

March 17, 2016 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Dawain Burgess, Trego, Fortine, Stryker RFD; Mike Sanders & John Huber, 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; Tim Bumgarner, Libby USFS; Mark Peck, Lincoln County

Round Robin:

Burgess- TFS has been helping with burning. They have also been doing their training. The embezzlement trial is on-going.

Bumgarner- They have been doing a fire simulation exercise. They have pile burning at airport that needs to be done. Tim talked about the Joint Chief's grants between the NRCS and the FS, which might have been implications for doing project work across FS and private boundaries. He suggested we invite the NRCS to come down and explain at our next FSC meeting. The FS is buying an air curtain burner on wheels for \$55,000. The burner may be available to other agencies.

Osborn- District has been burning. Still working on the Oly Project. Hiring of seasonal is ongoing. A FS article on burning is coming out. Working on education program for schools. She will be sending out the "Save the date" notice for the Fire Adapted Community Workshop". Will send the notice to Sanders Co. and North Idaho contacts. Virtual workshop on fire prevention in Billings in April.

Lauer- The department has been doing smoke detector tests with the Red Cross. The OU-3 team has been using the decontamination trailer. ISO rating process is changing in the city and county. Working on annexation and fire assessments in areas around old Cabinet FSA.

Attended the Reno FireWise Conference and felt good as to where Lincoln County is in our efforts. Insurance companies are becoming more involved. Kirk said he can help with ISO information.

Huber- A trustee meeting planned with Mike Cuffe invited. This is an opportunity to help change the law which currently does not allow fire departments to draw water out of rivers and streams for practice purposes. Will present to the county coop meeting on March 23. Steve Lauer will present to state fire chiefs.

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.

Sanders- No chimney fires this year! One new firefighter.

Levert- Submitted a landscape restoration grant to the DNRC for \$300,000. The grant consisted of one part for fuel reduction of 127 acres in the Granite Cr. Area, a part for stream restoration on the Yaak River, two forest stewardship workshops one at Troy and one at Eureka and a record keeping and mapping system development that would connect all agencies in reporting fuel reduction accomplishments.

I have been working on two thinning areas in the Alvord Lake Community Forest. The dedication of this area is scheduled on July 8. Plans are proceeding for the Libby Fire Adapted Community Workshop on April 29th. We were unsuccessful in our application for a \$500 State Farm Grant that would have helped with the workshop.

Kraft- Emergency Management working with Troy user groups on radio and table top. Working on Ou-3 three day training plan with multiple agencies. Public information is critical for coordination with all agencies. EOC being modernized(phone systems, internet). Updating generators.

Fisher River will be celebrating their 30th anniversary in June. Will be getting with Keith Kenelty to look at community FireWise needs. Lots of new homeowners are posing an issue. The cell phone tower meeting went well and there could be an additional 2-3 towers between Libby and Kalispell. Looking to go to fire district instead of Fire Service Area in order to raise more funds, because of all the trailers that are parked on new lots that generate no income.

Swope- Bill said there has been no word as to if the Lincoln Co. Western States grant for \$300,000 has been selected. Still hopeful however. May want to request more Title III funds for fuel reduction projects. Flathead FireSafe Council's third meeting is coming up.

Kuennen- He has written 2 new grants and closed on 1 this month. Most of the \$30,000 of existing Title III fuel reduction funds has been obligated.

Peck- Mark said he would be doing a 10 minute presentation on our FireWise program at a NACO meeting in Jackson Hole next summer. He asked Ed and Bill to give him information, accomplishments, etc. prior to his presentation.

Old Business:

Fighter Challenge- The event will be held at Pioneer Park on June 11. Terry said that the sponsor letter is ready. The Firefighter Foundation will cover the insurance costs. Raffle tickets are ready, which Terry hopes will quickly raise \$170 to help pay the remainder of the \$700 cost of the raffle rifle. The next planning meeting is on March 23 at 9AM at the Libby Fire Hall.

Fire Adapted Community Workshop- The decision was to limit the workshop to Friday evening on April 29th. We decided to include a preparedness section of the presentation and to extend the time to 9PM from 8PM. I will write a op-ed for the county newspapers. The next planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 22nd at 9AM at the Libby Fire Hall.

Education Committee- Dawain will man the trailer for the Eureka Rendezvous and the Firefighter Challenge. He will drop off the trailer for the Yaak and Mike and his crew will handle. Lisa will handle the trailer for the Troy Fourth of July celebration.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00

Next Meeting- April 21, 2016

Ed Levert, Chair