

June 15, 2017 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Bill Swope and Louis Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Dawain Burgess, North End Representative; Mike Sanders, Upper Yaak FSA; Paige Hageness, Libby District Fire Prevention.

Round Robin:

Hageness- Libby District crews are back from Arizona. They have 4 engines and 2 helicopters with 1 repel crew. The district has had 2 fires with 1 human caused. Nikia Hernandez is moving to Oregon in August to a similar position. A detailer will be coming in following his move. They have 30-40 firefighters assigned to OU-3.

The East Reservoir project is still waiting for a decision by the 9th Circuit Court. The Flower Creek project objection period is over and a decision is pending by the Forest Supervisor. Cowell-Mitchell is the next project planned.

Burgess- The Cliff Pt Fire was 30 acres on the Eureka District. TFS has had a couple of smokes.

Kuennen- Lu has 10 new agreements and 2 completions. He is currently working with 32 landowners. The “free” chipping offered in the Libby Airshed appears to be a non starter so far.

Swope- Bill discussed the dry conditions in the Chain of Lakes area and the recent Rogers Mtn. Fire. The folks around Happys Inn are having a problem finding a place to deposit slash from cleanups. The dump has not been opened up as it was supposed to be. He will follow up by contacting the fire department.

Bill said he would be attending the McCormick FireWise presentation with Lou on July 29th. He said he could fill in for Kirk Kraft with the Ready-Set-Go presentation if Kirk isn't back from a fire by then. *Ed was to send Bill a power point on R-S-G.

Bill asked Dwain to contact the Eureka District for district reps to look at fuels projects with Lou, Bill, Dawain and Ed.

Bill suggested that we move the grant sign on the Iron Mountain Road in Troy to McCormick for the presentation on the 29th.

Sanders- Mike said the Upper Yaak RFD has had 8 call outs and 2 fires.

Levert- The Fisher River FireWise program set for July 22 has been cancelled by chief Kirk Kraft. I will be doing a presentation at the McCormick RFD station on July 29 and another with Steve Lauer at Em Kayan Village on Aug 3.

The Kootenai Forest Stakeholder Collaborative will support the Flower Creek Project.

Dan Rose had sent an email on the 17th that the Kootenai had 5 new fires last week with the largest the Grizzly Fire at 15 acres. 19 fires so far this year. The forest is fully staffed with initial attack resources. The forest has 2 additional helicopters and a couple of out of area engine modules. Talking about restrictions but none yet.

Old Business-

Education Committee-

We discussed the 2018 calendar in light of Lisa Osborn's changed position. Paige said that she would consider taking the lead for putting the calendar together. We liked the 2017 calendar but we could include fire action shots like we had in 2016. Ed brought up the snafu we had with distributing the calendars in a timely way in 2017.

Ed brought up the question of doing radio ads like the ones Pat McKelvey is doing in the Helena area. We all agreed that is a good idea. Ed will contact the local station. Paige said she would contact Ali Ulwelling about the suggested Kalispell station that folks in the Tobacco Valley listen to.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Next Meeting- August 17, 9:00 AM

Action Items-

Ed order FireWise publications, contact radio station, move grant sign to McCormick and assessment forms.

Paige contact Lisa Osborn about calendar and Ali about radio station in Kalispell.

Dawain contact Eureka District about tour of projects.

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Ed Levert, Chair

