

- Wildland fire has changed, and climate change has affected the wildland-urban interface.
- The plans provide emergency response preparations, model the potential for fire behavior with limited response, show where teams would have the biggest impact, and provide changes going forward that would reduce risk.
- Each plan will focus on the first six hours of a major incident in a quick reference format and identifies likely critical fire weather, fire behavior and progression, and a look at 50 years of data.
- The plans consider a resource deficient response environment and identify critical safety concerns.
- Evacuation vs. shelter-in-place guidance, defined evacuation travel routes and identified conditions and decision points are provided with the plans.
- A team of 14 experienced consultants do the “heavy lifting” during the collaborative process and that footwork is as important as the finished plan.

Kovacs said the following after the presentation:

- Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District is exploring similar plans with South Metro Fire Authority, Denver, for a lesser cost, but with not nearly as much detail.
- The proposed plans from Rohde and Associates will be evaluated with stakeholders during the project development.
- He has had personal experience using the pre-plans when he worked for the Orange County Fire Authority, Calif.
- Thirteen pre-plans are needed, but due to the expense the three highest-priority areas would be developed initially.

Vice President Roger Lance said it would be more cost-effective in crossover areas to have shared funding from multiple agencies and departments.

Division Chief of Community Risk/Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner said it would have been nice to have had a sheet of paper on the first day of the Black Forest Fire in 2013 to help with interagency support, and at least on a bad day they would have something to share with their partner agencies when the project is complete.

2022 budget presentation

Kovacs said there have been a lot of changes in 2021, and the executive staff and managers have spent countless hours looking at the numbers. This year, a lot more responsibility has been delegated to shift managers and budget coordinators, and any board changes and discussion over costs are encouraged. Kovacs, the staff, and department managers proposed many budget increases and additions as follows:

- A 4% cost of living allowance increase is recommended.
- The purchase of property for an eventual move of Station 2.
- Beginning with the 2022 budget, a reserve of \$100,000 toward a future fourth station.
- A wildland-urban interface fire emergency

planning project.

- A Haas alerting system to provide advance warning of responding agency emergency vehicles during dispatch for an initial cost of about \$60,000.
- A Type 3 engine.
- A Ford F250 for district-wide use and a Ford F150 for the division chief of operations.
- A side-by-side (ATV) and enclosed trailer to improve shuttling during rescues and multiple events and situations.
- Upgrades for Station 3, a concrete driveway at Station 1, the training center development and bore for a water line under Highway 105, and about \$70,000 in training props that can be used immediately and incorporated into the training center upon completion.
- Multiple increases to the budget were also proposed by the department managers for operations, logistics, EMS, training, and education.
- Multiple uniform additions include Nomex uniforms, wildland deployment clothing and \$5,000 for honor guard uniforms (the 9/11 CrossFit7070 fundraiser raised about \$1,200 for TLMFPD and for the Monument Police Department).

Kovacs said the district property tax assessment values have increased by \$1.5 million for the 2022 budget year, and 84% of the district revenue is generated by property taxes. The district is spending in a responsible way, but it is up to the board to make the final decisions, and the staff can provide more clarification to the board and continue the discussion at the October board meeting, said Kovacs.

2022-26 strategic plan

Kovacs presented the 2022-26 strategic plan that was developed from the 2019 Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) master plan that provided recommendations on how to improve the agency, combined with strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis, both internal and external, and with all the elements combined and generated from the conversations he had with personnel when he first arrived, and the results from the community stakeholder meeting.

Kovacs noted the following during the presentation:

- The district needs to be prepared for community threats, and its greatest risk is from wildfire.
- The district must provide the most cost-effective service to the community.
- Fire suppression, wildland fire prevention, EMS, and fire inspections for businesses were high priorities for the community stakeholder meeting participants.
- The district received 100% participation from the firefighters during the internal SWOT analysis.
- The strategic plan will continue to be evaluated and updated every two or three years to ensure the needs of the community are being met.

