

January 25, 2018 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Jeff Stevenson, USFS; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co Forester; Dawain Burgess, TFS and North end representative; Mike Sanders, Upper Yaak FSA; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Mark Peck, Lincoln Co. Commissioner; Doug Turman, DNRC; Trevor Pelling McCormick RFD; Logan Sandman, DNRC; Tim Bumgardner and Dean Whitney, USFS, Brent Teske, Lincoln Co. DES.

Round Robin:

Turman- Libby Unit looking at hiring 2 foresters, one to replace Mike Justus who is retiring and the other would be working through the Good Neighbor Authority. Montana will have one less Type 2 team next summer. One side working on Flower Sale. Done with fire salvage operations for the season. A salvage permit is out for McKillop and Cow Camp.

Teske- Brent discussed the LEPC(sp?) with 17 in attendance. The fire coop meeting is scheduled for Feb 9 at 6PM. A radio package is available for \$1450 on big orders. He has now moved his office back to Libby City Hall. A meeting room is available.

Pelling- Trevor said things have been quiet a McCormick RFD. Their water tender was going to Bend Oregon for renovation. The McCormick FireWise Community has been organizing.

Lauer- The Libby Airport water tank is now $\frac{3}{4}$ full and is available to all. He has been working on the Big Horn Terrace annex and now has over the 40% required signatures. The Montana Mutual Aid Agreement has been corrected after the confusion during the Caribou Fire.

Sandman- The Libby Unit will need a fire crew replacement next spring. The Lincoln County Operating Plan is being upgraded. He will be going to the WUI conference in Reno. Training dates have been identified for March and April. Bob Harrington's State Forester vacancy is planned for refilling in March. They are updating radios.

Sanders- They have one engine down.

Burgess- Quiet at TFS. A public meeting was held for the Caribou Fire salvage. The FS was looking at fuels treatments around homes. Appears the FS is planning on salvaging 55 MMBF from the Caribou Fire. Stream restoration is also needed. Dawain said that the FireWise trailer needs more materials. He will coordinate with Paige when she returns to work the first of March.

Bumgardner- Libby District is looking at 40 MMBF from the W. Fk. Quartz Salvage. Their hope is to have all the required NEPA completed by June and be able to sell in the fall. The Tamarack Salvage is completed. There will be a Big Iron contracting meeting held locally following some of the confusion last summer. Paige will be the FireSafe Council representative from Libby District once she returns.

Whitney- We welcome Dean, new fire management officer for Libby District replacing Nikia Hernandez. Dean gave us a brief rundown of his past assignments.

Stevenson- 15 non-fire positions are being filled on the Kootenai. Jaime Graham is the new dispatch manager. There are 12 new fire positions to fill on the forest. The forest's training plan is out. The spring fire meeting on April 12 will have a focus on equipment.

Levert- I have been working on getting the Firewise questionnaire out to 500 randomly selected property owners in the county. This should help us in future educational efforts. I have been working with McCormick residents on forming a Firewise Community. The Kootenai Forest Stakeholder Coalition has recently signed separate MOU's with Lincoln County and the Kootenai N.F. The Era of Megafires is coming to Troy this year. The state Tree Farm tour will be held in Eureka.

New Buisesss- Management burns in the Libby Air-shed was the discussed. Tim suggested that the recommended size of the piles was un-realistic. I said that they were guidelines only. A meeting between Jake, Kathi Hooper, Montana DEQ, Commissioner Peck, myself is needed to work out the possibility of extending the burn season without jeopardizing the status our current status with DEQ.

Next Meeting- February 15, 2018 9:00 AM

Ed Levert, Chair

