Fire Chief Warren Jones, Captain Peter Henderson, and District Administrator Cheryl Franz

Public members: 6

Confirmation that there are no changes to the agenda

1. Forest Stewards Guild (FSG) - Chief Jones introduced the three representatives from Forest Stewards Guild, Daniel Godwin, Corina Marshall, and Dave Lasky. They reviewed the Proposal given to the Board at the February 8th regularly scheduled meeting.

Representatives from FSG outlined the process of FSG and the importance of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). They stated that they look at fire proactively and stressed the importance of getting out in front of the fire by conducting prescribed burns and fuel reduction, trainings, planning work, and environmental assessments. Their perspective is that CWPP is a process not just an event. They will create a document with a lot of companion data and analysis. It is the process that moves folks to action. FSG helps create a relationship between the fire district and their residents assisting them to move to action, and then the CWPP provides sideboards to that action making it implementable. This process starts with gathering data from national data bases, understanding community values, water sources, and specific areas with the highest risks, which goes into the analysis where they can do fire behavior modeling, evacuation modeling, and analyze roadways in the area. The outcome of the process cannot tell which house will be lost, but which area will be most impacted by a wildfire for the GVFD area.

After analysis is completed, they move into the CWPP. During this time, they develop a risk assessment, give their recommendation on the priorities of risks given from GVFD, and collaborate between GVFD and those who have partnered with GVFD to put the CWPP into action. Priorities within communities, which are the highest risk, are the areas that will need attention first. The CWPP is going to recommend specific action needed to reduce the fire risk to the area. FSG will not create a specific action but will recommend the type of treatment for the area. They will create a prioritization list and rank where GVFD could benefit more efficiently, and will give the District some latitude, as far as taking actions in areas they feel need to be managed.

GVFPD 2-15-2021

FSG knows that there is a lot that goes on around GVFD and an important piece is to bring the CWPP process to the community. They stressed the importance of making sure that all surrounding areas are involved to make this a success, which could be a challenge for GVFD, and those areas should be included in the GVFD CWPP. Stakeholder engagement will happen at every level. A stakeholder is everyone from community members to residents, all the way up to the USFS, CO SFS, LC, and those that are involved in this CWPP/GVFD process. The planning process would involve residents within the District and without everyone involved this can become a challenge to move into action. FSG would help facilitate and gather data based on the values and needs of the District, and then help build on the process and GVFD engages the community and encourages everyone to take ownership by doing their part.

FSG stated that there are key elements that residents, homeowners, full-timers, renters, and HOAs need to understand the role they will be playing. GVFD cannot solve this for individuals, but GVFD would have to collaboratively work together as a fire protection district. They indicated that everyone needs to be aware of the risks and how to tackle them. FSG stated It takes energy to move beyond the community and work with individual property owners, look for grants, etc. GVFD needs to identify what safety and evacuation risks might also be and decide on, and what types of risks will help identify the right fit in the right place.

Daniel from FSG shared the physics and chemistry of Wildfire behavior. They simulate fires and map them by overlaying potential wildfires based on the statistics and then they can label high risk areas. There can be limitations and they work on probable outcomes with the most amount of success. Example was given on evacuation routes and the amount of people leaving each route for safety showing congestion and roadway survivability. Daniel added that structures burns have brought data as well. Neighborhood assessments are a tool that can determine structures risk to high direct flame length, crown fires, fire torching, etc. FSG would use mapping across the landscape that combines all information, group together those structures with the highest fire risk, and see how they can change with the fire conditions. The data is based on dry fuels and drought fuels, and dry weather conditions. Historical trends 97% energy release component on weather station. 10 year rolling average window condition. The weather station is in RFL.

There was open Board discussion with questions to FSG representatives.

Treasure Thompson asked how many plans FSG has put together. FSG has put together four plans, two which are in progress, but have been involved in many other CWPP plans.

Director Salmon thanked FSG for the presentation. He asked what area detail on the identified areas will FSG give GVFD. He also asked FSG if they have you seen where Districts have taken this project and mapped it over years, and how is it updated as the District moves forward.

