

## **December 20, 2012 Lincoln County FireSafe Council Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees; Dawain Burgess, TFF RFD; Lisa Osborn, Forest Service; Steve Lauer, Libby RFD; Mark Peck and Doug Turman, DNRC; Matt Bowser, Yaak Valley Forest Council; Bruce Vincent, Provider Pals, Kirby Maki, Libby Supt. of Schools; Kendra Lind, Lincoln Co. Environmental Health; Ed Levert, Lincoln Co.; Paul Rumelhart, Kootenai Valley Port Authority.**

### **Round Robin:**

**Lauer-** Steve has been doing fire prevention educational activities, training, completing FireWise assessments and working on grants.

**Osborn-** No recent update on the FireWise trailer. Kirsten Kaiser is the new Three Rivers Ranger District Ranger. S.Fk Yaak WUI project NEPA document is now a top priority on the district. Funding outlook is not good.

**Burgess-** No recent fires. Having a problem filling a board position. June 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a live burn of a building in downtown Fortine.

**Maki-** There was an all union meeting of teachers on reductions with a decision expected on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>. The teachers later met with our local legislators. The school system is looking at major problems with budget reductions and if the levy doesn't pass there will be more problems. Kirby had to leave early because of perceived safety problems by parents in the wake of the Sandy Hook disaster.

\*Note that a discussion was scheduled by the education committee on incorporating the FireWise message and resource information into a school lecture presentation. This did not happen.

**Vincent-** Bruce discussed the 2013 schedule for Provider Pals, which will again offer a one week session for school teachers where they can earn 3 continuing education credits. They will also have 1-3 kids camps which will include Lincoln Co. children. Bruce had to leave before we really got into the report by the education committee so we discussed the success of the county wide FireWise advertising and the intent to continue this in 2013.

**Lind-** Kendra talked about the tightening standards for the 2.5 particulate rule. The rule has gone from 15 micro grams to 12. We should barely be able to meet this standard in Libby. The 24 hour average stays the same. Results on the air curtain burner were mixed following the use by the DNRC on the Farm to Market Road and a test at the county disposal site. The DNRC attempt consisted of rotten wet wood, which just didn't burn cleanly. Kendra talked about the recent news article where only 4 out of approximately 100 wood stoves were registered as sole source heat. Pellet stoves are exempt, but presto logs are not.

**Lauer-** Flathead/Lincoln radio grant change out is now complete. Radios seem to be working well. FireWise assessments completed for the year. Investigating an arson fire. Steve explained the public involvement process for the Skidale fuels project, which is on National Forest land. A meeting will be held for those adjacent residents on Jan 8<sup>th</sup> at the Libby Fire Hall.

**Turman-** Doug said that they were on “winter” mode. He said they ended up burying most of the Farm to Market project slash. All of their logging activity is in the Troy area, including Schoolhouse Lake.

**Rumelhart-** There hopefully will be a preliminary report from EPA on the logging study done this summer. All tests have been less than 1% which is the current EPA standard.

Forty Eight Degree North is doing the small sawmill study for a facility that would supply 1x large width boards for the finishing facility at the Montana State Prison in Deerlodge. Currently the facility gets their materials from Western Washington. They produce about 1 MMBF/yr.

The annual small log conference will be held at Coeur d’Alene starting on March 13. Paul spoke highly of this conference and encouraged folks to attend.

**Bowser-** Matt gave a positive review of the Kootenai Stakeholder Coalition’s Skidale fuel reduction proposal. Matt has lead up the effort by the Kootenai N.F. Stakeholder Coalition to find common ground. He reported that John Goodburn, forestry prof at the U of M, will be providing a preliminary report on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> that assesses the recommendations of that committee regarding the draft forest plan.

**Peck-** There will be a wildland fire rodeo on June 15<sup>th</sup> at the River Bend. Mark , Tracy Swope and Janette Turk are on the planning committee. Competition will be held between different crews for things like hose lays, etc. Mark announced that Plum Creek Timber Co. will no longer be buying logs from within a 20 mile radius of OU-3.  
\* I just received word from Idaho Forest Group that they will accept logs from this area.

**Levert-** I presented the current status of the Edgewater and Libby Cable timber/fuels projects. I need a temporary easement for Edgewater and I have a day or so of marking to finish of the cable sale. I’m hopeful that both will be sold this year.

I presented the revised CWPP to the planning board as an update and afterward Kristin Smith and I decided that I should just go ahead a do a complete revision in order to make the whole document more fluid. The board was fine with the content as presented. I have sent out my draft to the DNRC and to the Forest Service for review. I said that I would go ahead and send out the e-copy of the draft to others.

### **New Business**

**Montana FireSafe Regional Conference-** The conference for Northwest Montana that was held in Polson last Spring was suggested by the planning committee for either Libby

or Eureka. Our education committee discussed the merits of conducting the conference and the contents last Wed. We provided this information today for consideration by the group. The decision that was made today was to host the conference in Libby on April 27 in Libby. Our next planning meeting is January 8<sup>th</sup>. Current education committee members who will work on this are Lisa Osborn, Bruce Vincent, Ed Levert, Mark Peck and Katie Andreissen.

**Outdoor Burning Restrictions-** Kendra went through the current guidelines that define a management burn being allowed from April 1-October 30. She keeps track of applicants and notifies them of days when they can burn. She said that the Montana DEQ is now at odds with the smoke mgt. group and now have their own web site that advises days you can burn by county. This evidently was a rather arbitrary decision by DEQ. It was noted that sometimes the reader board at the court house doesn't change fast enough for drivers to pick up on restrictive days. Lisa was going to check to see if we couldn't announce days open for burning on our new LCFSC website as another site to check.

There is still the possibility of getting the container air curtain burner from Kalispell. This one has been used for livestock disposal, but is now available.

We all noted the problems we are faced with trying to plan timber sales and slash burning in the Libby Airshed. We thought our legislative representatives should be made more aware of this problem using the stakeholders as a possible means to address the problem and possible solutions. Paul was asked to put this on the next agenda.

Next Meeting- January 17th

Ed Levert, Chair