

October 20, 2016 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Dawain Burgess, Trego, Fortine, Stryker RFD; Bill Swope and Lou Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center(FEPC); Kirk Kraft, Lincoln County EMA/Fisher River FSA; Doug Turman, DNRC; Larry Miller, Upper Yaak FSA, Steve Lauer, Libby RFD;

Round Robin:

Kuennen- Lou had 3 validations and 6 left to go to close out the Lincoln County - Sanders County grant. Lots of inquiries at the present for the approved, but not authorized to spend the new, South Lincoln Co. -Sanders County grant.

Kraft- About half way through the review of the emergency operating procedures. Hope to complete next year. Currently working on train hazardous materials.

Fisher River FSA has maintained its ISO rating of 6. Recently acquired tractors are being painted. Montana Machine is building two new tanks for them.

Burgess- The FireWise Trailer went over well at the Apple Festival in Troy. 10 folks signed up for assessments. Reached 125 school kids during Fire Prevention Week in the TFS area. The FS is burning out unburned areas within the firelines from the Marston Fire. The trailer awning was recently repaired.

Lauer- Pump tests have been completed. Presented the Fire Prevention Week Program to over 800 school children. Worked with homeowner in the Granite Creek area to have evacuation route cut fuels chipped. Received 6 "FireWise Property" signs that will be placed around the county at recently completed fuel reduction projects.

Swope- Bill discussed the 2016 Lincoln Co.-Sanders Fuel Fuel Reduction Grant. Although awarded the grant must wait for approval before being spent. Bill said that this grant is different and that it also requires a stewardship plan, which is in the process of being developed.

Turman- Most of the seasonal are done for the year. Discussed the Swan burn that got away from the State and burned onto private lands. Completed the slash burns above the landfill off the Pipe Creek Rd. DNRC is doing a 30 acre thinning above the Flower Reservoir that ties in with the FS work. The asbestos in the bark issue is still not a dead issue with the DEQ. Logging is ongoing on the Colonite Sale. The next sales are the Smoke-Brulee and the Clay Banks. Attended the county commissioner meeting with the Forest Service along with Matt Arno from the DNRC regarding the Good Neighbor Policy and other coordination issues with the FS. Still doing more testing to determine W.R. Grace's responsibility in OU-3.

Miller- UYFSA is short handed at the present. They have had a couple of minor responses. Their tender is about ready to go. Picked up a fuel truck that is close to being

operational. The engine they picked up from Cabinet View can pump, but they haven't been able to get it to draft.

Levert- I reported that we were hopeful that we could get the green light to burn the Neils piles. I gave an update on the Kootenai Stakeholders Coalition activities including the Young-Growth tour on the forest. I also reported in the Alvord Lake pre-commercial thinning. The hand thinning by the MCC crew won't continue until next spring. The masticating contract is on hold because of the wet and steep conditions. A different machine will be moving in later this fall.

Old Business

FireWise Education Committee- I reported that Lisa had said the 2017 FireWise calendar is about ready for review. She wanted any good fire pictures sent to her by tomorrow. This led to a discussion that had arisen from the fire coop meeting where Kirk reported that several of the fire departments questioned the expenditure for the calendar. They complained that there was little interest and they were stuck with all of these calendars. Our discussion led to the assumption that part of the problem was a distribution issue and perhaps we were publishing too many calendars. Our discussion further led to the necessity of fire departments making an effort to get the calendars out. Our group felt that the calendars were very helpful and served a good purpose. We need to discuss this further with Lisa.

We then went into more detail as to where to place the new FireWise project signs. One is already along the highway by the Neils Project. One will go to the Edgewater Project, one to Mary Devlin's and Lou will post one at Dave Madison's place. Dawain is taking 2 for the TFS area.

Grant Program- Bill told us that the new fuel reduction grant will allow either a 50-50 or a 75-25 cost share. The 75-25 one would pay for 75% of the estimated cost and would be applied where there was not a merchantable component. Where there was a merchantable component the grant would only pay \$150/acre up to a \$3,000 maximum.

Resource Conservation Partnership Program- We had a brief follow up discussion on this subject since Brian Ressel couldn't make this meeting. We see a lot of merit in pursuing this and hope that Brian can take up the lead on this in the near future. A meeting with all the relative interest groups appears to be in order.

Next Meeting- November 17

The meeting adjourned at 11 AM.

Ed Levert, Chair