

Meeting Minutes – Jackson County CWPP Meeting 1

Thursday March 6, 2PM

In attendance:

Kelsey Bowe – Greater Egypt

Nick Keller – Greater Egypt

Lilly Bolin – Greater Egypt

Orval Rowe – Jackson County EMA

Devin Biffer – Makanda Township Fire Dept

Jesse Riechman – Shawnee National Forest

Sarah Lipe – Makanda Township

Nathan Speagle – The Nature Conservancy

Kelsey from Greater Egypt welcomes attendees to the first Jackson County Community Wildfire Protection Plan meeting. She introduces her colleagues and announces that the grant contract has been executed, allowing work to begin on the project.

Kelsey Bowe discussed the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and its benefits for fire protection districts. The CWPP makes jurisdictions eligible for future grants from the USDA's Community Wildfire Defense Grant program. Kelsey emphasized that a CWPP is necessary before applying for grants for fuels reduction, prescribed burns, new equipment, or hydrants. The planning process will be about 18 months long, and it involves gathering data from fire chiefs and assessing communities for wildfire risk. The plan aims to restore resilient landscapes, create fire-adapted communities, and increase wildfire response safety and efficiency.

The meeting concludes with Kelsey summarizing the next steps and answering questions. Jesse offers the Shawnee's assistance in helping fire departments complete the required information. Kelsey clarifies that the plan is similar to hazard mitigation plans, valid for 10 years, and should include both broad and specific wildfire-related projects. Sara inquired about implementation, and Kelsey explains that various entities can apply for grants using this county-scale plan once it's completed. The meeting ends with Kelsey requesting attendees to share contact information for anyone else who should be involved in the process.

*Note- meeting minutes generated using Zoom AI, and edited for accuracy.