FSG has seen communities they work with take the action plan and leverage it into potential grants to help provide funding for future action plans based on the CWPP. FSG will support and update the data as action is taken by GVFD and the Stakeholders. They will make sure they show developed tools that support action and get used. FSG stated that by GVFD bringing other partners to the table it shows interest and action can be reallocated to preform projects for a common purpose. The updated data helps link agencies when there is a fire.

Treasurer Thompson stated that there are four districts on the mountain and that GVFD experiences predominately West winds. There are campgrounds to the West which make GVFD vulnerable. He asked if this could be a group or multidistrict plan.

FSG stated that they cannot commit every district, but it has been done. This would allow shared information. GVFD would need to have the conversation about working with their neighboring districts. FSG also said that putting together a big plan like that would be a lot of work. They reminded GVFD that some fire is not stoppable, but a Fire District that does the work, changes the impact. We cannot prevent it all, but we can be proactive.

Chief Jones –stated that both Crystal and RFL fire districts have participated in a CWPP project back in 2004/5 and some mitigation work has just been completed in RFL from their CWPP. He also shared that Crystal did an evaluation on their CWPP and continue to work on the plan.

Treasurer Thompson asked that since technology has changed over the years would GVFD have to redo its plan as this will be a big commitment and cost and will GVFD have to make annual contributions for the next 10-15 years.

FSG's hope is that districts do not let the plan lag, but that they submit updates which allows FSG to relook at the wildfire analysis of the area without going through a whole new CWPP. FSG was not able to give an estimated cost but would again be based on GVFD's risk assessment and priorities. One thing they would not have to do is go back to the drawing board so there would be less of a cost. FSG encourage looking into grants for annual funding of action projects, and If the District is looking for a grant, the CWPP must be actively working.

Chief Jones is recommending Phase 1 with an estimated cost of \$36K.

Secretary Lameiro questioned what kind of variance should GVFD expect to see with the data changing on a 10-year running average and to give us an idea of how to add data.

FSG stated that fire comes around every 8-10 years as the climate shows a hotter, drier, windier trend, along with days above 100. FSG would need to pull RFL's past 10 years of data to answer the question.

Secretary Switzer asked that if GVFD updated at least every five years we could see progress to the area within the District.

FSG stated that the data is less driven by changes in climate and fire weather and show more changes in GVFD's infrastructure and landscape fire risk. They stated that GVFD will see a shift of new or less challenges based on possible changes in the area due to fires, etc.

Secretary Lameiro suggested that it appears that GVFD will always be behind the expectations if demographics are changing annually. He wondered if the latest picture portrays the current variables. FSG stated that they look at the worst days and conditions and add them into the models with the multiple variables. FSG stressed that a professionally written plan is an easier plan to update, with a community that stays on top of action plan and does yearly updates. They will provide all data, documents, to update. The district owns the documents. GVFD will need to ask the community to spend money and do things that change the dynamics in the area. Mitigating the fuel is important but getting things like the pine needles picked up is an individual's responsibility for structure preservation. Its neighbors helping neighbors.

Director Salmon stressed that the FSG prospectus needs to be a living plan that is defined. GVFD will need to know how and when it gets updated and we can use it as a tool. Conditions will help GVFD be aware of risks of potential fires.

Treasurer Thompson recommended good direction from FSG that everyone would have access too. FSG stated that they can set up simple maps and applications that will help the community answer questions as where to start in the mitigation progress. The process will be easy to navigate and utilize and the maps can be updated.

Vice President Golden thanked FSG for their presentation. He asked who would be involve with the core team. Is the focus of the CWPP mitigation, and is there anything more GVFD needs to look at? FSG stated that GVFD would have a core team that would work closely with FSG in keep everything moving and to make key decisions. FSG recommended a small group for private individuals, then move to bigger groups later for bigger implementation of projects. FSG stated that writing the plan is the easy part, working through the neighborhoods to make the work happen is the hard part. The intent is to make recommendations for GVFD to use in communicating with neighbors. FSG noted that to be successful people need to come to the presentations, get motivated by the concern of a wildfire, and establish neighborhood captains that would work with their neighbors for recommendations for doing mitigation work.

Treasurer Thompson asked if FSG would be involved in the presentations to the community. FSG said they will stay in touch, but only for support to make the documentation successful. The focus of FSG is around mitigation, evacuation, and contemplating post fire effects. It is mainly to get people to do work before the next fire.

