

September 15, 2016 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Dawain Burgess, Trego, Fortine, Stryker RFD; Bill Swope, Flathead Economic Policy Center(FEPC); Kirk Kraft, Lincoln County EMA/Fisher River FSA; Doug Turman, DNRC; Larry Miller, Upper Yaak FSA, Lisa Osborn, USFS; Brian Ressel, Natural Resource and Conservation Service; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD;

Round Robin:

Turman- Had a 102 acre fire on Redemption Ridge. Over Labor Day they had 4 lightning strikes and 2 fires. Seasonals are winding down. The DNRC will be burning a large pile on state land near the Libby Landfill. Flower Creek road pile burning coming up.

Swope- The FEPC forester meeting is on October 13th at Carol Daly's house in Columbia Falls. Bill discussed Mark Boardman's video which hopes to help forest landowners when planning a timber harvest.

Kraft- The Meadow Peak communication upgrade will be completed on September 16. The 30th anniversary of the Fisher River FSA on August 27th was a success.

Osborn- The Three Rivers District had several small fires with the largest a 15 acre fire in Cedar Creek. The district will be issuing burn permits on Monday. She has been working on the FireWise Calendar. Lisa is being detailed for one month as a NEPA leader. The Northern Rockies Fire Prevention meeting is on October 18th and 19th at the Red Lion in Polson.

Burgess- TFS has been doing some engine swapping. Charlie Newton lost much of his logging equipment on the Copper Fire. TFS has had one car fire response, a medical assist and 2 small fire responses. Dawain will be bringing the FireWise trailer to the Harvest Festival in Libby this Friday and next week to the Pumpkin Festival in Troy.

Miller- Larry gave an update on Mike Sanders recovery from heart surgery. The Upper Yaak FSA is very short handed at the present time.

Lauer- Fire Prevention Week is coming up in October and he is preparing for school presentations. He has been working on an update to their health and welfare policy. The department participated in river boom training for oil spills. Steve is representing Region One as the vice-president at the Montana Fire Fighter Convention. They have had few fires of late. The department averages 7 a month. Steve expressed concern regarding their future ISO rating as at the national level there is an effort to combine city and rural department's ratings.

Ressel- Brian expressed regret that the NRCS cannot share their shape files on fuels accomplishments because of confidentiality concerns by the agency. He is going to have a new form that would allow this information to become available if the applicant for a

project approves. The NRCS is working with Walt Shim in the Five Mile area for 20 acres of fuel reduction work. The FS is issuing burn permits in the Eureka area.

Levert- I mentioned some of the projects I have been involved in including the Alvord Lake thinning. The MCC crew was working on the hand thinning and the masticating project was progressing well. I had been involved with the project teams for the Kootenai Stakeholder Collaborative in project review of the Starry Goat and Flower Creek projects. I had participated in the Fisher River open house.

Old Business

FireWise Education Committee- Lisa said that she would like to finish the calendar by the end of the month. She will be sending out the monthly quotes for comments. **She asked Bill and myself if we would send any before and after pictures from the Neils Project.**

Chipping- The agreement was in agreement of using a portable chipper to treat residential debris within the Libby Air Shed. Steve Lauer agreed to allow the use of the Libby RFD phone number in regard to any advertising or reference to requests for this work. **Ed is to get chipping rates from Holelick and Cooper.**

FireWise Signs- We agreed that there was a need for signs to be posted by completed jobs that serve as good advertising for the program. I stated that I needed help with the wording, type of sign, etc. Steve volunteered to take on the task.

New Business

Resource Conservation Partnership Program- As explained by Brian, this program is designed for use for projects that can be leveraged by state and private funds to receive on a 1:1 basis funds from the NRCS. Brian was looking at applying for FY 2018 grants. The application is due one year from now. The area east of Hwy 93 seemed to be a great target area because of the number of properties that are scattered along the area from the Flathead County line north. I mentioned the need to tie in our proposal with any FS treatments to show the cooperation. The possibility of tying this project in with a DNRC landscape restoration grant would be a great opportunity to come up with a major leverage source. Some of the possible cooperators named were Lincoln Electric, DNRC and Burlington Northern. Brian was encouraged to take the lead on this project.

Next Meeting- October 20

The meeting adjourned at 12 PM.

Ed Levert, Chair