Director Terri Hayes requested a broader com-

munity survey be conducted in the future besides a community stakeholder survey that included the response of only 10 selected participants from the May 8 community stakeholder meeting.

Kovacs said a broader community needs assessment would be valuable in the future, and he requested the board review the plan over the next month and discuss adopting it at the October meeting.

Unification process update

ESCI project manager Dan Qualman identified a real deficiency in the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) fleet and the funding that has not been set aside in its capital fleet replacement fund. The boards will be brought together in November to discuss the ESCI feasibility study. See www.ocn.me/v21n6.htm#tlmfpd and www.ocn.me/v21n7.htm#tlmfpd and the DWFPD article on page 12.

Division chief of training update

Kovacs said Battalion Chief Kris Mola will take over as division chief of training in November for two years on a district rotation.

EMS—mutual aid response update

Kovacs said there is not a lot of data yet on how often the Wescott American Medical Response (AMR) ambulance and the Northgroup districts are providing EMS mutual aid, but a nice balance of about three or four calls between the districts occurred in August. The trend will be monitored for several months to see where we stand with AMR and how mutual aid is being provided. See www.ocn.me/v21n9.htm#tlmfpd.

Division Chief of Operations Jonathan Bradley said the battalion chiefs have the right to reserve one ambulance within the district but will provide mutual aid to DWFPD.

Station 1 remodel update

Trost said the Station 1 remodel encountered a few delays in September and the project is now estimated to be completed Oct. 25.

Fourth annual pumpkin giveaway

Engineer Adam Wakefield announced the Fourth Annual Monument Professional Firefighters Local 4319 Pumpkin Giveaway. The event will take place at the Monument Marketplace Clock Tower, 15986 Jackson Creek Parkway, on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Live music, free pumpkins and candy will be featured, and the public will have the opportunity to judge “The Chief’s” pumpkin carving crew competition. A non-perishable food item for the Tri-Lakes Cares food drive is encouraged.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

Meetings are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 166 Second St., downtown Monument. For Zoom meeting instructions, agendas, and minutes, visit www.tlfire.org or contact Director of Administration Jennifer Martin at 719-484-9011.

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Monument Board of Trustees, Sept. 9

Darcy M. Schoening appointed to vacant trustee position

By Allison Robenstein

During the Sept. 9 meeting of the Monument Board of Trustees, Darcy M. Schoening was appointed to fill the trustee position left vacant by Jamy Unruh. Rob Rathburn, who has been a supervisor in Public Works for over 35 years, was recognized for his expertise. Two Public Works projects were approved by the board.

Although Town Manager Mike Foreman asked the board members to turn on their microphones, some trustees were completely silent, although it was apparent they were speaking. One of those was Trustee Laurie Clark, so there are no quotes from her in this article.

Trustee Mitch LaKind attended virtually.

Trustee seat filled

Schoening beat out five other candidates to be appointed by a vote of 4-2. Three candidates including Sean White, Kenneth Kimple and Schoening were present. Isabella Matthews and Amy Yocom-Vos failed to attend the meeting.

Schoening told the board she has lived in Jackson Creek for a little over a year after a brief move to Denver. She previously owned Dex’s Diner/Depot with Greg Duncan, a restaurant that operated from 2017 to 2020. She continues to serve on the St. Peter Catholic School Home and School Association as vice president of fundrais-

ing. Schoening is also the owner of *The Colorado Herald*, an online newspaper that claims to support Clark’s campaign for governor.

Acting Town Attorney Joseph Rivera provided a legal review of the requirements for an appointment, noting there is very little guidance provided by statute: a simple majority by a motion can appoint anyone over 18 years of age who has been a resident of town for at least the last 12 months.

After interviewing three of the candidates, Trustee Ron Stephens nominated White, who has been serving on the Monument Planning Commission since 2019. LaKind nominated