

October 19, 2017 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Louis Kuennen, Flathead Economic Policy Center; Mike Sanders, Upper Yaak FSA; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Mark Peck, Lincoln Co. Commissioner; Trevor Pelling, McCormick RFD; Brent Teske, Lincoln County Emergency Management; Logan Sandman, DNRC.

Round Robin:

Kuennen- Lou discussed the South Lincoln County Grant which is in it's first year. The Pink Meadows Grant is in it's 3rd year. Lou has 50 new agreements with 20 recently.

Sandman- Logan has been in the fire management position for the Libby Unit since this Spring. The unit has had 31 fires this year including Tamarack, Moose Peak and the Rogers Complex. They have some burn piles to do this fall. The fire crew is still on but expected to be laid off next week.

Teske- We welcome Brent who is replacing Kirk Kraft and Vic White in Emergency Management. Brent started about the same time as our large fires did so had quite the baptism to the job. He is now settling in to a more routine schedule. Brent discussed the local emergency planning committee being organized for OU-3(Vermiculite Mine). He has been working on grants. Brent said that plans are for Ernie Anderson, county computer guru, to eventually take over the radio system.

Lauer- Steve has been working on the installation of a 30,000 water storage tank by the airport. Arrangements are being made for the purchase of a site for a satellite fire station on the Kootenai River Rd. They received \$5,000 from a Round Up For Safety grant for the acquisition of a fitness testing procedures for respirators. They also received \$50,000 for the purchase of new turnout gear. Brent mentioned that the W. Kootenai FPC needed lockers as they only had nails to hang up their gear. Steve discussed the fire prevention program for kids. He estimated they presented the program to 600-700 kids.

Pelling- We welcome Trevor to our council meeting. Trevor said they received a grant for the acquisition of a Freight Liner from the Dept of Defense. The truck is being retrofitted in Bend Oregon to a water tender. The cost is \$27,000-\$28,000. Trevor said they need water sources and have a landowner who wishes to donate an existing water source. They are looking at installing 2 holding tanks for summer use only. Trevor has recently completed 14 FireWise assessments.

Sanders- Mike discussed two medical emergencies the fire department responded to that were successful. They had two fires with one recent one that was very challenging requiring assistance from the Troy RFD and FS. This one had a successful outcome.

Levert- Much of my recent activity has been with the Kootenai Stakeholder Coalition. I discussed the on-going efforts with the Young Growth Project, Northwest Peak and the

five year timber sale plan for the Kootenai. Salvage sales from the fires will be the primary target for 2018.

New Business-

2018 Title III – (Commissioner Peck was able to make this part of the meeting)

I explained that I had met with the commissioners to present the 2018 Title III budget. Since there are no more SRS funds coming into the program the commissioners were concerned about where we could get the most bang for the buck. In particular, some of the educational items such as the calendar were in question. I passed around a sample questionnaire that the county had used last year to gain a better understanding of citizen's feeling on services provided. I proposed putting together a similar questionnaire on a random basis intended to find out more about the effectiveness of the FireWise program. I was to provide my sample questionnaire at the next FSC meeting.

I then passed around a revised budget, which included cost reductions. After discussions this revised list was reduced further as shown on the attached 2018 Proposed FireWise(Title III) Program. This is the program I intend to provide to the commissioners for approval.

In summary here is some of the discussion that evolved: With Lisa Osborn's changed position we are not in position to have a 2018 calendar even if we wanted it. The FireWise trailer management and maintenance budget was reduced to basically cover the cost of just the handout material. The Alvord Lake FireWise demonstration signs, etc. was eliminated as there were other sources of funding than the county. The forest stewardship workshop in Eureka was eliminated. With this planned program there would be approximately \$131,469 remaining in the account at the end of the fiscal year. This should allow the program to continue for several more years before exhausting all funds. Hopefully there would be other sources of funding forthcoming that could continue the program.

2017 Fire Season(Lessons Learned)

Although this discussion was to be tabled until the November FSC meeting we did discuss some of the possible discussion items. Commissioner Peck suggested that this subject be a separate meeting than the planned FSC discussion. At this time I will go on the premise that we will discuss the subject as planned at the next planned FSC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Next Meeting- November 16, 9:00 AM

Ed Levert, Chair