AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Letter of Support; CPAW Application

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

Request for letter of support from BOCC for Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire program.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Cathie Pagano **Submitter's Email Address:** cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:
ok db 9/28/18

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\dBaumgarten Discharge Date: 9/28/2018 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 9/28/2018

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 5 minutes

Agenda Date: 10/2/2018

Revised April 2015

Gunnison County, CO
Community Development Department
221 N. Wisconsin St. Ste. D, Gunnison, CO 81230
Phone: (970) 641-0360 FAX: (970) 641-8585
Website: www.gunnisoncounty.org
Email: planning@gunnisoncounty.org

To: BOCC

From: Cathie Pagano

Date: September 14, 2018

Re: Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire program

The Community Development Department is considering applying for the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) program. This program is a partnership between Headwaters Economics and Wildfire Planning International.

The mission of the CPAW program is to work with communities to reduce wildfire risk within wildland-urban interface through improved land use planning. If our application is accepted Gunnison County would receive free, customized technical consulting services and training with a CPAW team including land use planners, foresters, risk modelers, and researchers.

The CPAW program's services vary based on needs and may include:

- recommendations for updated planning policies and regulations to address wildfire;
- capacity-building training for planning staff and first responders on WUI topics;
- development of a local wildfire hazard assessment and WUI map;
- guidance on wildfire mitigation plans;
- research and outreach tools to communicate wildfire risk; and
- other recommendations to address local wildfire planning concerns.

If Gunnison County is selected there is no charge to the County for the program however staff time is required for participation in the process over the course of one year. The program requires that the County apply with the cooperation and support of the local fire districts. Staff has reached out to the Gunnison and Crested Butte Fire Protection Districts; both districts are supportive of the application. Staff has also coordinated with Emergency Management staff and the West Region Wildfire Council to ensure that the efforts and products align and do not overlap.

The Community Development Department had intended to review and consider adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Building Code and amendments to the Gunnison County Land Use Resolution to address wildfire mitigation more thoroughly. The CPAW program will provide staff with additional support and recommendations in an effort to reduce wildfire risk. The Gunnison County Planning Commission and BOCC would review any code adoptions and/or amendments prior to adoption. Additionally, stakeholder input will be an important consideration during any review or discussion of regulatory changes.

October 2, 2018

Molly Mowery

Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire Program

Molly@wildfireplanning.org

Re: Gunnison County CPAW application

Dear Ms. Mowery,

The Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County is pleased to offer its support for the County's application for the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire program. We have been an active supporter of Community Wildfire Protection Plans and the West Region Wildfire Council while also working collaboratively with other agencies on the Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council.

The land use, planning and code considerations and recommendations are an important tool in mitigating and/or reducing risk from wildfire. Our staff is committed to working with the CPAW professionals to identify opportunities for changes to our regulations and policies related to wildfire.

We have seen from other communities the value addressing wildfire and know the environmental, community and economic devastation that can be a result of large wildfires. We know the risk of wildfire and development in the wildland urban interface and find that support from the CPAW program would enable our community to reduce our risk and enhance our natural ecosystems and communities.

Thank you for your consideration.