

March 17, 2016 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Dawain Burgess, Trego, Fortine, Stryker RFD; Bill Swope & Lou Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Kirk Kraft and Lisa Odewaldt Lincoln County EMA/Fisher River FSA; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Wyatt Frampton, DNRC

Round Robin:

Swope- Running short of grant funding in the north end of county. Bill discussed the 2016 grant where possibly 20% of the grant can be spent outside of target area. Although the 2016 grant has been awarded to Lincoln Co. we are still waiting for authorization to start spending the money. Grant can be 75-25 when no timber receipts involved. There will be an open house at Bormann station on June 28.

Kuennen- Lou has written one new grant in Eureka area. 126 acres completed in Eureka area. Seven grants completed out of 17 in the North end. 12 grants left in S. Lincoln County to complete.

Burgess- West Kootenai FSA auction this Saturday. Two TFS firemen have graduated from the academy. TFS looking for new or used fire truck. Participated in a mutual aid for a car wreck. Eureka responded to a grass fire.

Lauer- Steve said that Libby RFD can provide extrication training. Working on ISO ratings the past 3 weeks. There is a push to combine city and rural fire departments state wide, but Steve doesn't think this is a good idea. Will be starting FireWise assessments soon.

Kraft- Odewaldt-Fisher River FSA planning on having their 30th anniversary open house this summer, but no date set. Kirk will check with Warren Illi from the Chain of Lakes Homeowners Assoc. to coordinate dates. Fisher River FSA picked up two new like Freightliner chassis's for tenders. 300' cell phone tower planned at station, but must undergo a 2 year feasibility study first.

EMA- improving communication sites at Pink, King and Blue, which need generators. Black Butte has a trunk radio system as part of the northern tier communication system and Kirk is trying to incorporate other information into system. There will be a bio-hazard training with hospital in September. Meeting of EMA with folks in the Yaak Community Hall tonight to explain what help is available in case of an emergency and find out their needs.

Lisa said that McCormick's firemen have all resigned and the board is manning the engines. Lisa also said that the county will begin enforcing the assigned addresses in county since some folks have chosen to ignore their assigned address.

Frampton- Libby area has had 2 fires, one from lightning and one from a feller buncher. Fuel moistures have recovered since dry spring. Crews are currently in the Southwest.

Fifty five firefighters trained at Bormann. Steve Frye retiring at end of month. All engines now have Cloud Mapping ability on I pads.

Levert- Neils fuel reduction project almost completed for 30 acres. No acceptable bids for masticating project on Alvord Lake Community Forest.

Old Business:

Fighter Challenge- Unfortunately the event had to be cancelled since there were only four crews signed up. Will plan on hosting some event this Fall. A discussion ensued over reasons why there is a lack of interest.

2017 Proposed FireWise(Title III) Program- I explained that I would be meeting with the county commissioners on June 29 to propose a program budget. There were no particular questions regarding the list of projects and priorities. I mentioned that I may propose additional funds be used to help do fuel reduction through grants, similar to what we did this year.

FireWise Education Committee- Although not brought up at this meeting Wyatt had agreed to do an article for the Kootenai Record. Dawain said he was fine with managing the FireWise Trailer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00

Next Meeting- July 21, 2016

Ed Levert, Chair

