

CITY OF WILLIAMS CITY COUNCIL

**WORK SESSION
AGENDA ITEM**

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**MARCH 24, 2011
COUNCIL ACTION**

I. PROCEDURES:

- A. Call to Order Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 5: 02 p.m.
- B. Roll Call Mayor John Moore, and Councilmen Bill Miller and James Wurgler were present. Councilmen Don Dent, Bernie Hiemenz, Frank McNelly and Lee Payne were absent.
Present from City Staff were Interim City Manager/Finance Director Joe Duffy, and City Clerk/HR Director Susan Kerley.
- C. Adopt Agenda *Mayor Moore said this was not required.*

II. WORK SESSION ITEMS

- A. Presentation by Kaibab National Forest Service regarding their plan for prescribed burns, deforestation, and protection for Williams should nearby fires erupt.
- Marty Schramm said that the Forest Service has committed money to start an environmental studies process, going out with different groups to get ideas on how to best manage Bill Williams Mountain. Council is the last group to meet. They hope to use folks from NAU to get research done. They had a public meeting a couple of weeks ago which about 15 attended. There were some common themes:
- Agree something needs to be done
 - Fuel wood gathering is important to local folks.
 - How does this fit with other Forest efforts?

This will be a separate effort. They want to consider some aspen regeneration. It will cost money to treat the Mountain now. The choice is to do that or treat major fires later.

She asked Council members: How would you like to see the Mountain and with what efforts?

Councilman Miller said he is looking for safety of the City and its watersheds up there. The City is a prime target - anything to eliminate this risk.

Mayor Moore said he saw the Mountain up close a while ago. He believes the Forest Service folks are the experts. He believes, either way, through man or Nature, the Mountain will be cleared. He thinks the City can be helpful with public relations to keep people informed.

Councilman Miller believes the biggest issue in the past has been smoke. We need to prepare folks to temporarily relocate if necessary. Another concern is getting people to a comfort level with burns getting out of control. Getting the word out a week or so in advance would be helpful.

Joe Duffy said he has noted thinning with piles left. Is there any method other than burning to get rid of the piles?

Paul ????? from the Forest Service showed maps indicating different types of treatment, based on different types of equipment available in each zone from ground-based harvesting with specialized equipment to helicopter logging which is very expensive. Cable logging is the

cheapest method in this area, but the only way to get to some areas is by helicopter.

Councilman Miller asked if they use a lot of private vendors, and the response was “yes.”

Mayor Moore said they’re talking about a bio mass plant down at Drake. Marty Schramm added that they want to have it up and running within a year which will be helpful for reforestation projects.

Marty Schramm said that while helicopter logging is very expensive, they can’t be afraid of that when they think about potential fires.

Major Moore said that we cannot delay – we’ve been talking about this project for 20 years.

Councilman Wurgler mentioned that, over the years, 17 different organizations in Flagstaff have had a lot written about their having separate agendas. They apparently found ways to work together.

Marty Schramm added that they’re still objecting to some projects but are all sitting at the table on forestation project. One group is adamant that any tree greater than 16” in diameter cannot be cut.l

Councilman Wurgler asked if the Forest Service has arrived at a ploan to initiate or to resolve? How do we move forward?

Marty Schramm said that the Forest Service needs the City’s support during their planning effort and implementation. Folks may not realize what the Mountain will look like if it is treated properly. Historic photos show tremendous open spaces on the Mountain. (She circulated some historic photos of Bill Williams Mountain in the early part of the 20th century.)

Mayor Moore asked what they need from the City – a letter of support. For now, they just need input to find out if there are other ideas to consider during their planning process.

Mayor Moore assured those from the Forest Service that the City supports their efforts.

III. ADJOURN:

The Work Session was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Mayor John Moore

City Clerk

ATTEST