

August 1, 2013 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Dawain Burgess, TFF RFD; Lisa Osborn, Three River RD; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co; Kirby Maki, Libby Supt. of Schools; Vic White, Lincoln County DES

Round Robin:

Lauer- Scott Beagle is back doing assessments and Steve will be starting soon. Plan on being completed this Fall, except have not started doing assessments in old Cabinet View area, which is still in question. Had a fire in a fifth wheeler in the Sheldon area.

Maki- Kirby said that things were going well in the school district. Closing existing grants and writing new ones. Doing needed maintenance work on sidewalks, etc.

Burgess- TFS had a four acre grass fire. The FS responded to a fire in Edna Creek.

Osborn- Stage I restrictions implemented in SW Montana and Sanders County. Not implemented on Kootenai based on expected rain. She has been working on the FireWise trailer design. A Sky Crane helicopter is based in Troy.

FS crew responded to a fire in Souse Gulch(OU-3) with full suits and respirators. Vic said that protocols in place worked well. The fire was easily contained.

White- OU-3 exercise last month went well. Vic talked of his role as county representative in the event of a large fire. Fire evacuation planning is going well. Fire departments have mapped primary and secondary access roads and are now mapping additional information. DES has applied for a grant for all fire departments to acquire the Bulberry software needed for locating homes and alerting residents in the event of a needed evacuation.

Lisa Odewaldt has been doing an audit of all three leased communication sites. The evacuation plan for the county is being posted and will be printed. Dawain said that he had requests in the TFS area for presentations on evacuations, etc. I said this would be an excellent opportunity to give a FireWise message.

Levert- I have been involved with the Troy FireWise Bus Tour. I also spent a day with Bill Swope and Lou Kuennen in the West Kootenai. We met with the fire chief and then met with two property owners who were interested in the fuel reduction grant.

Old Business

FireWise Trailer- Lisa asked that I provide a better Lincoln Co. logo to use for the graphic on the trailer. The graphic design is being done in Moyie Springs. Several of the designs will have to be drawn by the designer as we were not able to secure some of the photos we needed. The total price for the graphics appears to be around \$1,000. Steve was going to take the trailer to Moyie and leave with the designer rather than relay

measurements, etc. Steve said he would take care of a license mount. Steve said Jason was going to give him a quote for the cabinets. Lisa and Ed were to go to ACE and pick up brochure totes, extension cord, tables and chairs.

Education Committee Report- The Raven summer camp is happening this week. Bruce had to cancel the teacher's camp because he could only get 5 signed up. He will plan on the camp for 2014.

I was asked about assessment training for McCormick. I said that I offered to conduct it anytime, but I have never heard back from anyone. Lisa said there training officer expressed interest in the training. Thus far we have 955 recorded assessments in the county. Libby and Eureka RFD's have been most successful.

The ½ page FireWise ads in the newspapers look good. The county reader board is also getting the message out on grant availability.

Troy FireWise Bus Tour- I reported that we had about 25 that participated and although I was disappointed there were not more there I still thought it was successful. We reached several key individuals including a city council person from Troy who promises to pursue the FireWise agenda with their council and fire department. I also thought that the agency and fire folks present gained a better knowledge of the FireWise program.

Suggestions were offered on how we might improve it next time. One is to just have it for a half of day. Another was to have it on a Saturday. No new tours are scheduled.

New Business

Enough Is Enough- This discussion was on the merits of the petition that Sonny Stiger had sent out. The consensus was that we were all in agreement in principle on the points that Sonny had make, but that there were going to be exceptions. Steve mentioned that there were homes that he knew of that were defensible and the fire department would respond to these homes even in an extreme event. I mentioned that if fire crews always had "one foot in the black" in a direct attack they would be safe. I said that I would contact Sonny about our positions.

Title III Funding(2014)- \$122,000 is available that needs to be obligated by Sept. 31 of this year. We kicked around a number of ideas without making a decision. They included: 1) contribute funds to make our current grants more cost effective for folks, 2) use the funds to set up our own grant, 3) contract with a qualified person who would work with the fire departments to do FireWise assessments, 4) treat evacuation routes. I asked the group to consider other thought on the subject and we would make recommendations to the commissioners at our next meeting.

Next Meeting- September 5

Ed Levert, Chair

