

## **April 20, 2017 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Steve Lauer, Libby; Libby RD; Jeff Stevenson, Kootenai N.F.; Bill Swope and Louis Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Dawain Burgess, North End Representative; Lisa Odewaldt, Lincoln County EMA; Larry Miller, Upper Yaak RFD; Allen Osborn and Vicki Stevens, Three Rivers R.D.**

### **Round Robin:**

**Swope-** Bill discussed the new grants in Lincoln County. April 25<sup>th</sup> is the date of the presentation by Dr. Hessburg on the “Era of Megafires” at FVCC. Bill discussed the revision planned for the CWPP by the Flathead FireSafe Council. They are anticipating setting a 5-6 priority areas.

Bill suggested we get local building contractors to the Roaring Lion presentation. He said that he could get the electronic presentation that Byron Bonney does for the Roaring Lion. It was suggested that this would be a good presentation for the Yaak

**Burgess-** With the wet weather there is not much going on with outside burning. Dawain will be taking the FireWise Trailer to the Lincoln County Rendezvous in Eureka on April 29. Fuel reduction projects going on at Roberts Lake and Marl. Bill Swope suggested a field trip this summer to look at some of these projects.

**Kuennen-** Lou discussed the grants in the Pink Meadows and other areas.

**Lauer-** Steve was at the Bozeman fire meeting and heard Jack Cohen’s presentation. The Ready-Set-Go Program was discussed too and suggested to be used as a educational program only. Firefighters had attended the rail training in Colorado. Steve plans on starting home assessments in two weeks.

**Stevenson-** 167 new fire hires in the Region One and 7 on the Kootenai. The Forest has added a 3<sup>rd</sup> radio frequency with the west side, Ksanka side and Libby side. There are 10 firefighters in Virginia and an engine in Florida. Guard school will be June 5-9 at Upper Ford. The Type 3 team will be meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Interested folks can call Jeremy Nelson who is coordinating at Canoe Gulch. There will be a IDIQ meeting for interested contractors on May 2. Warren Applehans is moving to the Bitterroot and Mike Burrows will be the FMO for Eureka/Murphy Lake.

**Odewaldt-** Lisa discussed grant applications as she got 3 Homeland Security grants out of 13 she had applied for. She will need to replace sub-division fire risk assessors Mark Romey and Steve Gauger who have both stepped down. She said she would supply the names of applicants along with the new sub-division regs at next month’s meeting. She is now the county fire warden and is also the county planner.

**Miller-** Larry said that it has been quiet in the Yaak. There will be a WINGS fund raiser auction in Yaak on May 6.

**Osborn-** All permanent seasonals have returned. Corey Farmer is filling in behind Vicki's departure for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge N.F. Need some drying weather before being able to do any burning.

**Levert-** The Montana Conservation Corp thinning crew started at Alvord Lake on April 17. They will be there until the end of the week. We are waiting to start burning slash piles on the Neils property. I gave a brief update on the Kootenai Stakeholders. I mentioned the need to get more Ember Alert handouts. Dawain didn't know if we had any for the trailer.

#### **New Business-**

**Starry Goat Fuel Reduction-** Vicki Stevens presented this project south of Troy. It included numerous commercial and non-commercial units that will help break up the fuels and lessen the threat to the Troy community.

**FireSafe Council suggested ideas for 2017-** I went through the handout that I had put together on ideas and priorities. Some of the priorities we discussed included continuing to pursue the centralized collection of fuels accomplishments from all agencies and private properties; free chipping in the Libby Airshed; increase home assessments payments to fire departments to \$100 and focus on community of Troy as a FireWise Community. A decision was made to increase the home assessment payment to \$100.

**The meeting adjourned at 12:00.**

**Next Meeting- May 18, at 9:00 AM**

**Next meeting:**

- 1) Eric Warrington and Crystal Beckman of the Missoula DNRC office will make a presentation on the new FireWise home assessment process.**
- 2) Lisa Odewaldt will present the new proposed sub-division rules and candidates for completing sub-division assessments**

Ed Levert, Chair