

February 25, 2016 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Dawain Burgess, Trego, Fortine, Stryker RFD; Doug Turman and Wyatt Frampton, DNRC; Mike Sanders, Upper Yaak FSA; Bill Swope & Lou Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Lisa Osborn, Troy USFS; Kirk Kraft, Lincoln County EMA/Fisher River FSA; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Terry Peck, Firefighter Challenge Coordinator; Dan Rose, USFS; Christine Johnson, FireSafe Montana(via phone)

Round Robin:

Johnson- Christine introduced herself as the new director for FireSafe Montana. She discussed activities around the state and the need for input. The executive meeting for FireSafe Montana will be in Polson on April 6 at the Polson Red Lion. Bill Swope said he planned on attending. I asked Steve Lauer if he could represent our council and he said he would like to as long as he was available.

Burgess- TFS has been doing assessments. Reported on the embezzlement case at the fire department. Folks around the area have already started burning although it is not legal until March 1. Cody White had a news announcement on burn restrictions in the newspaper.

Osborn- Lisa said that the Northern Regional Fire Prevention Team is still promoting “One less spark, One less fire”. The district is prepping for burning. Seasonal hires is on. Lisa will be getting out a news release on burning restrictions.

Rose- Dan said that there have been 150 new permanent fire hires in Region One with 7 on the Kootenai. The Kootenai is now fully staffed. Two helicopter crews this year with one transitioning into a repelling crew. Reported on the status of the OU-3 fire model. A 10 person crew is being assigned to OU-3 this summer.

Lauer- Steve said he has been attending workshops and working on the annexation. Will be attending the Fire Alliance Conference June 9-12.

Kraft- Fisher River is having a type 6 wildland engine restored. Saturday there will be a public meeting on the proposed cell phone tower at the Fisher River Fire Station. Kirk explained the history of trying to improve the cell phone coverage in the area. This proposal would generate income for the fire service area as well as locating the tower at a less sensitive site.

Turman- Doug said that a new State bureau chief for fire is Mike Degrosky. Working on a beetle sale south of town, which will be expanded at a later time.

Sanders- Upper Yaak FSA has had 4 fires. These fires have had an average response of 17 minutes up to 8 miles out. Down one firefighter. Doing emergency response in coordination with the Troy ambulance.

Frampton- The DNRC is hiring seasonal firefighters. He has been setting up training schedules. He would like requests from the fire departments as to equipment needs for the grant request.

Levert- I mentioned that I had mostly worked on Kootenai Forest Stakeholder Coalition projects including the intervenor status on the East Reservoir Project. I gave an update on the Alvord Lake project including planned pre-commercial thinning this year and the upcoming dedication on July 8. I had put in for a \$500 grant from State Farm Insurance to help cover expenses for the Fire Adapted Community Workshop.

Swope- Bill said that the Lincoln County grant program is pretty much down to the \$30,000 that they received from Lincoln County.

Kuennen- Lou reported on the Lincoln-Sanders and Pink Meds grant status. He has written 6 new agreements.

Old Business:

Fighter Challenge- The event will be held at Pioneer Park on June 11. The events will start at 12 PM and registration will be at 11 AM. First 20 teams will have their registration fees covered by the Lincoln County FireSafe Council. In mid March the save the date notice will go out. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10 at 9AM. **(Note that after the meeting we decided that it would work best if the next meeting could be held on March 17 in conjunction with the FireSafe Council meeting)**

Fire Adapted Community Workshop- We discussed the draft agenda that I had made up. **(See attached revised agenda)** Steve was going to again head up the drawings for prizes although much less than our last workshop. We talked about the list of possible booths and exhibits including: DNRC, EMA, Betsy Miller, FireSafe Montana, Provider Pals, General Fire, Whitefish FireSafe Council(Mike Frost), EPA, Red Cross, NRCS, Yaak Valley Forest Council.

We decided that we would not have snacks on Friday. Donuts, coffee, etc. for Saturday morning and refreshments for the break. No lunch provided.

There was concern that we were trying to put too many subjects for the timeframe available. Kirk suggested that we needed to have a section on defensible space and preparedness. We needed to limit Diane's presentation to 30-45 minutes. We should have at least 30 minutes for questions and answers.(We can provide paper for questions and gather during the presentations)

Education Committee- Lisa discussed the new state fireWise assessment forms. The long one is for a self assessment by the homeowner and the short one is for the professional assessment.

The Keep Montana Green program needs new board members. The fire prevention team training webinar will be on April 6. The Bozeman training session will be on April 26-29.

We discussed the FireWise trailer, which Steve and Lisa still need to inventory. Keith Kenelty will **not** be available for the trailer this year so we will need to come up with another person. Dawain offered to pick up the trailer and display at the Eureka Rendezvous on April 30.

New Business-

Bill Swope talked about the DNRC Landscape Scale Restoration Grant. This grant is for \$300,000 and could include a number of different projects like fuel reduction, watershed restoration, education, etc. We decided that we would form a committee to discuss putting in for it. Lisa was going to host the conference call on March 1 at 10 AM (note- Lisa was sick and we rescheduled for March 3 at 3PM). Those who expressed interest in being on the committee were Swope, Levert, Kuennen, Frampton, Burgess, Osborn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00

Next Meeting- March 17, 2016

Ed Levert, Chair