Captain Peter Henderson stressed that we need to start somewhere, because right now GVFD does not have a plan like this. He stated that GVFD is behind the curve stating we lost homes in 2012 and got lucky in 2020. He agreed that this would be a living document with long-term strategic planning that we can work from and allow GVFD to pass down. Peter suggested GVFD look at where we want to see our community in a few years, and how we want to protect it. Chief Jones agreed. Treasurer Thompson agreed that this plan is something we need, but GVFD does have a lot of priorities needs to know where this plan would fall in with those priorities. GVFD does have a responsibility to the community.

President Switzer called an end to the presentation by FSG to allow the Board members to consider what had been discussed and the Board will discuss at the March Board Meeting. He thanked FSG for the presentation.

2. Audit Resolution – President Switzer read Resolution 2021-02-8 Application for Exemption From Audit.

Public Comment:

Peter – He values everyone’s comments and understands the prioritizations of GVFD needs. The Capital Improvement Plan covers many of GVFD needs and expressed the use of donated funds for the CWPP. He encouraged the Board to take a good hard look about how to more forward as a community over the next 5 – 10 years. He appreciates their time spent on this plan.

1. Directors Comments:

Steve Switzer stated that this plan is important to the Board. It is Board’s hope that we are setting this up for success for 5-10-20 years down the road. It will be the legacy that this Board leaves to future GVFD Boards.

(Directors Comments – continued)

Treasurer Thompson stated that the Board will have to contemplate this presentation over the next couple of weeks. He is not against it, need a plan of this type, check prioritizes. We can cover with donation from the Cameron Peak Fire. Appreciated the time to better understand what this plan was about. We have a fiduciary responsibility to the District.

Vice President Golden stated that the Board needs yes to the CWPP and they need the Chief's help in getting them there. He volunteered as the Board member to set up a time to talk to Evergreen or Platte Canyon and see where they are on their CWPP. Vice President Golden expressed he hopes to see what their experience is with FSG and how FSG is working with them, and what kind of feedback are each district getting from the community. Chief Jones said he needs guidance from the Board on what they expect from staff for the next meeting. He encouraged the Board to decide on the CWPP whichever way they see fit. Chief Jones stated that he asks a lot from the membership and they need to move on with other projects. Randy will move forward with talking with people for feedback under the direction of Chief Jones or Peter. Peter recommended Genesee probably is the most comparable community to talk with. He stressed that this would take some creative thinking to follow through with the CWPP. President Switzer recommended the field visits move forward and Vice President Golden can make a presentation at the next meeting and provide a summary document for the next meeting so we can keep this moving forward.

Director Salmon stated that if the Board does not feel confident in what FSG is doing than he suggested that the Board look elsewhere and do something different. The Board needs to decide if we are dealing with credible people, do we have credible staff that understands what that plan will provide, and we need to do the work as a Board to put an infrastructure in place that supports the Chief and his staff which carries this plan into the next 10-20 years. This will be a living document that shows what we do as mitigation in this district and it will get built into the plan that continues to evolve and gets updated into the master plan. This master plan will show what a responder will be facing when they head out into a fire area and will tell them what to expect and what they can do. He stressed that this will be a credible, usable plan that we can actualize. Director Salmon mentioned that the core team needs to make good on their deliverables to the community and stakeholders and the Board needs to trust the Fire Chief's guidance.

Paul stressed the importance of accurate data as it puts fire fighters on the line and in the line of fire and he does not want to see a bad outcome because the data was wrong. He wants the data as good as possible. He believes FSG gave good answers and approves of the CWPP. He is concerned about the motivation factor within the community regarding mitigation.

President Switzer expressed his gratefulness to Secretary Lameiro for his service on the Board and invited him back for discussion if ever interested. He thanked Chief Jones for the hard work. President Switzer said the CWPP is a good idea and stressed that it is the right thing for the District to do in the long run. The Board is trying to set this District up for success well into the future and we want this CWPP to be our legacy. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

Adjournment: President Switzer entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Treasurer Thompson accepted the motion. Vice President Golden seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:16PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Cheryl Franz
District Administrator

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: Monday, March 8th, 2021