

July 19, 2012 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees; Eric Leigh, Lincoln Co. Environmental Health; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co. ; Dawain Burgess, Doug Turman, DNRC; TFS Fire Chief; Lisa Osborn, Forest Service; Kirby Maki, Libby Sup. Of Schools; Matt Bowser, Yaak Valley Forest Council

Round Robin:

Leigh- Eric discussed some reader board problems and adding a FireWise message to it. Still some wording confusion on our new web site involving the impact zone, but Lisa will correct.

Lauer- The EPA is conducting tests on structure fires to determine asbestos emissions. The dry hydrant on Pipe Creek is not working. Seeking a permit to direct fill from Pipe Creek instead. Over 50 FireWise assessments completed so far with 5-6 grant requests.

Burgess- 7 firefighters gone on forest fires so short handed. TFS had a lightning fire start along the highway.

Osborn- Many of the district personnel are on wildfires. Very slow fire season. Provider Pals teachers' course went well with 9 Libby teachers and one teacher from Big Fork attending. The children's course consisted on 10 students from the D.C. area, 6 Troy and 5 from Libby. The teachers course for next year needs to be announced earlier so teachers can plan their summer.

Bowser- Yaak Valley Forest Council is involved in the restoration of 3 Troy area lookouts. Matt is on the planning board and they are meeting with Stimson regarding the conservation easement on the 21st.

Maki- School district is recruiting a psychologist. School starts on the 28th. Staff development next week. Working on curriculum development.

Turman- Fire crews are on the East side. Five fires this summer. Will be using Spencer's air curtain burner to dispose of slash on the Farm to Market and Crazyman timber sales.

Levert- I have been spending much of my time working on fire grants and other fuel reduction projects such as the proposed Skidale Sale, Edgewater Estates and other potential fuel reduction opportunities in the Libby FireWise Community. I displayed the Libby Fire Severity map that I have been working on with the county planning department.

Old Business

FireWise Trailer- Dream Marine's cost estimate is \$13,500, which is considerable over the old estimate from Northwest Motor Sports of \$8,000. The discussion was that if we can't get a responsible bid in the Libby area we should look to the Flathead.

Advertisements- We felt that the advertisements in area newspapers have been good.

Calendar- Lisa said that there was a computer problem which is holding this up.

Assessments- I told the group that we have had good success from Libby and Eureka, but not from the other fire departments.

New Business

Lincoln County Grants- I announced that I had decided not to pursue the Pinkam-Meadows Western States fuel reduction grant for 2013, because of the need for coordination between the Forest Service and the grant. The Forest Service won't actively begin planning for their project until this Fall.

Flathead Economic Policy Center, which will be administering the grants, has not received the funds yet for any of the grants. Although they have been assured that we will receive the money, Carol Daly felt that we should not advertise for a forester in the Libby area until the money was in hand. However, I have been working with Bill Swope in preparing areas that we can work in. It was also decided at a recent CEPC meeting that I attended, not to hire a forester to work the W.Kootenai area for the present time.

Next Meeting- September 20 at 9AM

Ed Levert, Chair

